

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE - PORT ARTHUR
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

PETITION FOR DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Student ID _____

Phone (____) _____

The US Congress and Department of Education determine the criteria for whether a student is considered dependent or independent of their parents for financial aid purposes. Generally, how an applicant responds to “Step Two” on the FAFSA determines their dependency status.

The questions in “Step Two” are:

- Were you born before January 1, 1986?
- Will you be working on a degree beyond a bachelor’s degree in school year 2009-2010?
- As of today, are you married? (Answer yes if you are separated, but not divorced.)
- Are you an orphan or ward of the court or were you a ward of the court until age 18?
- Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
- Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2009

If you do not meet one of the above conditions, but still feel there are extenuating circumstances which might warrant your being considered independent of your parents, you may explain those circumstances in a petition to the Financial Aid Appeals Team.

The basic premise underlying student financial aid is that it is primarily the responsibility of the student and his or her family to pay educational costs. When family resources are insufficient, financial aid may be awarded to supplement the resources of the student’s family to help pay educational expenses. By petitioning, you are asking us to relieve your parents of the responsibility for using their resources to pay part of your college costs. Only very extenuating circumstances will make it reasonable to approve such a petition. **Having sufficient resources to pay your own expenses is NOT considered an extenuating circumstance for determining dependency status.**

NOTE: Submission of the FAFSA to the US Department of Education is partly for the purpose of determining what level of contribution should be expected from the family. For low-income families, this contribution is often zero or minimal, and a change in dependency status may have little influence on the student’s eligibility for financial aid.

OVER →

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW PROCESS

■ Requests for Review

- The institution will consider written, documented requests from students to have their dependency status changed from dependent to independent.
- We recommend requests for override be submitted before completing the FAFSA. However, requests can be received anytime during the academic year.
- Requests will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Team.
- The student will be notified in writing of the approval or denial of the petition.

■ Circumstances Meriting Review

The following factors will be considered in determining whether the case merits review:

- Student living outside parent's home since prepuberty (approx. age 12)
- Social service, police, or legal intervention
- Any other relevant unusual circumstance not listed above, with the discretion of the Financial Aid Appeals Team

■ Documentation

- All students requesting review must provide in writing a complete explanation of the circumstances upon which their request is based. Third-party documentation or corroboration may be required.
- Notarized statements
- Statements on letterhead by agency/organization/person with knowledge of situation
- Other documentation applicable to situation as requested by the Financial Aid Appeals Team
- All institutional decisions and actions will be documented and kept in the student's file or electronically on a computer comment screen.

NOTE: The unwillingness of your parent(s) to provide parental data on your financial aid application and/or to financially support your education, while most unfortunate; or your unwillingness to seek financial assistance from your parent(s) is not an acceptable reason to appeal your dependency status. You must still provide parental data on the FAFSA.

**ATTACH REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO COMPLETED FORM,
AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**