



2019-2020 Dependency Status Change Appeal

Name: (First, Middle, Last) _____

UT EID _____

Reasons for a Dependency Status Change

Students who are estranged from their parents due to extenuating or unusual circumstances that *can be documented by one or more objective third party individuals* may qualify to be considered independent for financial aid purposes. To justify a dependency status change, dysfunction or no contact in the relationship between the student and both parents must exist. Dysfunction may be the result of an abusive family environment that endangers student health or safety, abandonment, or other irreconcilable differences within the family.

Per federal guidelines, the circumstances below are **not** justifiable reasons for a dependency status change:

- You (the student) do not reside with your parents.
- Your parents refuse to pay for college or are financially unable to pay for college.
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income tax return.
- Your parents are not willing to provide their information on the parent section of the FAFSA or for verification.
- You do not rely on your parents for support, financially or otherwise.

Required for All Dependency Override Appeals

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Attach a signed personal statement written by you, the student, describing your circumstances. Include a narrative of events with dates; explain how these events led to the eventual deterioration / dysfunction in the parent-child relationship between you and both of your parents; and describe your current relationship (even if non-existent) with your biological/adoptive parents.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: See the Instructions and Required Documentation Checklist on page 2.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Briefly describe your situation:

Did you receive financial support (health insurance, auto payment, room/board, clothing, use of a vehicle, cash, etc.) from your parents in either of the last two Federal tax years (2017 / 2018)? Yes No

IF yes, enter the type of support: _____

Tax Year Received (check one):

Approximate Value: _____

2017 2018

\$ _____

2017 2018

\$ _____

2017 2018

\$ _____

2017 2018

\$ _____

When was the last time you spoke to or had communication with your parents? _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED: By signing below, I certify all information on this appeal, and attached documentation, is complete and accurate. I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information I may be fined up to \$20,000, sentenced to jail, or both.

Student Signature _____

Date _____



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Instructions and Required Documentation Checklist

Review the instructions and checklists below and submit the required documents attached to the Dependency Override Appeal Form. Student name and UT EID are required on all submitted documents. Submit unaltered photocopies of your documents.

Please submit **one-sided copies only and remove all staples.**

DEPENDENCY STATUS CHANGE (INITIAL APPEAL):

New UT Austin students (entering freshman or transfer students) or currently enrolled UT Austin students who have never appealed for Dependency override before.

- REQUIRED:** Submit your FAFSA at <http://fafsa.ed.gov> with only student information completed. Choose "I am unable to provide parental information" on the Dependency Status Results screen to submit your FAFSA online. Please contact OFA if you cannot access FAFSA online.
- REQUIRED:** Attach a signed personal statement written by you, the student, describing the circumstances of your current family situation. Include: a.) a narrative of events with dates, and b.) an explanation of how these events led up to the deterioration / dysfunction in the parent-child relationship with both of your parents and your estrangement from them; c.) include any attempts made to reestablish communication or reconciliation.
- REQUIRED:** Signed Copy of 2017 income tax return and all 2017 W-2 forms and all tax schedules and forms.
- REQUIRED:** Submit supporting documentation, as applicable, to your situation (police reports, restraining orders, text messages, emails, letters, etc.)
- REQUIRED:** Submit at least two signed statements on official letterhead from a third party (e.g., counselor, physician, therapist, teacher, clergy, court officer, etc.) with first-hand knowledge who can verify the circumstances you describe in your personal statement. Non-professional third party statements may be submitted, but must be signed and notarized. Be sure the third party states their relationship status with you, and how long they have been familiar with the circumstances surrounding your appeal.

DEPENDENCY STATUS CHANGE (RENEWAL):

Currently enrolled UT Austin students who have been approved for dependency status change in the previous school year applying for financial aid for the upcoming school year are required to submit updated documentation of continued estrangement from both parents and/or continued dysfunction regarding the parent-child relationship with both parents.

- REQUIRED:** Submit your FAFSA at <http://fafsa.ed.gov> with only student information completed. Choose "I am unable to provide parental information" on the Dependency Status Results screen to submit your FAFSA online. Please contact OFA if you cannot access FAFSA online.
- REQUIRED:** Submit an updated signed personal statement summarizing your original circumstances and describe your current relationship status with your parents.
- REQUIRED:** Submit any updated or new (within the last 12 months) documentation, if any.
- REQUIRED:** Provide one additional signed statement on official letterhead from a third party (e.g., counselor, physician, therapist, teacher, clergy, court officer, etc.) who can verify your circumstances and confirm your relationship with your parents has not improved or changed. Non-professional third party statements may be submitted, but must be signed and notarized. Be sure the third party states their relationship status with you, and how long they have been familiar with the circumstances surrounding your appeal.

Submit completed and signed appeal form, personal statement, and supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid (OFA) by FAX (512) 475-6296, in-person at OFA, Student Services Building, Suite 3.200, or by mail. To maintain the security of all students, OFA does not accept e-mail attachments.

WARNING: Any decision rendered under professional judgement from a UT AUSTIN financial aid officer APPLIES ONLY TO Financial Aid eligibility at UT AUSTIN. The Financial aid officer reviewing your appeal and making the decision must follow Federal Student Aid Professional judgement guidelines.