TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

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2021-2022
Verification of
Orphan, Ward of the Court, or Foster Care

You have reported that you are an orphan, were a ward of the court, or in foster care on the FAFSA application. If you are an orphan or in foster care, please review and check the one of the below boxes then return this form to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. **If you were a ward of the court, you are required to provide documentation before we are able to continue the financial aid process.** You may submit a court order or a letter from your Social Worker (or applicable agency) verifying your ward of court status. Read the following definition for an explanation of whether you will be considered independent for financial aid processing.

Step 1 – Student's Information

_____ _____
Last Name First Name Student ID (K or J#)

Step 2 – Ward of the Court or Foster Care Definition

You are considered an independent student if you meet the following definition:

• If you were a ward of the court at any time since you turned the age of 13, which means:
  - The court determined that your parent (s) were unable to care for you, and that the State or the Court took legal custody of you, or
  - You were removed from your parent's custody for your protection.

• You may have been placed in Foster Care. If you were in foster care at any time since you turned 13 years old, even if you are no longer in Foster Care today.

You are <u>not</u> an independent student if:

• You were a "ward of the court" and were living with your parents, under the monitoring due to incarceration.

If the above is true, you are considered a **dependent student**. You will be required to provide your parents' income on the FAFSA. You have not met the federal definition of ward of the court. A correction will be required to determine your financial aid eligibility.

Step 3 – Orphan

☐ Check here if you are an orphan (both of your parents are deceased). You are also considered an orphan if your parents are deceased and you were adopted since you turned 13 years old. You are considered an independent.

Step 4 – Ward of the Court

☐ Check here and provide supporting documentation if you have indicated on your FAFSA that you were a ward of the court and you met the above definition.

Step 5 – Foster Care

Were you ever in the Foster Care Program? Yes___ No___
Were you in Foster Care at any time since you turned 13 years old? Yes___ No___

If you answered "yes" to both of the above questions, please submit this form to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

If you answered "no" to at least one of the above questions, please return to the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov and update the response to question #53 to "no" and add your parent's information as well as your parent's signature.

Step 6 – Certification and Signature

I certify that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined, sent to prison, or both

_____ _____
Student's Signature Date