

OFFICE USE ONLY
SIGNATURE:
DATE:
DETERMINATION:



2025-2026 Petition for Independence

Under the Higher Education Act, financial aid administrators have the authority to grant dependency overrides—designating a dependent student as independent—based on unusual circumstances. They may also declare a student independent if they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, assessed on a case-by-case basis. This petition form is designed to help students who believe their situation warrants a professional judgement of their unique circumstances by a financial aid administrator. During the review process, additional information may be required to verify your circumstances, and periodic follow-up is encouraged. **Please allow and account for at least eight weeks for full processing of your petition.**

Student Information:

Student Name

ctcLink ID

Email Address

Phone Number

Please Read:

The following conditions, whether occurring individually or together, **DO NOT** constitute unusual circumstances that justify a dependency override:

- Parents declining to contribute financially to the student’s education.
- Parents refusing to provide information for the FAFSA or verification process.
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent on their income tax return.
- The student exhibiting complete financial independence.

Petition Requirements – Please submit the following with this form:

- FAFSA Submission** - Submit your 2025-2026 FAFSA online, excluding parental information.
- Personal Statement** - Your written and signed statement must include the following details:
 - A comprehensive description of your living arrangements, specifying where you live, with whom, and for how long.
 - An explanation of any estrangement from your parents, including the reason, nature, and estimated date of occurrence, if applicable.
 - When, where, and under what circumstances you last had contact with your parents.
 - An overview of how you’ve been supporting yourself financially and for what duration.
- Supporting Documentation** - Provide two signed, original statements from adults familiar with your situation.
 - At least one of these must be from an independent professional third party, such as a teacher, counselor, or member of the clergy.
- Signed Petition Form** - A completed and signed petition form must be provided. →

Certification:

I certify that the information I have provided for this petition is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature

Date

Note: Certain documents may not be accepted via email due to the sensitivity of the information. Personal submission of this petition is recommended.