

FOSTER YOUTH: TIPS for COMPLETING THE FAFSA

Questions on the 2004-2005 FAFSA which may cause difficulty for foster youth

<p>Question #53 Step 3, Page 4: Orphan or Ward of the Court</p>	<p>Q: I am a dependent child of the court of my county under the 300 series. Is this the same as a “ward” of the court (600 series)?</p> <p>A: The term “ward” is used to mean both wards and dependents of the court. Check “yes” to this question.</p>
<p>Question #53 Step 3, Page 4: Orphan or Ward of the Court</p>	<p>Q: I am no longer under the court because my foster parents took legal guardianship of me a few years ago. However, my foster parents do not support me with their own financial resources. They still get a foster care check each month for me. Are they my legal guardians?</p> <p>A: No, you are a “ward of the court” because you were a ward before this guardianship and because your county has continued to provide financial support for you. Your guardians do not meet the definition of legal guardians for purposes of this financial aid form. You are considered independent. The income in question is your relatives and is not reported on your application. Do not include as part of your income any TANF or Cal Works received by another for your support or care.</p>
<p>Question #53 Step 3, Page 4: Orphan or Ward of the Court</p>	<p>Q: I turned 18 and graduated, so my court case was closed. My college is saying I am no longer an independent student because I’m no longer a ward of the court. Am I considered dependent or independent?</p> <p>A: A student is considered to be independent if he or she is a ward of the court, or <u>was</u> a ward of the court until the individual reached the age of 18.</p>
<p>Question #53 Step 3, Page 4: Orphan or Ward of the Court</p>	<p>Q: I am a ward of the court but graduated from high school and then went to live with my mother for two months. Did I lose my independent status?</p> <p>A: No, not if she hadn’t been supporting you while you were in foster care. A student is considered to be independent if he or she is a ward of the court, or <u>was</u> a ward of the court until the individual reached the age of 18.</p>
<p>Question #51-52 Step 3, page 4: Student Status</p>	<p>Q: I have a child who will be living with me and our income will be from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF or Cal Works). Do I check “yes”? Is TANF or Cal Works considered to be like earned income?</p> <p>A: TANF or Cal Works is considered untaxed income and would be listed on Worksheet A on FAFSA Page 8. The child is considered a legal dependent of the applicant. Check “yes” to this question.</p>
<p>Question #84 Step 5, Page 6: Number in Household</p>	<p>Q: I live with my foster parents and their children. Are they my “family members?”</p> <p>A: No. You are considered independent and as such you are a family of <u>one</u> person (yourself).</p>
<p>Question #40 Step 2, Page 4: Untaxed Income Worksheet A, Page 8</p>	<p>Q: My foster parents get TANF (or Cal Works) for me because I am a ward of the court. Is this my income?</p> <p>A: No, you are considered independent. The income in question is your foster parents and is not reported on your application. Do not include as part of your income any TANF or Cal Works received by another for your support or care.</p>
<p>Question #40 Step 2, Page 4: Untaxed Income Worksheet A, Page 8</p>	<p>Q: My grandmother (aunt, etc.) gets TANF or Cal Works for me because I am a ward of the court. Is this my income?</p> <p>A: No, the income in question is your relatives and is not reported on your application. Do not include as part of your income any TANF or Cal Works received by another for your support or care.</p>
<p>Question #40 Step 2, Page 4: Untaxed Income Worksheet A, Page 8</p>	<p>Q: I am a ward of the court but my grandmother gets only TANF or Cal Works for me because I didn’t qualify for foster care payments. Should I list this income as my income or part of my income?</p> <p>A: No, you are considered independent. The income in question is your relatives and is not reported on your application. Do not include as part of your income any TANF or Cal Works received by another for your support or care.</p>
<p>Question #40 Step 2, Page 4: Untaxed Income Child Care Expenses Page 8</p>	<p>Q: I am a single mom with one child and will get TANF or Cal Works as soon as my court case is dismissed. I will get <u>free</u> day care for my child (from a grandmother, aunt, or free day care center) while I go to college. Does this “free” income have to be reported on the FAFSA?</p> <p>A: No. This information is not referenced on the FAFSA or in the instructions.</p>
<p>Question #100 Step 7, Page 6: Signatures</p>	<p>Q: I have filled out this form as an independent student. Do I need my father’s and/or mother’s signature(s)? I don’t live with them, but I see them sometimes.</p> <p>A: No. You are considered an independent applicant, no other signatures are required.</p>