

Please read first

Dependency status for financial aid purposes is typically determined by answers given to the questions in the dependency sections of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, a student who was initially classified as a dependent student may still be considered as an independent student for financial aid if unusual circumstances exist. A dependency override is not taken lightly by the Department of Education and detailed documentation provided by you is critical. If you (the student) believe you might qualify for a dependency override, please read through this entire form before starting the appeal and provide documentation to support your unusual circumstance.

Please Print

Name _____ Last 4 digits of Social Security number XXX-XX-_____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ Frequently used e-mail address _____

The following are NOT circumstances to change a student’s dependency status:

| | |
|--|---|
| Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency | Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes |
| Parents refuse to contribute to the student’s education | The student is angry with the parents (or the parents are angry with the student) and wishes not to speak to them |
| Parents will not provide information for the FAFSA or verification | The parents are living in another country |

Examples of circumstances that may be considered (not an exhaustive list):

| Appealing based on | Documentation Examples |
|--|--|
| Parents (s) incarceration | Court order or official Federal or State documentation that the student or student’s parents or legal guardians are incarcerated |
| Abusive family environment (e.g., sexual, physical, or mental abuse or other forms of domestic violence) | Court documentation or police reports, and letters of support from a counselor or other professional source*. |
| Parent Abandonment (and you have not been adopted) | Letter from high school guidance counselor and letter from one professional source*. |
| Supporting parent (s) are deceased and/or you have no contact with your supporting parent | Copy of death certificate and letter or document from one professional source*. |
| Parents lacking the physical or mental capacity to raise the child | Letters from professional sources. Documentation from professional source. |
| Parents hospitalized for extended periods of time | Documentation of hospitalization. Letter from professional source |
| Unsuitable household (e.g., child removed from the household and placed in foster care) | Letter from high school guidance counselor and letter from one professional source*. Foster care documentation. |

* **Examples of professional sources:** Minister, Doctor, Attorney, Counselor/Therapist, Teacher/Professor, Employer/Supervisor, University Administrator, Caseworker or High School Counselor

Step 1: Answer below questions:

Is your mother living? Yes No Is your father living? Yes No

Are your biological parents married to each other? Yes No

If not, what year did they separate/divorce? _____

Where does your mother live? _____

Where does your father live? _____

Are your parents' permanent residents of the USA? Yes No

Which parent did you live with last? Mother Father

When did you move out of your parent's home? *Month/Year* _____

When was the last time you had any contact with your parents? *Month/Year* _____

When did your parents provide any form of support? *Month/Year* _____

Step 2: In a separate letter please answer the following questions:

- Who do you live with, since when, and how much rent you pay each month?
- If you were not staying where you are currently, where would you be?
- How do you support yourself and meet your living expense?
- What are the circumstances involving your parents' inability or unwillingness to support you?
- What additional information do you feel supports your request to be considered an independent student?

Step 3: Third-party professional source letters:

Must include your name, their name, signature, job title, address, and telephone number. Any letter submitted as documentation should be on letterhead or notarized if letterhead is not available. It should include the following:

- The length of time and the nature of the writer's relationship to you.
- The reason why you cannot provide your parents' information on the FAFSA.

Step 4: Additional Documentation

You may always include additional information to further explain your basis for appeal. Examples are:

- Your current employment records, pay stubs and bank statements.
- Any additional documentation to verify information in your letter.

I CERTIFY THAT ALL THE PROVIDED INFORMATION AND ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION ARE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. FURTHER I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I MOVE BACK WITH MY PARENTS OR RECEIVE ANY SUPPORT FROM THEM, I MUST REPORT THIS BACK TO THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to:

Office of Financial Aid, Trine University, 1 University Ave, Angola IN 46703

Fax: 260-665-451

Phone: 800-347-4878