

## PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS

The federal formula used to determine eligibility for financial aid funds assumes that the **primary** responsibility for paying college costs rests with the family. In rare instances, the Office of Financial Aid has the ability to grant independent status to a student who otherwise would be considered dependent even though the student does not meet the criteria outlined in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for independent status.

If you have unique or extenuating circumstances, you may file the attached Financial Aid Petition for Independent Status form. Complete the attached petition and return it to the Enrollment Services Center (Ocala—Building 5, or Citrus Campus—Administration Building, or Levy Center – Main Office) at Central Florida Community College.

**The fact that you are supporting yourself is *not* an extenuating circumstance.** In addition, if you were granted independent status in previous years or at a previous institution that does not necessarily mean that this petition will be granted. The unwillingness of your parents to provide application (FAFSA) information is ***not*** considered justification for filing this petition. Types of extenuating circumstances that would warrant the filing of the attached form are abuse by your parents, court or legal orders, death of parent(s), incarceration of parent(s), abandonment as a child, or other unusual extenuating circumstances. In order to corroborate your unique situation, you must submit written documentation from all appropriate persons (e.g. lawyer, doctor, counselor, minister, etc.) or agencies (e.g. court(s), State Department of Children and Family Services, etc.).

Your petition will be evaluated by the Office of Financial Aid at the earliest possible date. You will then be notified by mail of the decision. If your petition results in a revision of your existing financial aid (you have already filed as a dependent student), the completion of your new financial aid file may take up to a minimum of four additional weeks.

All actions resulting from this petition are contingent upon funding availability and any processing deadlines which may be in effect at the time of the petition approval. All decisions by the Director of Financial Aid are final.

Central Florida Community College Office of Financial Aid  
2009 – 2010 Petition for Independent Status

Instructions:

1. Use this form only if you are required to report parent information on your FAFSA but have an unusual situation that prevents you from obtaining the required information.
2. Attach your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. Attach a copy of your birth certificate.
4. Attach a copy of your parent(s) death certificate(s), if applicable.
5. Attach a copy of your most recent income tax return.
6. Attach statements and proof of your circumstances relating to an abusive family situation, abandonment as a child or other circumstances which caused you to live apart from your mother and/or father. This may include court documents, school records or police reports. In addition, you may include letters from your guidance counselor, Department of Children and Families, your minister, or other adults (cannot be a relative) who know your situation. Include a description of their relationship to you and a telephone number where they can be reached.

If you fail to attach the above items, no action will be taken on your request. Allow at least four weeks for the decision. You will be notified of the decision in writing. Processing your FAFSA after the decision is made usually takes 5-10 working days.

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach additional pages, if needed to answer the following:

1. Describe where you currently live, who are you living with, and how long you have been in this current living arrangement.
2. Where are your parents and why are you unable to obtain their information for your FAFSA?
3. If someone other than your parent(s) has been providing your support, please explain.

I certify that the above information and the attachments provided are accurate representations of my circumstances. I understand that providing false or deliberately misleading statements is a violation of federal law and may result in a prison sentence, fines, or both.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

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\_\_\_\_ Approved / \_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Financial Aid Director's Signature

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_