

A. What is a Dependency Override?

A dependency override occurs when a financial aid administrator exercises professional judgment and overrides the Department of Education's criteria for dependent students. An override may only be granted on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual and exceptional circumstances. These circumstances must show compelling reasons for a student to be considered independent rather than dependent.

B. What conditions COULD warrant a Dependency Override?

The following are some examples of conditions that could warrant a dependency override:

- Documented abandonment
- Parental drug abuse
- Parental mental incapacity
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Severe estrangement from parents
- Parental Incarceration

C. What conditions DO NOT warrant a Dependency Override?

By Federal Law, the following conditions DO NOT warrant a dependency override:

- Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification
- Parents do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Parents unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
- Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
- Student reluctant to request the income information from parents
- Student does not wish to communicate with parents

You should complete this form if you are considered a dependent student for federal financial aid and believe you have compelling extenuating circumstances which should allow you to be considered an independent student. Return the completed form with the required documentation to the Office of Financial Aid Lee Campus. **We understand the sensitive nature of these circumstances; all documentation received by our office will be kept confidential.**

D. Please note the following:

- Complete the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to completing and submitting the Dependency Override Form.
- Financial Aid policy at Florida SouthWestern State College requires a student seeking a dependency override to complete the Dependency Override Form.
- Dependency Override decisions made at other institutions are not accepted.
- The determination of whether or not to approve a dependency override is made by the Office of Financial Aid at FSW State College— not the U.S. Department of Education.
- All decisions made by the Office of Financial Aid on dependency overrides are **FINAL** and not appealable.

G. What is next?

Once the Dependency Override Form is submitted it will be reviewed by Florida SouthWestern State College Financial Aid Office to determine if the documentation submitted is sufficient. If any additional information is required you will be contacted via your College Email.

H. How do I submit the form?

Please complete and return form to Florida SouthWestern State College Office of Financial Aid

Mail: 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Fax: 239-489-9127

A student who does not meet the federal criteria for independent status on the 2016/2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may submit this form and supporting documentation for a determination if unusual circumstances exist for granting a dependency status override. The Higher Education Act allows a financial aid administrator to make dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. If you are a veteran of the US Armed Forces, or married, or were an orphan/ward of the court, or have a dependent that you are providing more than 50% of support to, or enrolled in a graduate program, you are automatically classified as an independent student.

Student ID Number

Student's Printed Name

Telephone Number

Email Address

Check here if this is a **RENEWAL** request for Dependency Override.

The following items **must** be submitted with this form for an override to be considered:

Personal Statement by Student
Attach a typed personal statement that summarizes the unusual circumstances with your name, student ID, date and signature. Your statement should include the following information: (1) last date and nature of parent contact and (2) location of your parents and (3) how you have supported yourself for the last 2 years.

Personal Statement by Third Party
Attach a typed notarized statement signed and dated from a public official who has knowledge of your unusual circumstances and knowledge concerning your relationship with your parents (e.g. teacher, high school guidance counselor, member of clergy, law enforcement representative, social worker, government agency, medical authority, or clerk of courts).

Personal Statement by a Family Member or Adult
Attach a typed notarized statement signed and dated from a family member or adult who has knowledge of your unusual circumstances and knowledge concerning your relationship with your parents.

Additional Supporting Documentation (If applicable)
Attached copies of any relevant supporting documentation (e.g. court documents, legal documents, or police reports).

Student Certification:

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is true. I understand that misrepresentations of facts in connection with this override, whenever discovered, may be sufficient cause, in and of itself, for cancellation and repayment of financial aid.

Student's Signature

Date

Please return this form to Office of Financial Aid. It is recommended that you keep a copy of this form for your records.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Action Taken: Approved Denied

Comments: _____

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____