Kean University

Office of Financial Aid
1000 Morris Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

2026-2027 Independent Status Certification

Student Name: _____ Kean ID#: _____

Kean Email: _____Phone #: _____

To ensure the accuracy of your financial aid we are confirming your dependency status via this form. Check the option that coincides with your FAFSA response and submit the supporting document(s) listed on the following page.

☐ **Orphan/Ward of the Court/Foster Care**

*If you are a continuing student and have already submitted the proof in the past, the Office of Financial Aid will review the documents and notify you if additional info is needed.

☐ **Legal Guardianship**

*If you are a continuing student and have already submitted the proof in the past, the Office of Financial Aid will review the documents and notify you if additional info is needed.

☐ **Homelessness**

*Homeless status must be verified each year.

See page 2 for Dependency Status definitions, supporting documentation, and document submission instructions.

Certification

I have provided document(s) in support of my independent status. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office of Financial Aid Use Only

____1) The student meets a general condition for independence (Yes or No)?
If "Yes" check the student's status on NJFAMS (Step #2)

____2) Check the student status on NJFAMS for a Dependency Status Documentation request.
If Dependency Status Documentation is requested, upload the document via NJFAMS

Dependency Status Definitions and Required Document(s)

Orphan/Ward of the Court /Foster Care

Submit the proof to the Office of Financial Aid that both of your parents are deceased; or you are or were a ward of the court; or you are or were in foster care. For federal student aid purposes, someone who is incarcerated is not considered a ward of the court. If you are not sure if you were in foster care, check with your state child welfare agency. You can find that agency's contact information at childwelfare.gov/nfcad.
If you are a continuing student and have already submitted the proof in the past, the Office of Financial Aid will review the documents and notify you if additional info is needed.

Legal Guardianship

You indicated you are in a legal guardianship on your FAFSA. Please note, 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. Submit documentation of a court's decision that as of today you are in legal guardianship, or you were in 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*
If you are a continuing student and have already submitted the proof in the past, the Office of Financial Aid will review the documents and notify you if additional info is needed.
***The State of New Jersey recognizes "Kinship Guardianship" as the status that meets this requirement. Custody does not meet the standard and therefore would not be accepted as proof of Legal Guardianship. Please be sure to review the document to determine the type of Guardianship**.

Homelessness

Submit proof to the Office of Financial Aid that you are an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless. "Homeless" means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would otherwise provide a place to live. "Unaccompanied" means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent(s) or your guardian.
***Homeless status must be documented each year.**

Please submit your documents through KeanWISE Financial Aid Self Service.

upd 12/15/25 FA26____