

INDEPENDENT STATUS

CONDITION: There has been an involuntary dissolution of your family resulting in relinquishment of your parents' responsibility and control.

DOCUMENTATION: A sworn and signed statement from a person other than yourself or your parents (such as a member of the clergy, a social worker, a legal aid representative, or an official at the facility or institution which has accepted responsibility for your control or care) explaining your family circumstances. The statement must include the specific reasons for relinquishment of parental responsibility and control (such as abandonment by the parents, mental and/or physical abuse by the parents, or parents being neither citizens nor residents of the United States), your relationship to the person making the statement, and how that person has direct knowledge of your family circumstances.

CONDITION: You are a veteran and have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces.

DOCUMENTATION: Copy of your DD214, or other official documentation from the Veterans' Administration or your branch of the Service.

CONDITION: Parents are deceased, have been certified as having a total and permanent disability, or have been declared incompetent by judicial action.

DOCUMENTATION: Copies of death certificates, medical certifications, and court orders. NOTE: Documentation for both parents is required.

CONDITION: You are a Ward of the Court (not including status as an inmate).

DOCUMENTATION: Copy of a court order making you a Ward of the Court or appointing a guardian other than your parents.

CONDITION (For New York State financial aid only): You are receiving public assistance under your own budget and not as a dependent of your parents.

DOCUMENTATION: Budget statement or other documentation from a Social Services official showing receipt of public assistance (other than food stamps), unemployment insurance or Social Security benefits.

CONDITION: You are married. (for federal aid only)

DOCUMENTATION: Marriage license

CONDITION: You have a dependant you provided at least 50% support for. (for federal aid only)

DOCUMENTATION: Birth certificate or Federal tax return listing a dependent.