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303 Homestead Avenue  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
413.538.7000

Financial Aid Office  
Phone: (413) 552-2150  
Fax: (413) 552-2192

**DOCUMENTATION OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP STATUS  
2026-2027**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

*At Holyoke Community College, we want to make sure that everyone has an equal chance to go to college, no matter who they are. We know that getting money to pay for college is important, so we promise to be fair when we give out financial aid. We also want to make sure that trans and gender-expansive students don't face any barriers in accessing financial aid. If you have questions or concerns about this, you can talk to the financial aid office.*

Your status for financial aid as an independent student is based solely on your answer to the question on the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) regarding your "Legal Guardianship" status.

**To verify your status, check the appropriate statement below by checking one of the boxes, sign and return the form to the Financial Aid Office so that we may continue the processing of your financial aid paperwork.**

**The definition of "Legal Guardianship" does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court to be your guardians. You are also not considered a "Legal Guardian" of yourself.**

I am in "Legal Guardianship" (or was in "Legal Guardianship" right before I reached the age of being an adult).

**Check this box only:** (A) If asked, you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you were in "Legal Guardianship" right before you reached the age of being an adult in your state, **or** (B) If asked, you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you were in "Legal Guardianship" and also provide a signed statement from your "Legal Guardian" indicating that the "Legal Guardianship" is currently in effect and will remain in effect until you reach the age of being an adult in your state.

**Please note: If you are still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect, or the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult, you would not be eligible to claim this status.**

I answered the "Legal Guardianship" question incorrectly on the FAFSA and:

I made an error on my FAFSA and I have never been in "Legal Guardianship". You must provide your parent(s) information and signature on your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

I made an error on my FAFSA --I am still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect. You must provide your parent(s) information and signature on your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

I made an error on my FAFSA--the court decision was not in effect at the time I became an adult. You must provide your parent(s) information and signature on your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

I certify that the statement I checked is correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For more information on processing and verification deadlines, please visit <http://www.hcc.edu/finaid/deadlines>.