2015-2016 Independent Status Review

When the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was submitted for 2015-2016 it was flagged due to a DEPENDENCY ISSUE. Please refer to the Missing Information Letter you received and submit only the requested documentation to the above address within 15 days.

Failure to submit this information in a timely manner will result in a lack of financial aid for the academic year.

On the FAFSA you indicated:

- Veteran/Active Duty – You served in the US Military on active duty (other than training).
- Graduate Student – This applies only to undergraduate students.
- Orphan/Ward of the Court – Both parents are deceased; or since turning 13; you were in foster care, or were a ward of the court.
- Children/Dependents – You indicated that you have children you support more than 50%; however, your income is significantly low.
- Legal Guardianship – You indicated that you are in court ordered legal guardianship. Note: custody is not the same as legal guardianship.
- Emancipated Minor – You were granted emancipation.
- Homeless/Youth Liaison – You indicated you were homeless, in an emergency shelter, or your high school youth liaison confirms you are an unaccompanied youth.
- High School Completion – You did not indicate completion or you indicated none.
- Special Circumstances – You indicated that there are special circumstances as to why your parent data is not included on your FAFSA.
- Previous Appeal Completed – You have attended the University of Pittsburgh before and submitted documentation previously.

Documentation needed to verify status:

- Veteran/Active Duty – Send Copy 4 of DD214 showing dates of Active Duty, if currently on Active Duty, send copy of current orders. If neither, we need a letter from you clarifying your status.
- Graduate Student – Submit a signed letter stating the degree you wish to receive from our campus.
- Orphan – Submit copies of the death certificates. Ward of the Court – We will need court documentation supporting this claim.
- Children/Dependents – Submit a statement of how you provide more than 50% support; be specific about expenses, income, assistance, etc.
- Legal Guardianship – You must submit court documents confirming this. If you thought this meant in your biological or adoptive parents care, simply send in a letter stating that. You will need to add parent data to the FAFSA.
- Emancipated Minor – Submit the court order from your state.
- Homeless/Youth Liaison – Submit a letter from the shelter or high school representative.
- High School Completion – Submit an official copy of your High School Diploma, GED, or homeschool certificate.
- Special Circumstances – Submit a letter explaining the reason for not including parental information. We will notify you of what else we need after initial evaluation.
- Previous Appeal Completed – Submit a letter reiterating your circumstances, if anything has changed, where you live and with whom, income, etc.

Form ID: F16IHG