



## Dependency Status Appeal Form 2020-2021

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# or SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

This form allows you to request special consideration of your student status for financial aid purposes for 2020-21. Although you do not meet the requirements to be considered independent, if you believe your particular circumstance warrants evaluation after reading the information below then submit the information listed on the back of this form.

### Am I an Independent Student?

You should be aware that you are not automatically independent for financial aid purposes simply because your parents stop claiming you as a tax exemption or refuse to give you support for your college education. By federal law, the unwillingness, inability, or reluctance of parents to help pay for your education cost does not make you independent.

A financial aid administrator may grant dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. However none of the conditions listed below, individually or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override:

1. Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
2. Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
3. Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
4. Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

The federal methodology assumes that the primary responsibility for paying for college costs rests with the family. Federal regulations permit the college to exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual or extenuating circumstances can be documented to consider you independent for financial aid purposes.

Unusual circumstances do include (and may cause any of the above conditions) abandonment by parents, an abusive family environment that threatens the student's health or safety, or the student being unable to locate his or her parents.

Documentation is critical to the dependency override process. The documentation must support, and include the reason for the decision and should in almost all cases originate from a third party with knowledge of the unusual circumstances of the student. Evidence can be a signed letter on letterhead or official document, such as a court order or police report.

Dependency Override when granted is for one year only. Documentation should be forwarded to the Quincy University Student Financial Services Office.

## Dependency Status Appeal Request for 2020-2021 Instructions and Required Documents

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### Step 1: Explain your exceptional circumstances:

Why are you requesting a dependency override? Submit a detailed, chronological statement that clearly explains your unique and/or special family circumstance.

### Step 2: Mark the category that applies to your personal situation and provide documents indicated.

#### **Category 1:**

- Estrangement from parents due to abandonment by parents**
- Estrangement from parents due to being unable to locate parents**
- Estrangement from parents due to an abusive family environment that threatens your health or safety**

Provide documentation that supports your circumstances; including confirmation of your situation from a minimum of three professional and reputable sources.

The documentation must support, and include the reason for the decision and should in almost all cases originate from a third party with knowledge of the unusual circumstances of the student. A third party that knows the student's situation—such as a teacher, counselor, medical authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency, or court—should establish the unusual circumstances.

Evidence can be a signed letter on letterhead or official document, such as a court order or police report.

#### **Category 2:**

- Previously married now divorced/widowed**

Copy of divorce decree or death certificate and a statement explaining why you believe you should be considered independent.

#### **Category 3:**

- Other circumstances to be evaluated as self-supporting in 2020-21:**

You must submit your reason(s) (if not listed in one of the above categories) in written form with documentation to support your statement. Contact the Director of Financial Aid to discuss our circumstances and types of documentation required.

### **Certification Statement: Student Signature Required**

I certify that this information is true and complete. If I cannot provide the appropriate required documentation to support an independent status, I understand that I will be evaluated as a "dependent" student and required to provide my parent(s)' income and asset information when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_