

2025-2026 Proof of Independence Worksheet

Student Name _____

NCCC STUDENT ID _____

Based on the answers to your 2025-2026 FAFSA application, we are requesting additional information to verify your independent status for financial aid. Please review and check the box, which most accurately reflects your current circumstances. Please attach the documentation requested for your specific circumstance.

Independent Circumstance	Explanation of Circumstance	Documentation Required
<input type="checkbox"/> Orphan	At any time since age 13, you no longer have any living parent (biological or adoptive).	Provide a copy of parent's death certificate(s).
<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Child	At any time since age 13, you were in foster care.	Provide legal court documentation showing that you were in foster care.
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward of the Court	At any time since age 13, you were a dependent or ward of the court.	Provide legal court documentation showing ward of court status.
<input type="checkbox"/> Emancipated Minor (New York State does not have any laws regarding emancipation status. Therefore, NY residents cannot answer yes to this question.)	If you are currently no longer in the custody of your parents or legal guardian.	Non-New York State Residents only. Provide a copy of court documentation showing that you are an emancipated minor. The court order must still be in effect at the time you filed your FAFSA. Court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time it was issued.
<input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth	If you are homeless or at the risk of becoming homeless.	Provide documentation from homeless shelter director describing your situation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardianship	If you are currently no longer in the custody of your biological parents, and are in the custody of a legal guardian.	Provide a copy of court documentation showing that you are in legal guardianship. Court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time it was issued.

Certification

By signing this worksheet, I certify that all information reported on this worksheet is complete and accurate. I also understand that I must attach the documentation requested above, or I will not qualify as an independent student for financial aid purposes.

Student's Ink Signature _____

Date _____