**Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination**

**Documentation of Independent Student Status for the FAFSA**

**2023-2024**

First Name: Last Name: Date of Birth: S#:

\*Street Address: City: State: Zip:

**\*If you do not have a current mailing address, please list name, phone number, and mailing address of current contact below:**

Contact’s First Name: Last Name: Primary Phone Number:

Street Address: City: State: Zip:

**I am providing this letter of documentation as (check one):**

A School District McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

A director or designee of a HUD-funded emergency shelter or transitional housing program (list shelter name):

A director or designee of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program (list shelter name):

A financial aid administrator (list institution name):

As per the College Cost Reduction and Acess Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to document this student’s living situation and determine his/her independent student status as an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. No further verification by the Financial Aid Administrator is necessary. Should you have additional questions or need more information about this student, please contact me at the number or e-mail address listed below.

**This letter is to confirm that I determined that the above-mentioned student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self supporting and at risk of being homeless on or after July 1, 2022.**

Authorized Signature: Date:

Print Name: Phone Number:

Title: Agency:

**More Information about Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

**Who are Unaccompanied Homeless Youth?**

Unaccompanied homeless youth are young people who lack safe, stable housing and who are not in the care of a parent or guardian. They may have run away from home or been forced to leave by their parents. Unaccompanied youth live in a variety of temporary situations, including shelters, the homes of friends or relatives, cars, campgrounds, public parks, abandoned buildings, motels, and bus or train stations.

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from their homes each year. Generally, youth leave home due to severe dysfunction in their families, including circumstances that put their safety and well-being at risk. Unfortunately, physical and sexual abuse in the home is common. Studies of unaccompanied youth have found that 20 to 50% were sexually abused in their homes, while 40 to 60% were physically abused. Unaccompanied youth do not receive financial support from their parents and do not have access to parental information.

**Who are McKinney-Vento School District Liaisons?**

Under subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, every school district is required to designate a liaison for students experiencing homelessness. Homeless liaisons have a number of legal responsibilities under the Act, including identifying youth who meet the definition of homeless and are unaccompanied. The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act is overseen by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about [McKinney-Vento School District Liaisons](http://www.ed.gov), see: <http://www.ed.gov.>

**What are HUD-funded Shelters?**

The U.S. Department of Health and Urban Development (HUD) administers funding for homeless shelters and services under the Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Act. For more information about [HUD-funded shelters](http://hud.gov), see <http://www.hud.gov>.

**What are RHYA-funded Shelters?**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs. These programs provide funding for Basic Centers, Transitional Living Programs, and Street Outreach Programs that serve runaway and other unaccompanied homeless youth. For more information about [RHYA-funded shelters](http://www.acf.hhs.gov), see: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>.