

Determining Who Is a Dependent Student's Parent for FAFSA Completion

Use this flowchart to determine which dependent student's parent(s) must provide demographic and financial information in the parent section of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For this purpose, a legal parent is the student's biological or adoptive parent. A legal parent includes a stepparent who has not adopted the student, but is married to the student's legal parent at the time of FAFSA completion. A legal parent also includes the legal parent's spouse if they: 1) are considered married under common law by the state in which they currently live, or 2) are married and were married in a same-sex marriage in a jurisdiction that legally recognized the marriage when it took place. A parent does not include a grandparent, foster parent, legal guardian, or other family member unless he or she has adopted the student.

