

2009-2010 CHANGE OF DEPENDENCY STATUS FORM

IMPORTANT: Please read the following information carefully before completing this form:

Students who answer "No" to all seven (7) dependency questions in Step Three of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are considered to be dependent for financial aid purposes. Dependent students must provide their parents' information in Step Four of the FAFSA.

The Financial Aid Office has the authority to make a student independent by professional judgment, if the student has an adverse home situation. Examples of adverse home situations are:

- Physical, sexual, or mental abuse by the parents
- Parents are in prison or hospitalized and cannot physically sign the FAFSA

The following are **NOT** examples of adverse home situations:

- Refusal by the parents to provide the information needed in Step Four of the FAFSA
- Parents live outside the United States
- Refusal by the parents to provide copies of Tax Returns
- Students are not living with their parents
- Parents do not support the student
- Parents do not claim the student on their tax return
- Students have no contact with their parents
- Students claim to be self-supporting

WARNING: Being considered independent **DOES NOT** automatically make a student eligible for more financial aid. In many cases, students may actually receive more financial aid as a dependent student.

The purpose of completing the attached forms is to document the adverse home situation of a student. If you feel that you are from an adverse home situation, please do the following:

1. Complete the Statement of Information.
2. Complete the Personal Statement of Explanation.
3. Give the third party certification to a person who knows your family situation. Such a person might be a minister, teacher, social worker, counselor, adult family member or other adult who knows you and your family. Ask this person to describe the relationship between you and your parents, giving us enough detail to make a determination as to whether your situation is adverse.
4. Submit all completed forms to a Financial Aid Technician for review and consideration.

