Southwestern College **Financial Aid Office**

2019-2020 Independent Status Certification Form

Last Name **First Name** **MI** **SWC ID Number**

A. Independent Status Eligibility

On your FAFSA, you indicated that you qualify for one of the special independency conditions which is the only method qualifying you as an independent student for financial aid purposes. As a result, we must verify your independent status. Please complete the information below to verify your status. Check **ONLY** one box for the status that applies to you and attach a **PHOTOCOPY** of the required documentation **OR** check the **NONE** box if this does not apply to you.

	Independent Status Eligibility Criteria and Supporting Documentation Required (Please check ONE box only)
☐	At any time since you turned 13, both your parents (biological or adoptive) were **deceased**. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of parent(s) death certificate(s).
☐	At any time since you turned 13, you were in **Foster Care**. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of official court documentation confirming your status in Foster Care.
☐	At any time since you turned 13, you were a **Dependent/Ward of the Court**. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of official court documentation confirming your status as a Dependent/Ward of the Court.
☐	You are or were an **Emancipated Minor** before you reach(ed) the age of 18 in your state. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the emancipation documentation from the court confirming your status with the effective date(s) of the status.
☐	You are or were in a court ordered **Legal Guardianship** immediately before you reach(ed) the age of 18 in your state. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the court documentation confirming your status in a legal guardianship with the effective date(s) of that legal guardianship **AND** a signed written statement from your legal guardian verifying you were in their guardianship until you reached the age of 18 in your state.
☐	You received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2018, from your high school or school district liaison that you were an **Unaccompanied Youth** who was **homeless** or self-supporting and **at risk of being homeless**. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the determination documentation from the high school or school district liaison confirming this status.
☐	You received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2018, by the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that you were an **Unaccompanied Youth** who was **homeless** or self-supporting and **at risk of being homeless**. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the determination documentation from the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by HUD confirming this status.
☐	You received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2018, by the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program that you were an **Unaccompanied Youth** who was **homeless** or self-supporting and **at risk of being homeless**. Submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the determination documentation from the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program confirming this status.
☐	**NONE** of the above special independency considerations apply. You are considered a **DEPENDENT** student and **MUST** make the proper corrections to **include parent information and signature** on your FAFSA by logging on to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Once the corrections have been processed by the US Department of Education, you **MUST** visit the Southwestern College Financial Aid Office for notification of the changes.

B. Certification

Signing this form certifies that the information reported is complete and correct and that any false statement or failure to provide proof when asked may be cause for delay, denial, reduction or withdrawal of financial aid. **Warning: purposely giving false and/or misleading information may be cause for a fine, sentence to jail or both.**

Student Signature Date

Submit this form to the Southwestern College Financial Aid Office or to any of the Student Services Departments at any of the Higher Education Centers. You should make a photocopy of this form for your records.