



Office of Financial Aid

Phone: 864-388-8340 | Fax: 864-388-8811 | Form Code 27WARD
 320 Stanley Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29649 | lander.edu/finaid | Email: finaid@lander.edu

2026-2027 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 were a ward of the court at any time since you turned 13. Please complete the form below to verify your status.

- 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.
 - o 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 SC Need Based Grant 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 a ward of the court, you will need to:
 - o Correct your FAFSA by unchecking the item to question #5 “At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court”.
 - o Complete the FAFSA with parent information (and if applicable, stepparent) information. The parent that should be reported on the FAFSA is the parent who provides the greater portion of the student’s financial support, even if the student does not live with them.
 - o If you feel you have special circumstances, you may review and submit the 2026-2027 Dependency Appeal Form available at www.lander.edu/finaid/forms to the Lander University Financial Aid Office.
 - o 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
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DATA ENTRY		Financial Aid Office Use Only	COUNSELOR REVIEW (circle one)
RRAAREQ	N=Pending Review Insert CNSLV N=Pending Review	Ward of the Court documentation Received and Approved: * xxWARD = S * Update ROANYUD 31 Ward of the Court Ver'd = Y	*Re-track on ROAIMMP
Initials/date		Ward of the Court documentation Incomplete: *xxWARD = I (or M and ROAMESG = WARI if incomplete and something to be mailed back)	
FSAH AVG Fwd to Counselor date	Counselors must finalize their review within 60 days of receipt of initial application.	Ward of the Court Status not Approved: *RNANAx Ward = N *Recalc Need and update ROAUSDF SAI and trans *RRAAREQ - xxWARD = 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 (\$3,500 if full-time or \$1,750 if part-time) to students who are in custody of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS). Review award.	
		CNSLR Initials and date	