



Lander University Financial Aid Office

24ORPH

320 Stanley Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29649
 Email: finaid@lander.edu • Web: www.lander.edu/finaid
 Phone: (864) 388-8340 • Fax: (864) 388-8811

2023-2024 Orphan/Foster Care/Ward of the Court Verification Form

Student's Last Name	First Name	MI	Lander ID (L#)
Address: Street	City	State	Zip

On the FAFSA, you indicated that you are an orphan, are/were in foster care or are/were a ward of the court at any time since you turned 13. Please complete the form below to verify your status.

- I am an orphan. Both biological parents are deceased. I am not adopted.** - Check this box only if **both your biological parents are deceased**. Do not check this box if one parent is deceased and you have little or no contact with your other parent or if the whereabouts of your other parent is unknown. If both parents are deceased and you have a legal guardian, you are still considered to be an orphan and can check this box.
 - Please attach a copy of your birth certificate identifying your parents
 - Please attach copies of your parents' death certificates.

- I am an orphan. Both biological parents are deceased. I was adopted after age 13.** - Check this box only if **both your biological parents are deceased AND you were adopted at any time since you turned 13**. Do not check this box if one parent is deceased and you have little or no contact with your other parent or if the whereabouts of your other parent is unknown. If adopted before age 13, check that you are not an orphan. You will report your adoptive parents' information on the FAFSA.
 - Please attach a copy of your birth certificate identifying your parents and court documents showing date of adoption
 - Please attach copies of your parents' death certificates.

- I am in foster care or was in foster care at any time since I turned age 13.**
 - Provide a copy of court documentation indicating your foster care status or a letter from the social services agency or case worker familiar with the circumstances that led to your being placed in foster care.

- I am a ward or dependent of the court or was a ward/dependent of the court at any time since I turned age 13.** - A student qualifies as a ward of the court if the student is (or was at any time since he/she turned 13) under the protection of a court or judge, either directly or through a guardian appointed by the court, even if the student is no longer a dependent or ward of the court as of today. Students who remain in legal custody of their parents while the court imposes its authority over them are not considered to be wards of the court. Emancipation (when a child is released from control of a parent or guardian) does not qualify him or her as a ward of the court. Note that a student is not considered a ward of the court based solely on incarceration.
 - Please attach a copy of the court order designating your status as a ward/dependent of the court or a letter from your social services agency/case worker confirming your status.

- In addition, if you are a SC resident and are in the custody of the **SC Department of Social Services** and this is not indicated in the court document, you may provide a letter from DSS verifying this so we may evaluate eligibility for limited SC Need-based Grant funding (contingent upon availability). A waiver form is available at www.lander.edu/finaid/forms ,

- None of the statements above apply to me.** – Since you do not qualify as an independent student based on being an orphan/ward of the court. You will need to:
 - Correct your FAFSA by answering **NO** to the question #52 "At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?" in STEP 3.
 - Complete the FAFSA with parent information in STEP 4.
 - If you feel you have special circumstances, you may review and submit the 2023-2024 Dependency Appeal Form available at www.lander.edu/finaid/forms to the Lander University Financial Aid Office.
 - Complete and return this form to the Financial Aid Office.

I declare that all the information reported on this document is true and accurate. I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation will be cause for denial, reduction, withdrawal and/or repayment of financial aid.

Student's Signature (Required)		Phone #	Date
DATA ENTRY		Financial Aid Office Use Only	
RRAAREQ	N=Pending Review Insert CNSLV N=Pending Review	Orphan/Ward documentation Received and Approved: * xxORPH = S * Update ROANYUD 26 Orphan/FC/Ward Ver'f'd = Y *Re-track on ROAIMMP	
Initials/date		Orphan/Ward documentation Incomplete: *xxORPH = I (or M and ROAMESG = ORPI if incomplete and something to be mailed back)	
Fwd to Counselor date	Counselors must finalize their review within 60 days of receipt of initial application.	Orphan/Ward Status not Approved: *RNANaxx Orph/Ward = N *Recalc Need and update ROAUSDF etc and trans *RRAAREQ - xxORPH = S , CORRP= E *Re-track on ROAIMMP unless parent info provided, will track into UNSAR or UNSIGN *ROAMESG – type note unable to approve	
	In addition, for students in custody of DSS:	Institutions must give first priority and award the maximum allowable Need-based Grant (\$2,500 if full-time or \$1,250 if part-time) to students who are in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS). Review award.	
		CNSLR Initials and date	