



### **Reasons for Appealing Dependency Status**

- 1) Documented severe circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining your parents' financial information. You must provide a letter explaining the situation in detail, letter from an objective third party (on letterhead), copies of police reports, copies of court documents, and documentation from a social service agency:
  - a) an abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being
  - b) abandonment by both parents
  - c) history of parental alcohol or drug abuse
  - d) incarceration of the custodial parent
- 2) Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions listed in #1 above. (A copy of the death certified of the deceased custodial parent must be provided. In addition, documentation of the custodian relationship such as a court document, copy of divorce decree, or other evidence that the deceased parent was the custodial parent. Also, a letter must be provided from a third parent (minister, social worker, counselor, etc.) on letterhead that states you did not live with nor receive financial support from the non-custodial parent.
- 3) You are a non-citizen of the United States of America (who is otherwise eligible to receive Federal financial aid) and your parents currently reside in a foreign country. However, you are unable to communicate with your parents because of a long-standing political policy or civil unrest in your parents' country of residence.
- 4) You are divorced after being married for at least two years and maintained a residence apart from your and your former spouse's parents during the time you were married. You now maintain a separate residence from your parents and pay all expenses from your own income and assets. (You must provide a copy of your divorce decree or a statement from an attorney or court documentation that you have separated or your intention to have a dissolution of your marriage.)
- 5) You have extenuating circumstances not described above which prevent you from having contact with your parents to obtain parental information for FAFSA filing.
- 6) You are currently living with adults who are not a parent nor a sibling, and have lived with these adults for more than one (1) year. You must provide a statement from these adults regarding the circumstances surrounding your living arrangements, and why you do not reside with your parents.

### **Appeal to be Made Independent Section**

In order that our dependency override request can be considered, documentation is REQUIRED. **Note: All documentation received will be kept confidential and placed in the student's file.** Please complete and submit the following documentation:

1. A letter from the student requesting consideration for independent status. The letter should include an explanation of why independent status should be granted, including dates and circumstances relating thereto. This request should clearly state the student's relationship with his/her parent(s), as well as family situation.
2. FAFSA information must be completed and filed or provided with this request.
3. A copy of the 2007 completed federal tax return for the student showing sufficient income in order to pay all expenses, or a statement as to income/support provided on student's behalf. Please include any amounts received from your parents this year or the previous year.
4. At least two (2) supporting letters documenting request. These requests should be submitted from individuals or agencies validating the student's request. This may include copies of guardianship documents, letters from social services, foster parents, counselors, church pastor, or copies of police records documenting any type of abuse. The person who provides this information should include their name, address, phone number, relationship (if any), as well as their understanding of your family circumstances. Please request that these be very precise since these documentations will be used in the final analysis of the request for independent status.

**If you are granted independent status, you will have to renew it each year. You will be contacted in writing by the Financial Aid Office as to whether your request was approved or denied. The decision is final and cannot be appealed.**

By signing this appeal form, I agree to provide all documentation and information that will verify the accuracy of my completed appeal. Also, I certify that I will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending at Vincennes University. I understand that if the circumstances under which this appeal is granted change that I am obligated to report those changes to Vincennes University. I acknowledge that such a change in circumstances may result in repayment of federal and/or state funds acquired through circumstances of this appeal. I certify that all the information provided is true and correct. I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information that I may be fined, imprisoned or both.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



