

The most common forms of verification that you can use to confirm foster youth status are the following (*See Appendix 2B for samples*):

- 1. Letter on official County Letterhead from the student's county-of-origin.** This letter *does not* require information on the youth's background and / or the circumstances leading up to them becoming a Ward of the Juvenile Court. All it must include is confirmation that the youth was in fact a ward of the court until age 18.
- 2. County Foster Care Verification Card**

While the law regarding Title IV programs allows you to request a copy of the student's court documents, this would be a logistical challenge for youth to obtain as several years may have passed making it difficult for them to contact their former social worker or lawyer. Having to go to the court, know the case number, request records, and wait for these records to arrive can cause serious delays for the student in receiving their financial aid. Students may also have sealed their court documents at age 18 to protect private, sensitive information. The two forms of verification listed above are much more feasible for youth to obtain and provide to you. Therefore, we encourage you to request and accept these forms.