

ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

Independent Exception Form

Please provide supporting documentation if you answered “No” to questions 48 – 54 and “Yes” to any of the questions from 55- 60 on the 2009-2010 FAFSA Application.

1. If you answer “Yes” to Question 55 – Ward of the Court or Foster Care since the age of 13

You should only answer “Yes” to the question if:

- You had no living parents (biological or adoptive) at any time since you turned age 13, even if you were adopted; or,
- You were in foster care at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are no longer in foster care today; or
- You were a dependent or ward of the court at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court as of today.

❖ **Provide documentation from the Court or Foster Care agency validating this status.**

2. If you answer “Yes” to Question 56 – As of the date you completed the FAFSA Application, you are an Emancipated Minor as determined by a Court

You should only answer “Yes” to the question if:

- You can provide a copy of a court’s decision that, as of today, you are an emancipated minor; or
- You can provide a copy of a court’s decision that you were an emancipated minor before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court’s decision was issued.

❖ **Provide documentation from the Court in your state of legal residence validating this status.**

3. If you answer “Yes” to Question 57 – As of the date you completed the FAFSA application, you are in a Legal Guardianship as determined by a Court.

You should only answer “Yes” to the question if:

- You can provide a copy of a court’s decision that, as of today, you are in a legal guardianship; or
- You can provide a copy of a court’s decision that you were in a legal guardianship before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court’s decision was issued.

You should have answered “No” if you are still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect or the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult.

❖ **Provide documentation from the Court in your state of legal residence validating this status.**

4. If you answer “Yes” to Questions 58, 59 or 60 – At any time on or after July 1, 2008 you are an Unaccompanied Youth (21 years of age or younger) who was homeless as determined by high school or school district homeless liaison. (McKinney Homeless Assistance Act)

For the purpose of the following questions:

- “Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go.
- “Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of your parents or guardian.
- “Youth” means that you are 21 years of age or younger, or you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign this application.

❖ **Provide documentation from the high school, or homeless shelter, or emergency shelter program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, or an official transitional living program validating this status.**

Warning: *If you purposely give false or misleading information on this form, you may be fined, be sentenced to prison, or both.*