



Student Financial Services, 4800 West Four Mile Road, Grayling, MI 49738

(989)275-5000 ext. 257 Fax (989)275-6789

### DEPENDENCY STATUS APPEAL (2021)

An appeal could be made regarding your dependency status if an unusual, mitigating circumstance exists between you and your parent(s). This cannot be based on whether your parent(s) are willing to complete the form or willing/able to provide assistance to help pay for college expenses. A student must prove his/her circumstances with documentation and it must be based on an unusual situation. Some reasons for an appeal to your dependency status include:

Your parent(s) is/are incarcerated.

Your parent(s) is/are mentally incapacitated.

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

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

Other mitigating circumstances as documented by the applicant.

#### **Instructions**

Complete the 2020-2021 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, please follow the remaining instructions.

#### **Required Information**

1. **Personal Statement:** Written detailed description of your situation, who is involved, how it has affected you, etc. You must describe your current relationship (even if it is non-existent) with both of your parents even if they are not married to each other.
2. **Legal Documentation:** This may include, but is not limited to:
  - Documentation confirming both parents are deceased or incarcerated.
  - Documentation confirming that there is a restraining order that prohibits you from having contact with your parent(s).
  - 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. Professionals can include: clergy members, guidance counselors, social workers, teachers, professors, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals and law enforcement officers.

3. **Proof of financial support:** Please complete a 2020-2021 Independent Verification Worksheet and attach a copy of your 2018 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcripts (if filed; either request online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 1-800-908-9946) and all 2018 W-2 forms. You may be asked to provide additional financial documentation

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