

# Appendix F

## Reporting Parental Information on the 2014-2015 FAFSA

For the 2014-2015 award year, dependent applicants for federal financial aid must follow the instructions carefully to reflect parental information correctly on the FAFSA. Based on guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education, the following definitions apply when viewing the flowchart and chart below:

- ♦ **Legal Parent:** The dependent student's biological or adoptive parent.
- ♦ **Custodial Parent:** The legal parent the dependent student lived with the most during the past 12 months or, if the student lived with neither parent more than the other, the legal parent who provided the most financial support in the most-recent 12-month period during which any support was given.
- ♦ **Married:** Spouses — regardless of gender — considered legally married in the state or other jurisdiction in which the marriage took place.
- ♦ **Separated:** Spouses who consider themselves no longer married for an indefinite period of time; legal declaration of separation is not available in many states and is not required for purposes of completing the FAFSA.  
**Note: Separated spouses living together must report their marital status as "Married or remarried" on the FAFSA.**
- ♦ **Divorced:** Former spouses declared no longer married by a court of law.  
**Note: Divorced spouses living together must report their marital status as "Unmarried and both parents living together" on the FAFSA.**

