



REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS 2019-2020

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ ID #: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

In most cases your financial aid eligibility must be determined using your biological/adoptive parents' income and asset information. However, if your family circumstances are such that you are unable to live with and be supported by your biological/adoptive parents because of:

- 1) The involuntary dissolution of the family due to abuse, death, or imprisonment or
- 2) Your parents are physically or mentally incapacitated or
- 3) You have not been in legal custody of your biological parents, your dependency status may be re-evaluated. The U.S. Department of Education requires documentation to be submitted to the Student One Stop Center in order to determine if the circumstances warrant a dependency override. Dependency overrides are performed on a case-by-case basis. Even if you were eligible for an override in a previous academic year or at a previously-attended institution, you may not qualify for an override in the future.

The U.S. Department of Education has mandated that the following conditions, singly or in combination, DO NOT merit a dependency override and WILL NOT be considered:

- 1) Parents' refusal to contribute to your education;
- 2) Parents' unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification purposes;
- 3) Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- 4) You (student) demonstrate total self-sufficiency by not residing with parents.

Appeals will not be considered until the Wilmington College Student One Stop Center has received all required documentation as noted below. If this appeal is approved, it is only valid for the 2019-2020 academic year. Your dependency status must be evaluated each year. Please allow up to 8 weeks for your appeal to be reviewed.

REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

- COMPLETE AND SUBMIT.**
- o Student Tax Filing Status Verification Form.
 - o Independent Household Verification Form.
 - o The IRS Data Retrieval within the FAFSA application. (www.fafsa.gov)
 - o Copy of all 2017 W-2 Statements.
- SUBMIT A NOTARIZED PERSONAL STATEMENT** with this appeal, explaining the circumstances of your current family situation and why you believe you should be considered independent. Your personal statement must include specific dates of events that caused your separation from both of your parents. In addition, all of the following information must be explained in your statement:
- o A detailed explanation of your current relationship with both of your parents. If you are estranged from your parents, provide a detailed account of the circumstances which led to the estrangement.
 - o When was the last time you spoke with your parents?
 - o When was the last time you resided with your parents?
 - o Where are you living (do you live with someone other than your parents)?
 - o How are you able to pay for living expenses such as rent, groceries, utilities, and insurance (medical, dental, car...)?
 - o Who claimed you on their 2017 Federal Income Tax Return?

⇒ *Continued on reverse side*

REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS *(CONTINUED)*

- SUBMIT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION** to substantiate the reason(s) for your dependency override request.
- Documentation to confirm that a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated. **<OR>**
 - Documentation confirming that there is a protective/restraining order that prohibits you from having contact with your parents. **<OR>**
 - Other legal documentation that would explain why parent information should not or cannot be obtained for your financial aid file. **<AND>**
 - ***Two Signed Letters*** verifying the reason(s) for your dependency override request. These letters should come from responsible adults (i.e.: high school or college counselor, social service agency official, pastor or clergy member, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, teacher, etc.) who are able to verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. If the letters are from an outside office/agency, they must be on official letterhead. Letters should be detailed and refer to the individuals direct knowledge of actual events. They should not be reiterations of events you have shared with the individual. *If this appeal is a dependency appeal renewal request, we still need these statements. The statements should be from the same third party, but they need to address your situation from the date of their prior letter to current. You cannot simply submit a prior letter as your parental contact and family situation may have changed.* **<AND>**
 - A copy of your health insurance, dental insurance, and car insurance card showing coverage is in your own name. **<AND>**
 - A copy of your mortgage statement or lease agreement verifying your residence is in your own name. **<AND>**
 - A copy of your utility statement verifying your utilities are in your own name.

CERTIFICATION:

All of the information provided by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand this request may require further documentation and is subject to the professional judgment of the Wilmington College Student One Stop Center staff. Any decision is final and applies only to Wilmington College. I understand that Wilmington College reserves the right to contact third-party professionals who provide supporting documentation. I also understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information, I may be fined \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Please return this form to:

Wilmington College
Pyle Center Box 1184
1870 Quaker Way
Wilmington, OH 45177

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