



Dependency Status Appeal 2017-2018

Financial Aid Office
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1600 S. 25th E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404

| First Name | Last Name | Student ID/SSN | Phone Number |
|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | |

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILE A 2017-2018 FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID) BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM TO STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.

YOU CAN COMPLETE THE FAFSA ONLINE AT WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV.

The Higher Education Act and associated federal regulations give financial aid administrators the authority to make adjustments to an individual student's federal aid application based on special circumstances within the household. We reserve the right to delay review, until the end of the calendar year, any appeal where reasonable projections cannot be made.

Federal Regulations Regarding Financial Aid Dependency Status:

According to federal regulations, financial aid eligibility is based on the family as the first source of the student's support.

Independent Criteria (of which one or more must be met) include:

- Born before January 1, 1994
- Will be a graduate or professional student
- Is married as of the date of filing the FAFSA
- Has dependents other than a spouse
- Is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces
- Is an orphan or is/was a ward/dependent of the court

Federal regulations also provide an appeal process for dependent students with extenuating circumstances. This is called a dependency override. Dependency overrides are reviewed on a case-by-case and year-by-year basis.

The following **are examples** of some unusual circumstances:

- Your parents are incarcerated; or
- You left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- You have circumstances which have resulted in family estrangement; or
- You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

Federal regulations stipulate the following conditions **DO NOT** qualify as circumstances meriting a dependency override:

- Parents refusing to contribute to your education
- Parents unwilling to provide information of the FAFSA or documents for verification
- Parents not claiming you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency

Provide the following documentation to support your appeal.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> A signed statement describing your situation and why you believe you should be an independent student. |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting documentation may include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documentation confirming that a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated. ➤ Documentation confirming that there is a protection/restraining order that prohibits you from having contact with your parent(s). |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> Two detailed letters, verifying the reasons for your independent status request. The letters can be from "officials" or community leaders (e.g. clergy, counselors, social workers, etc.). <p style="text-align: center;">Letters or statements must be written on agency/business letterhead or be notarized.</p> |

Student Certification

I certify that all statements in this appeal and all verification documents submitted are true and accurate. I understand that I must provide verification of statements I have made. I agree to the terms of the appeal process and understand that if documentation is not attached or sufficient, or this appeal is not signed, it will be returned as incomplete.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Financial Aid Office: | <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Denied | |
| Comments: | | | |
| Initials: | | Date: | |