



Independent Review

On your 2021-2022 FAFSA you have stated yes to one of the following items below, which has made you independent. You will need to provide proof for the highlighted item below. If this is not correct please go back onto the FAFSA and change the answer from yes to no and input all parent information, income, and parent signature. If you previously provided the documentation proving your independence please contact our office.

Listed below are the definitions for federal financial aid:

Legal Guardianship - A court's decision that the student was in legal guardianship immediately before they reach the age of being an adult in the student's state. ***This does not include custody agreements of any kind.*** The court paperwork needs to specifically state student is in legal guardianship.

- Most court documents do not meet this requirement; therefore please fill out the enclosed Independence Appeal form.

Legal dependent you support – A person living with you (not a spouse or a child) and you provide more than half of their support as of the date you signed the FAFSA and will continue to do so for the year.

- Provide proof that you support them and they currently live with you.

Emancipated Minor – New York State does not recognize emancipated minors for financial aid purposes. Please correct your FAFSA and provide parent information.

Orphan, foster care or ward of the court - At the age of 13 or older if a student was orphaned, in foster care or was a ward of the court they will be considered independent.

- Provide a copy of the court papers or death certificates

Homeless – At anytime on or after July 1, 2020, did your High School homeless liaison, director of an emergency shelter funded by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, or a director of a runaway or homeless center determine you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless; or were self supporting and at risk of being homeless.

- Provide a statement supporting this from one of the agencies listed above.

If none of these apply to you and you feel you have unusual circumstances, please email us at aid@tompkinscortland.edu.