Independent Status Appeal 2022-2023

Student name printed	COCC ID number

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, 1999 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 2022-23 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 <u>do not</u> 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.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A REVIEW

- 1. Read Section I carefully and collect appropriate documentation.
- Complete Sections II and III. If none of the circumstances in Section I apply to your situation, do not complete this form.
- 3. Complete the certification statement below.
- 4. Submit the FAFSA® with all the student information completed.
- **5.** Return the required information and documentation to the Financial Aid Office. You will receive a written response within fifteen business days of the outcome of your appeal.

Certificati	on Statement:
, , , , , ,	rue and complete to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I submitted. I understand that purposely giving false or misleadermination of financial aid.
Signature	Date

SECTION I – 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 II – INDEPENDENT IN PRIOR YEARS		
Have you been approved previously for independent status at COCC?YesNo		
If yes, describe current situation in the space provided for personal statement (see Section III). If no, provide copies of original documents submitted at previous institution, or new documents verifying circumstances (see Section I).		
SECTION III – PERSONAL STATEMENT Please provide your letter of explanation. You may use this space or attach additional sheets if needed.		
For office use only Approved Denied Notes		
Signature Date		