2026-2027 Dependency Status
Based On Unusual Circumstances

After review of your 2026-27 FAFSA, we are requesting additional information to accurately identify your dependency status. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental (contributor(s)) information and signature(s) on the FAFSA. for financial aid consideration. Students may be reviewed for independent status based on unusual circumstances.

Step 1. Student Information

Name: _____ EMPOWER ID : _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Step 2: Please select the box that best describes your situation. Documentation will be required,

☐ **Since the age of 13, I was in foster care, I was a dependent or ward of the court. I am an Orphan (biological parents are deceased).** (Provide a copy of court documentation showing foster orphan, or ward of court status or provide copy of parent/(s) death certificate.

☐ **I was an emancipated minor or in a legal guardianship as determined by the court in my state of legal residence.** (Provide official court documentation).

☐ **I was an unaccompanied youth, was homeless, or at risk of being homeless**.(Provide documentation from appointment high school guidance counselor or verification from director of homeless center. Please contact the financial aid office if assistance is needed.)

☐ **I have unusual family circumstances, which result in no parental contact.** *If you believe your circumstance warrants a dependency review, please submit:

- Submit a separate statement explaining your situation.
- Two (2) letters from a professional source(school official; attorney, case worker, police officer, clergy member, counselor, etc.) supporting your claim.
- Any other documentation that would assist the Office of Financial Aid review your status.

☐ **I made an error on my FAFSA.** I will add my parent(s) information to my FAFSA.

☐ **I will not add my parent(s) to the FAFSA.** I understand that my eligibility for financial aid will be limited.

I certify that the above information is true and correct.

_____ _____

Student's Signature Date

Return completed form along with supporting documentation to:

Geisinger
Financial Aid Office
525 Pine Street
Scranton, PA 18509
Fax (570) 504-2815

*The following circumstances do not preclude parental information required on the FAFSA; refusal to contribute to student's education, unwillingness to provided information as contributor on FAFSA, parent does not claim student on taxes, or student demonstrates self-sufficiency.