



Southwestern Michigan College

Documentation of Student Dependency Status

Financial Aid Office, 58900 Cherry Grove Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Phone: 269.783.2143 Fax 269.783.2114 Email: finaid@swmich.edu



On your **2025-2026 FAFSA**, you indicated that you are an **independent** student. Please provide the documents appropriate to your situation.

At any time at age 13 or beyond, both of your parents became deceased.

REQUIRED: Copy of death certificate(s)

At any time at age 13 or beyond, you lived in foster care.

REQUIRED: Copy of Order verifying foster care

At any time at age 13 or beyond, you became an orphan or ward of the court.

REQUIRED: Copy of Order verifying Court ward

You are now or was an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.

REQUIRED: Copy of Order for Emancipation

You are now (or were at the time you turned 18) in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.

REQUIRED: Copy of Letters of Guardianship

At some time on or after July 1, 2024, you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless as determined by your high school.

REQUIRED: Letter from school's Homeless Education Liaison verifying status.

At some time on or after July 1, 2024, you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless as determined by an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

REQUIRED: Letter from emergency shelter verifying status.

At some time on or after July 1, 2024, you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless as determined by a runaway or homeless youth basic center.

REQUIRED: Letter from runaway shelter or youth center verifying status.

Please note that submission of any of the above forms electronically should be encrypted to protect any personal or confidential information.