

2006-2007 REQUEST FOR DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

The U.S. Department of Education has a definition of independent status that is different from, and should not be confused with, the IRS definition of independence. The Financial Aid Office must use the Department of Education's definition of dependency. An institution can use professional judgement to override this status but justification and adequate documentation is required.

You are considered an independent student for financial aid purposes, if you meet one of the following conditions for the 2006-2007 academic year:

- you were born before January 1, 1983
- you are an orphan or ward of the court
- you are veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- you are a graduate student
- you are married
- you have legal dependents other than a spouse

Note: If you meet **one** of the above conditions you do not need to complete this form

REASONS FOR APPEAL If you want Enrollment Services to consider a dependency override, which eliminates the requirement for parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you must be able to **explain** and **document** the circumstance(s). Many students feel that they are independent because they currently live on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. Others feel they should be considered independent because their parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA or because their parents cannot afford to help with college expenses. **However,** these reasons are not sufficient for an appeal, and a student will not be made independent solely because he/she is self-supporting, is unwilling to accept parental assistance, or because a parent is unwilling to provide the financial data or support; nor will the University of North Florida make a student independent based on the student being declared independent by another college/university.

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Name _____ SS# _____ N# _____

A. APPEAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Financial Aid Office is required to consider parent information and expect a parental contribution for students who are not independent according to the FAFSA definition unless exceptions are made. **Exceptions are made only when adequate documentation of extenuating circumstances exists.** (Extenuating circumstances are generally defined by a student's inability to have contact with his/her parents). Review the reasons for appeal below and check the one that describes your circumstances. **If none of these circumstances apply to your situation, do not complete this form.**

- Severe circumstances within your family, which prevent you from obtaining your parent's financial information
- An abusive home situation (physical, psychological, sexual etc.), which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being
- Abandonment by both parents
- Incarceration of the custodial parent
- Death of a parent, after filing the FAFSA, and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions listed above. You must provide a copy of the death certificate
- Qualified Veteran (i.e. honorable discharge from military, reservist called to active duty, etc.)

B. DOCUMENTATION

1. Attach a personal statement of circumstance which completely and explicitly explains the basis of your request. Please note that your statement will be used only to determine if a dependency override should be made; the information will remain confidential.
2. Additional documentation is required and must verify the family circumstances described in your personal statement. **Acceptable** sources are adult professional, which include clergy, school guidance counselor, medical doctor, mental health professional, teacher or professor, attorney, law enforcement officer, social worker, and officers of the court.
3. Signed statements from family and/or friends may be submitted as supporting documentation.
4. Qualified Veteran (i.e. honorable discharge from the military or reservist called to active duty)

Note: If your last name is different from your parent's, please provide legal documentation of birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, or other circumstances, which proves your relationship.

Unacceptable sources or documentation include:

1. Proof of house/apartment lease and/or bills in your own name
2. Income of parent(s) that made student ineligible for financial aid
3. Statement from parent(s) that the student is not claimed as a federal income tax exemption and will not receive any parental assistance for college and/or living expenses
4. Proof of Emancipation

C. MONTHLY EXPENSE AND INCOME WORKSHEET

1. **CURRENT EXPENSES-** Estimate your current monthly expenses below and how they are covered. Types of expenses are listed in the first column. Enter your estimate of monthly amounts in the second column. In the third column, give the name(s) and relationship(s) of the person(s) who pay(s) the expense or provides the item for you. If you pay the cost, enter “Self” in the third column.

Expense	Monthly Expense	Who Pays or Provides It
Housing	\$	
Utilities	\$	
Food	\$	
Clothing	\$	
Transportation	\$	
Medical	\$	
Personal	\$	

2. **CURRENT INCOME-** Describe your average monthly income and identify the source(s) by name. (Examples: self-employed, Burger King, Dr. Smith)

Type of Income	Monthly Income	Source
Wages	\$	
Interest/Dividends	\$	
Untaxed Income	\$	
Cash Support	\$	
Other	\$	

D. STUDENT CERTIFICATION- Read Carefully Before You Sign

I hereby certify that all information contained in this request for dependency override is true and complete. I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false statements or fraudulent documentation. I understand that if I am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false or intentionally given false or fraudulent statements and/or documentation, my request will be denied, and my eligibility for aid jeopardized.

Signature _____ Date _____

If you have not filed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, please complete and attach with your appeal. Please turn in both forms to the Office of Financial Aid.

Office Use Only	Initial	Date
Approval		

Comments:
