



Who is Considered a Parent on the FAFSA?

- ❖ If your parents are both living and married to each other, answer the questions about both of them.
- ❖ If your parents are living together and are not legally married, follow the rules for divorced parents.
- ❖ If you live with a foster parent, legal guardian, grandparent or other relative, they are not considered a parent for purposes of filing the FAFSA unless that person has legally adopted you.
- ❖ If one, but not both, of your parents is deceased, you should answer the questions about the surviving parent only.
- ❖ If your parents are divorced or separated, answer the questions about the parent you lived with most during the 12 months prior to filing the FAFSA. If you have lived with both parents equally, answer the questions about the parent who has provided you the most financial support (including medical expenses and insurance, clothing and other expenses).
- ❖ If the parent you live with is remarried as of the date you file the FAFSA, answer the questions about that parent and spouse.

Examples:

- Jane lives with Mom and Dad and they are married. Both Mom and Dad's information is required on the FAFSA.
- Mike's Mom and Dad are divorced and Mike lives with Dad. Dad's information is required on the FAFSA.
- Sarah's Mom and Dad are divorced and Sarah lives with Dad, who is remarried. Dad and Step-Mom's information is required on the FAFSA.
- Bill does not live with Mom or Dad because Bill has his own apartment. Mom and Dad are still married. Both Mom and Dad's information is required on the FAFSA.

If you are unsure how to answer the parental questions on the FAFSA or feel that none of the scenarios above apply to you, talk to your school counselor, the financial aid office or call FAME.