

PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS

Academic Year: 2020/2021

Students are considered dependent by the Department of Education based on answers provided in step three of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Occasionally, **due to extraordinary circumstances such as abusive family situations, parental incarceration, abandonment or other circumstances beyond the student's control** that demonstrate the irreparable breakdown of the family relationship, an exception can be made to allow a student to be considered independent for federal financial aid purposes. The Financial Aid Office **will exercise professional judgment in determining if extenuating circumstances exist based on information and documentation provided from the student.**

Student Name: _____ **Student ID:** _____

NOTE: The following factors do not make a student eligible for a dependency appeal approval:

- If parent(s) do not claim student as an exemption on their own tax return
- If student supported themselves and/or did not live with parent(s)
- If parent(s) are unwilling to pay for college expenses
- If student does not have any communication with parent(s) or it is difficult to obtain their tax information

If you have extenuating circumstances, please follow these instructions:

- Submit a narrative that includes the following information:**
 - Reason for requesting a dependency override
 - Explanation of why parental (mother **and** father) information cannot be provided on the FAFSA
 - Description of circumstances the last time you had contact with parent(s) – When, where and the nature of the contact
 - Description of self-support, including the starting point of meeting expenses without parental support and how you can provide for yourself without parental support
- Provide two (2) detailed letters that can validate situations addressed in appeal statement.**
 - At least one letter **MUST** be written by a professional (i.e. teacher, clergy, etc.). Letters should be on letterhead stationary or notarized with an original signature (signature cannot be typed).
 - Both letters must clearly indicate party's knowledge of your circumstances.
 - Individuals writing the letter must indicate their name, relationship to you, address and title.
 - The two letters cannot be from a significant other, individuals who are related to each other, individuals who reside in the same household or from someone living with you.
- The following documentation must also be submitted with the appeal:**
 - 2018 tax return transcripts or download taxes to the FAFSA via the IRS data retrieval tool. An explanation of financial support if you do not file taxes.
 - Any other additional documents that will support your appeal (court documents, death certificates, police reports, etc.)

I certify that the information listed on the form and all supporting documents concerning my request for dependency override are correct and complete. I also understand that all decisions are final and if the dependency override is denied, parental information will be required to process my FAFSA.

Student Signature _____

Date: _____