

2025-2026 Vincennes University
Independent Status due to Unusual Circumstances

SPCIND

Student Name _____ VU ID# _____

Student Phone# _____ Preferred E-mail _____

You answered *Yes* to a FAFSA question that impacts your dependency status and requires further documentation.

Please mark the box for the question that applies to your circumstances and submit the required document(s) in-person, by mail to Vincennes University, Student Financial Services, 1002 N. First St., Vincennes, IN 47591, or by fax to 812-888-4261.

- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents (biological or adoptive) deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- If you answered *Yes* because both parents were deceased, please provide copies of death certificates or documentation from the county department of child services.
 - If you answered *Yes* because you were in foster care, please provide a copy of the court documentation or a letter from your county's department of child services.
 - If you answered *Yes* because you were a dependent or ward of the court, please provide a copy of the court documentation or a letter from your county's department of child services.
- Are you or were you, immediately before you reached the age of 18, an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of residence? If *No*, the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult, you must correct this answer on your FAFSA application.
- Please provide a copy of the court document. (If your state of residence has an age for legal adulthood higher than 18, please also submit proof of that.)
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship, immediately before you reached the age of 18, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? (In Indiana this includes *third party custody*.) If *No*, the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult, you must correct this answer on your FAFSA application. The definition of legal guardianship does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court.
- Please provide a copy of the court document. (If your state of residence has an age for legal adulthood higher than 18, please also submit proof of that.)
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were unaccompanied* and was either (1) homeless** or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- Please provide on school letterhead a letter signed by a school counselor, assistant principal, or principal that describes their understanding of your situation. The person who composes and signs the letter should include his or her contact information.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were unaccompanied* and was either (1) homeless** or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- Please provide on the shelter's or housing program's letterhead a signed copy of the director's determination. The director should include his or her contact information.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were unaccompanied* and was either (1) homeless** or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- Please provide a signed copy of the director's determination. The director should include his or her contact information.

***Unaccompanied** means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

****Homeless** means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels, cars, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would provide support and a place to live.

What to do if you need to change your answer or cannot provide the necessary documentation:

- If you to correct your answer for any of these questions on your 2025-2026 FAFSA from *Yes* to *No*, please go to StudentAid.gov. Click on the link to make a correction to your FAFSA. Make all appropriate changes and add the necessary parent information. You and parent(s) must sign before submitting these corrections to your FAFSA. Be sure to submit changes.
- If you do not meet any of the above options but you have other unusual circumstances, please contact us by email at fa@vinu.edu or by phone at 812-888-4361 for instructions on how to receive the 2025-2026 *Request for Dependency Override form*. A Counselor will review your individual circumstances to determine if you can be considered an Independent student.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____