

# Independent Status Appeal

Name	Student ID number @	Phone number
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Under U.S. Department of Education policy, parents have the primary responsibility to pay for education. However, the WCC Financial Aid office understands there may be extreme family circumstances that have caused an involuntary or uncontrollable break in the relationship between you and your parent(s) that justify a dependency override. These circumstances may include neglect, abandonment, drug or alcohol abuse, or refugee status.

According to federal guidelines, the following situations do not qualify as unusual circumstances justifying a dependency override:

1. Your parent(s) refuse to contribute to your education.
2. Your parent(s) are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification purposes.
3. Your parent(s) do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes.
4. You demonstrate total self-sufficiency.

To appeal for independent status, you must submit this form and the following documentation:

1. A detailed letter explaining the circumstances that caused the separation and the current status of your relationship with your mother and father.
2. A letter from a relative or friend who is aware of your family's situation. The letter should explain the writer's knowledge of the situation that caused the separation and your current relationship with your mother and father. The letter must include the writer's address, phone number, signature, and relationship to you.
3. A letter from a professional that explains the writer's knowledge of the circumstances that caused the separation and your current relationship with your mother and father. The letter must include the writer's signature and must be on letterhead of the writer's company. Some examples of

professionals who could write this letter include members of the clergy, guidance counselors, teachers, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, and police officers.

4. Any additional documentation, such as a parent's death certificate, proof of incarceration, proof that a parent is living in a long-term care facility such as a rehabilitation or mental health facility, or police or court reports documenting the situation with your mother and father.

**To submit this form and your documentation, you can:**

- Deliver them in person to the Financial Aid office on the second floor of the Student Center building
- Fax them to 734-677-5281
- Email them to [finaid@wccnet.edu](mailto:finaid@wccnet.edu)
- Mail them to:  
Financial Aid office  
Washtenaw Community College  
4800 E. Huron River Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800

**WCC's Financial Aid Committee will evaluate your appeal. The committee's decision will be sent to your WCC student email account.**

**If you have any questions about the appeal process, please call the Financial Aid office at 734-973-3523 or send an email to [finaid@wccnet.edu](mailto:finaid@wccnet.edu).**

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information in this appeal is correct.

Student signature	Date
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OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date	
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