

- Guidelines for independency status have been established by the Federal Government. A student is considered independent if he/she meets one or more of the following conditions:
- You were 24 years of age by December 31st of the award year,
  - You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces; or on active military duty,
  - You are working on, or pursuing a graduate or professional degree,
  - You are married,
  - You are/were an orphan or ward of the court,
  - You have legal dependents other than a spouse,
  - You are an emancipated minor,
  - You are in legal guardianship,
  - You were determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless,
  - You were determined to be self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, OR
  - You were one of the following since the age of 13:
    - You were a ward of the state or court,
    - Both of your parents are deceased, or
    - You were in foster care.
- If you meet any of the above criteria, please contact the Financial Aid Office.
- If you have **unusual or extenuating circumstances** that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, even though none of the above criteria apply to you, you may appeal for a dependency override to the Financial Aid Office. Examples that **MAY** qualify for a Dependency Override:
- Documented abandonment
  - Documented abuse
- Please note that the following **ARE NOT** considered unusual or extenuating circumstances and **WILL NOT** qualify you as an independent student:
- You do not reside with your parents,
  - You are self-supporting,
  - Your parents refuse or are unwilling to provide their income information,
  - Your parents refuse or are unwilling to pay for your college education,
  - Your parents are not financially able to pay for education,
  - You were married after you applied for financial aid,
  - You do not want your parent's assistance and have decided to pay for your own college education.
- **A dependency override will not guarantee an increase in your financial aid award.**

**WARNING:** If you purposely give false or misleading information on this form, you may have a reduction or repayment of aid, be fined, or be sentenced to jail.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

DePauw ID \_\_\_\_\_

## Required Documentation

- A detailed written statement explaining your unusual or extenuating circumstances which you feel should qualify you as an independent student including dates and descriptions of specific incidents. You should include the circumstances of both parents.
- A 2019-2020 FAFSA application ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)).
- A copy of your 2017 Federal Tax Return (1040EZ, 1040A, 1040), if you filed.
- A statement of how you were supported in 2017 if you did not file a federal tax return.
- Verification of any and all non-taxable income received in 2017.
- At least one letter from a professional or third party, such as a high school counselor, case worker, rabbi, minister, therapist, or other professional who can confirm the unusual or extenuating circumstances in your family. The letter should be on company or organization letterhead and must include the following:
  - Their relationship to you and your parents,
  - Their understanding of your family circumstances, and
  - Their full contact information including an address, email and telephone number.
- Any other supporting documentation such as proof of parent(s) abandonment, abuse, court documents, police reports, or certificate of death.

**My signature on this form certifies the information reported on it is complete and correct. The student must sign and date. This form (and supporting information) should be submitted directly to the Financial Aid Office using one of the contact methods listed at the bottom of the form.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*

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