Restorative Divorce Pathway Scholarship

Restorative Divorce® Pathway Scholarship
A $500 scholarship opportunity for Illinois students with divorced parents
Privately Funded by Birt Family Law | Restorative Divorce® Outreach

Submission Email: scholarship@birtlaw.com
Deadline: Posted on website, please visit:
https://www.birtlaw.com/the-restorative-divorce-pathway-scholarship
Award: $500

🌿 About the Scholarship

This privately funded, annual scholarship honors the strength and emotional pathways of students who have experienced parental divorce or separation. It is offered as part of our Restorative Divorce® Outreach, a growing effort to extend care, reflection, and healing beyond the legal process and into the broader community. We believe your story matters. This scholarship is an opportunity to share how that experience has shaped you, and to support your journey forward.

✅ Eligibility Criteria

To apply, you must:

- Be a current Illinois resident who attends or has graduated from an Illinois high school
- Be at least 17 years old and 18 by time of disbursement
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Have experienced parental divorce or separation
- Be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, or trade program
- Be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Submit a complete application, including your original essay

📌 You may apply even if you have not yet received an acceptance letter. If selected, your award will be held until you provide proof of enrollment or acceptance.

✍️ Essay Prompt

How has your parents' divorce or separation influenced your personal path, goals, or resilience? What have you learned about yourself through this experience?

Requirements:

- 500–750 words
- Typed, double-spaced
- Submit as a PDF or Word document
- Use a file name that includes your initials (e.g., JD_Essay.pdf)
- Tone: Honest, reflective, and forward-looking

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📑 Required Application Materials

1. Full name
2. Date of birth
3. Phone number & email address
4. Mailing address (to confirm Illinois residency)
5. Proof of Illinois residency (state ID, school transcript, or utility bill)
6. Proof of current enrollment or a statement confirming intent to enroll
7. Most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
8. Essay in response to the prompt

📬 How to Submit

Submit all materials by email to:
📧 scholarship@birtlaw.com
Subject Line: Scholarship Application – [Your Full Name]
🗓️ Deadline: Posted on website, please visit:
https://www.birtlaw.com/the-restorative-divorce-pathway-scholarship

📣 How We Use These Stories

By applying, you acknowledge that excerpts from your essay, without your name or identifying details, may be used as part of the Restorative Divorce® Outreach to:

- Educate the public about the emotional impact of divorce on children
- Inspire other families navigating separation
- Promote healing and awareness through storytelling
- The scholarship recipient's name and photograph will be publicly shared

🔍 Review & Selection

A small panel of professionals will evaluate submissions based on:

- Relevance to the prompt
- Depth of emotional insight and reflection
- Clarity and quality of writing

The selected recipient will be notified according to the timeline published on our website. Public acknowledgment will occur on or after the recipient's 18th birthday. Scholarship funds will be disbursed following verification of enrollment or acceptance.

Birt Family Law reserves the right not to award the scholarship in any given year if no applications meet the stated criteria for originality, depth, and reflection.

🤝 Questions?

Email us at 📧 scholarship@birtlaw.com
We're here to support you.

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