

## 2017-2018 REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE EVALUATION FORM FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Federal regulations allow for the use of professional judgment to grant an override of the dependency status on a case-by-case basis for **students with extenuating circumstances beyond their control**. It is important to note that dependency status for federal financial aid is different than for federal income tax and state financial aid purposes. Qualifying for one does not automatically qualify you for another because they have different criteria. *Please note that this form cannot be used to request independence status for the NYS TAP award. This must be done separately through HESC in Albany as the criteria is different.*

**⇒ All information provided will be kept strictly confidential ⇐**

Federal guidelines clearly state that the following situations **do not qualify** as extenuating circumstances; therefore, would not result in approval of a dependency override.

- Birth parent(s) refusing to financially contribute to your education
- Birth parent(s) unwilling to provide information on the application or for income verification purposes
- Birth parent(s) not claiming you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- A student demonstrating total self-sufficiency

The following examples are only a guide of situations that could merit a dependency override. They are not the only situations that will be considered, just examples of what has been considered in prior applications.

- No contact with birth parent(s) due to circumstances beyond your control
- Physically or sexually abusive family environment
- Abandonment by birth parents
- Parental drug and/or alcohol addiction
- Other documented unusual circumstances

The documentation you submit **must** support an extenuating or unusual circumstance. If you document your circumstances, then it will be reviewed. As part of your request you must provide the following information.

- Submit a 2017-2018 FAFSA application at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Complete and submit the attached Request for Independence Consideration Form
- Provide a signed written statement of your personal circumstances
- Provide a signed written statement from at least two reliable third parties with knowledge of your situation
- Submit any additional documentation that will help your case (i.e. police reports, court papers, etc.)

Upon review of your application further information may be requested to clarify or support your case. All requests and decisions will be sent to your Alfred State email.

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

## REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE EVALUATION FORM FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID 2017-2018

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is for students who do not meet the federal independence criteria as noted in Step 3 of the FAFSA and feel that they have special circumstances that should be taken into consideration. *Please note that this form cannot be used to request independence status for the NYS TAP award. This must be done separately through HESC in Albany as the criteria is different.*

**IMPORTANT: All information submitted in support of this application will be kept strictly confidential.**

- Complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). You may leave the parent section blank until your dependency status has been determined.
- Returning students: Complete this section only (unless situation has changed).
  - Check here if you were granted independent status for the 2016-2017 academic year at Alfred State.
  - Check here if your situation has not changed and you are again requesting independent status for 2017-2018.
  - Check here if you are now living with, or reconciled with, your birth parent(s). (*In this case you need to complete the FAFSA with their information*).
- All other students: Extenuating Circumstances:
  - Indicate the month and year that you last lived with either birth parent. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month) (Year)
- Please explain, on a separate sheet of paper, the reason(s) that you left your birth parent(s) household and the extent of contact you have with both mother and father at this time. In this letter please indicate where and with whom you are currently residing and how you are being supported. **This letter must be signed.**
- Additional Documentation Required:
  - At least 1 **signed** letter on letterhead from reliable a third party who can back up your request. The parties writing on your behalf must have first-hand knowledge of your situation and be able to describe it fully. (*Reliable third parties are adults who are familiar with your situation such as a counselor, clergy, teacher, attorney, school counselor*).
  - At least 1 **signed** letter from an adult relative other than your birth parent(s).
  - Any other documentation that you would like to submit to support your request. (*Examples include, police reports, court papers, etc.*)
- All students must sign the certification below:

I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that the information above constitutes an application for funds from the federal government and that any material omissions, or false and misleading information, may result in penalties under federal law. If changes occur, I will notify the Student Records and Financial Services Office in writing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

**Committee sign-off:**

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

Approved

Denied

More Info Needed

Update FAA Access

Update HESC

Update Banner

**Comments:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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