



Student name printed

COCC ID number

SECTION I – INDEPENDENT IN PRIOR YEARS

Have you been approved previously for independent status at COCC? Yes No
If no, describe your current situation in the space provided in Sections II and III.

If yes, has your situation changed since your prior appeal? Yes No
If yes, describe your current situation in the space provided in Sections II and III.

SECTION II – EXTENUATING FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

We may be able to override your dependent status if unusual family circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to have contact with your parents. Examples are: a parent is institutionalized; or you have been physically or emotionally abused by parent(s). If your family situation involves an extreme situation such as those described above, you may appeal your dependent status by submitting the following:

- A personal letter of explanation describing your special circumstances and means of support, and;
- A signed letter on professional letterhead from a third party (examples: clergy, teachers, counselors, social workers, psychologists, doctors, lawyers) who is familiar with and will verify your family situation and the fact that it is unsafe for you to contact your parents to complete the FAFSA®, and;
- A signed letter from a relative or a friend who can confirm the circumstances you describe.

SECTION III – PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please provide your letter of explanation. You may use this space or attach additional sheets if needed.

By signing this form, I certify the information reported is true and accurate. Adobe or signature type fonts cannot be accepted.

Signature

Date

DEPENDENCY STATUS REGULATIONS

Many students feel they are independent because they are currently living on their own and/or because their parent(s) no longer contribute to their support. **However, the Department of Education requires parent information except under the following conditions:**

- You are 24 years of age or older – born before January 1, 2000 or
- You are a documented orphan or ward of the court or
- You are a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or
- You are an active member of the United States Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training or
- You are working on a Master’s or Doctorate program during the academic year current or
- You are married on the day the FAFSA® is initially completed or
- You have legal dependents other than a spouse or
- You are someone for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of independence by reason of extenuating family circumstances.

The Department of Education issued guidelines to clarify conditions under which financial aid administrators may appropriately consider dependency overrides. They do not include:

- Parents refusing to contribute to student’s education.
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification.
- Parents not claiming the students as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- You demonstrated total self-sufficiency.

For office use only	Approved _____	Denied _____
Notes	_____	
Signature _____	Date _____	