

## 2022-2023 Dependency Override Request

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CVCC Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

The US Department of Education (DOE) has a definition of independent status that is different from, and should not be confused with, the IRS definition. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) must use the DOE definition of dependency. An institution may use professional judgment 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 2022-2023 academic year:

- You will be 24 years old (born before January 1, 1999)
- You are currently active duty military or are a veteran of the US Armed Forces.
- You are a graduate student enrolled in a master's or doctorate program.
- You are married.
- You have children or other legal dependents (other than a spouse), who receive more than half of their support from you.
- You are a ward of the court or both of your parents are deceased.
- You are (1) an emancipated minor, (2) have a legal guardian determined by the court, or (3) are an unaccompanied youth who is/was homeless. (All documentation must be on file with the Financial Aid Office.)

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

### Reasons for Request

If you want the OSFA to consider a dependency override, which eliminates the requirement for parental information on the 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 tax return. 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, 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 CVCC make a student independent based on the student being declared independent by another college or university.

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The OSFA is required to consider parental 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 exist. Extenuating circumstances are generally defined by a student's inability to have contact with his/her parents. Review the reasons below and check the one that describes your circumstance. If none of these circumstances apply to your situation, do not complete this form.

- Circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining parents' financial information
- An abusive home situation (physical, psychological, sexual) which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being
- Abandonment by both parents
- History of parental alcohol or drug abuse
- Incarceration of the custodial parent
- Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA, and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions listed above

## **Documentation**

Attach a written statement of circumstance which completely and explicitly explains the basis of your request. Written statements should be on original agency letterhead and include their professional title, signature, and a contact phone number. Please note that your statement will be used only to determine if a dependency override should be granted; the information will remain confidential. Additional documentation is required and must verify the family circumstances described in your written statement. Personal references, which do not represent an agency opinion, should be submitted using the Dependency Override Third Party Statement Form. All statements should address your inability to contact (both of) your biological (or adoptive) parents. Also, the relationship with the student and the professional should be stated. Acceptable sources are: school guidance counselor, medical doctor, mental health professional, teacher or professor, attorney, law enforcement officer, social worker and/or an officer of the court.

If the dependency override is being requested due to the death of a parent, a copy of the death certificate and/or newspaper obituary is required. If your last name is different from your parent's, please provide legal documentation of birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, or other circumstance which proves your relationship.

## **Unacceptable sources of documentation include**

- Proof of house/apartment lease and/or bills in your own name
- Income of parent(s) that made student ineligible for financial aid
- 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

Please note that a Dependency Override is approved on an annual basis. You will have to update your information and submit a new request each year. **Approval is not automatic.**

### **Certification and Signature**

By signing this form, I certify that all information is true and complete. I understand that if am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false or fraudulent statements and/or documentation, my request will be denied, and my eligibility may be jeopardized.

**Warning:** If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **For Office Use Only**

Appeal Request Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Appeal Request Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid Administrative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_