Parental/Guardian Role

As a minor or person under 18 years old, your parents or guardians have been responsible for every part of your life. This changes once you turn 18 and are admitted to a college or university. As an adult, everything about you and the university is private and confidential. Your parents are only able to be involved if you give them permission. This includes every aspect of college life – tuition and fees, room and board, academics and classes, conduct, and so on.

The Family Education and Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) is an Act that provides for the release of private and confidential information to specified persons. Release forms are available at various departments on campus and at Disability Services for Students. If you expect either of your parents, other guardian or person to contact DSS to discuss you and your situation, you will need to sign the FERPA.

For other areas of the university, you may need to provide your parents or guardians with passwords and other account information. For example, if they will be "paying the bills," you will need to allow them access to the GoWMU portal so they can get any balances due. Paper statements are not necessarily mailed. It is assumed that you, the student and adult, will take care of your financial obligations, so if you want your parents or guardians to do it, you must give access.