

# 2017-2018 PROCEDURE FOR DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

The basic premise underlying student financial aid regulations is that *it is primarily the responsibility of the parent(s) and student to pay the educational costs*. If you are considered a dependent student, according to the U.S. Department of Education's definition your aid eligibility is determined by using the income and asset information of both the student and parent(s). In order to be considered for federal aid, dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures.

***Following is the U.S. Department of Education criteria for determining whether a student is considered dependent or independent for financial aid purposes, as indicated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):***

- Were you born before January 1, 1994?
- As of today, are you married? (Answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and through June 30, 2018?
- When you were age 13 or older were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent/ward of the court?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2016 did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2016 did the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2016 did the director or a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If you do not meet one of the above conditions, but still feel there are **extenuating** circumstances that might warrant being considered *independent*, you may continue with the appeal process by completing this Dependency Override form. **The unwillingness of your parent(s) to provide parental data on your financial aid application or to financially support your education does NOT qualify as an extenuating circumstance, nor does living on your own, paying your own bills, filing your own tax return, and not being claimed on your parents' tax return.** Extenuating circumstances are rare, uncommon, unexpected, and extreme circumstances.

#### *Circumstances warranting review:*

- Untenable family situation (e.g. physical or emotional abuse)
- Social service, police or legal intervention
- Other relevant unusual circumstance

If you feel you have extenuating circumstances that deem you independent for financial aid consideration please complete the attached form and submit it to the Financial Aid Office. Your request **must** include a written explanation of the circumstances along with the necessary documentation required for review of a *possible* waiver to the federal regulations requiring parental information. The Director of Financial Aid will review your appeal to determine if your dependency status *should* be overridden.



#### Office of Financial Aid

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Midland, MI 48640  
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# 2017-2018 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE REQUEST FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NU ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Occasionally, due to special circumstances, students should not be considered as dependent. If you believe this to be true and can document why you should be considered independent for some extraordinary reason, you may petition the Financial Aid Office for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. Your written petition should include the following documentation:***

- Your 2015 Federal Income Tax Transcripts
- If you or your parents did not file one or both of these years provide documentation from the IRS stating that you did not file or filing was not required
- Signed and dated statements from at least three unbiased third party references that are aware of your extenuating situation, stating their relationship to you, and why they believe you should be considered independent of your parents. At least one of these references should be from a professional such as a minister, employer, teacher, etc.
- Explain below what unusual circumstances should make you an independent student. Use additional sheets of paper if necessary
- ***Turn this form over and complete the other side***

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***Certification: I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and correct.***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information:

MONTHLY EXPENSES		MONTHLY INCOME	
Rent/Mortgage	\$	Work	\$
Utilities	\$	Business	\$
Telephone	\$	AFDC/TANF	\$
Food	\$	Social Security Benefits	\$
Automobile	\$	Veteran's Benefits	\$
Auto Insurance	\$	Unemployment	\$
Health Insurance	\$	Child Support	\$
Clothing	\$	Disability	\$
Other	\$	Tips	\$
Other	\$	Other	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Additional Comments:**

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Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_