Depending on the student's situation there are multiple avenues you can take to claim yourself as an independent.

**FAFSA**

When a student starts filling out the FAFSA, they will come to a section called "Dependency Status".

They can say they "are unable to provide parental information". A representative from the FAFSA office said that if a student were to choose this option then the student would have to sign a "dependency override form" from the university they want to attend.

***These universities may or may not have these documents.***

**University of Oregon -**

The Financial Aid and Scholarship office said that the University of Oregon **does not** have such a form.

They recommend that the student fill out the FAFSA as usual.

Then the student must write out a letter explaining their circumstance with additional documents to support their explanation via high school counselor, United States legal guardian, parent’s explanation from another country or living in US, etc.

Each document needs to be hand signed and all of these documents should be mailed to the Financial Aid and Scholarship office.

When the Financial Aid and Scholarship office receives the student’s FAFSA, a committee will look over the documents and deem if the student is an independent or not.

***Mail documents to:***

Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

1278 University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403-1278

**If the parent(s) is illegal:**

If the student does decide to use their parent(s) information then t the parents SSN should be in all 0's.

By the end of the form, the student or parent would have to print a signature sheet and sign it by hand and then mail it into the FAFSA office, which the address should be printed on this signature sheet.

If the student is a legal guardian of a child or meets other requirements then the student is automatically considered an independent and do not need their parent’s information.

**If a child is illegal they cannot file the FAFSA form**