

Legal Guardianship Verification Worksheet 2025-2026



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Please allow at least 2 weeks for processing after all required documents have been submitted. Documents submitted between July 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025 may take longer to process.

Carefully read the instructions and provide the information asked. Please note, we may ask for additional information after the documents are reviewed.

Student's Name _____

Student's WIN _____

You marked on your 2025-2026 FAFSA that you are or were in a legal guardianship (see definition on second page of form) with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence.

Please mark each line below that applies to you.

___ As of the date I submitted my 2025-26 FAFSA, I was in legal guardianship as approved by a court in my state of legal residence

___ I was in a legal guardianship when I reached the age of being an adult in my state of legal residence

___ A court decision never placed me into legal guardianship

You must also provide documentation to certify this information.

Documentation must confirm that you were in legal guardianship as defined by Federal Student Aid. (see a list of documentation examples on second page of form)

Certification and Signature

By signing this worksheet, you certify that all the information reported on it is complete and correct. **WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.**

Student Signature

Date

(Signature cannot be typed)

Legal Guardianship Definition

- Legal guardianship does not include the student's parent or stepparent, even if they were appointed by a court to be the student's guardian.
- The student is not considered a legal guardian of themselves.
- The court that issued the decision must be located in the student's current state of legal residence. The court decision must have been in effect on the date:
 - The student completed the FAFSA, or
 - The student reached the age of majority in their legal state of residence

Acceptable Documentation

May include, but is not limited to:

- A court order that specifies guardianship, who was appointed as the guardian, and the date the guardianship became effective

Examples of situations that are NOT considered legal guardianship

- The court decision ended while the student was still a minor
- The court awarded custody, not guardianship
- The guardianship arrangement was never made official through the courts