

## Request for Dependency Status Review for 2023-24

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ G# \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Occasionally due to unusual or special circumstances, it is possible for students to be considered "Independent." If you feel you should be considered independent based on special circumstances, you may petition for a waiver of the financial aid regulations requiring parental information.

**Note: the following conditions singly or in combination DO NOT qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a Dependency override.**

- 1. An unwillingness of a parent to help with expenses or pay tuition or provide information for the FAFSA or verification.**
- 2. The parent does not claim the student as a dependent on their tax return.**
- 3. The student is able to demonstrate total self-sufficiency.**

Check the reason that best describes your situation – **DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED!**

- I have been separated from my parents due to an unsafe home environment. **(Attach 3<sup>rd</sup> party documentation from a court, social service agency, high school guidance counselor, priest/pastor, or other sources – example – police department).**
- Temporary/permanent custody was granted to an individual or agency other than my parents. **(Attach 3<sup>rd</sup> party documentation from a court, social service agency, high school guidance counselor, priest/pastor, or other sources.)**
- I have a mother/father who is deceased and the whereabouts of the surviving parent are unknown. **(Attach 3<sup>rd</sup> party documentation from a high school guidance counselor, priest/pastor, and a death certificate).**
- I have extenuating circumstances that are not outlined above. **(Attach 3<sup>rd</sup> party documentation from a court, social service agency, high school guidance counselor, priest/pastor, or other sources.)**

**Please see the back for details on the documentation you must submit for your appeal.**

**What you need to submit with this form**

1. **Your statement:** On a separate sheet of paper, you must write a letter that details your special circumstances. You will need to answer the following questions and provide any additional information that you believe to be important to your situation.
  - a. Explain what unusual circumstances should make you an independent student.
  - b. Identify, if known, the location of **BOTH** of your parents. Why are you not able to obtain your parent(s) information for the FAFSA?
  - c. What kind of contact you have with each of them. Include the date of the last time you had contact with them.
  - d. When did you last live with your parent(s)? Did they claim you as an exemption on their tax return this year?
  - e. Describe how you support yourself financially without your parents help? Do your parents provide any financial support such as cash, health insurance, room and board, etc.?
  - f. Where and with whom are you currently living?
  - g. Does anyone have legal custody or guardianship of you? Please submit court documents.

**2. Documents to Verify you are Independent**

Please be aware that **ALL** Dependency Appeals will not be reviewed without supporting documentation. You must submit letters from parties who have detailed knowledge of your situation. At least one letter must be on official letterhead and signed from a neutral third party/community member (i.e. high school guidance counselor, minister, etc). This person should not be a friend or family member. It should be someone who is aware of the situation, but not involved in it. Attach anything you feel will be relevant, such as court documents.

**I understand that I must re-affirm that my special circumstances have not changed every award year.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

- Approved       Denied       No Action

Comments:

FA Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_