

Kirtland Community College Appeal to Dependency Status

Appeal 11-12

An appeal may be warranted to your dependency status if an unusual, mitigating circumstance exists between you and your parent(s). This cannot be based on whether your parents are willing to complete the form or want to provide assistance to help pay for college expenses. It must be based on an unusual situation. Some reasons for an appeal to your dependency status include:

Your parent(s) are incarcerated.

Your parent(s) live in a war-torn country and you are unable to communicate/correspond with them.

Your parent(s) is/are mentally incapacitated.

You are estranged from your parent(s) because of abandonment, abuse, neglect, etc.

Other mitigating circumstances as documented by the applicant.

Instructions

Complete the FAFSA without parental information only if you believe one of the above situations exist. Your FAFSA will be rejected by the Federal Processing Center and additional information will need to be supplied to the college. If you have already submitted the FAFSA follow the remaining instructions.

Required Information

1. **Personal Statement:** describe your situation, who is involved, how it has affected you, etc. You must describe your current relationship (even if it is non-existent) with your mother and father.
2. **Legal Documentation:** verifying reasons for your independent status request. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Copy of legal guardianship papers to verify that you had a legal guardian, other than a parent, prior to age 18.)
 - Documentation confirming both parents are deceased or incarcerated.
 - Documentation confirming that there is a restraining order than prohibits you from having contact with your parents.
 - Other legal documentation that would explain why parent information should or could not be obtained to determine financial aid eligibility.

OR

Two professional letters verifying reasons for your independent status request.

Professional letters must be on official letterhead, and from a professional adult whom is able to verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. Professional adults can include: clergy members, guidance counselors, social workers, teachers, professors, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals and law enforcement officers.

3. **Personal support statement.** Please complete an Income/in-kind Support Disclosure form and attach a copy of your 2010 Federal Tax Return (if completed) and W-2 forms. You may be asked to provide additional financial documentation if needed.
4. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** If you haven't completed a FAFSA, please fill one out and attach it to this form. If you have already submitted one, make sure you listed KCC on your application.

All of the information gathered by the Financial Aid Office will remain strictly confidential. Be advised that the Financial Aid Office will be reviewing the documentation, but not all requests are approved. Failure to provide any information requested will be considered an automatic denial.