WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Welcome Center
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FAMDEP

2011 – 2012 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE APPEAL FORM

WSU ID# _____ Phone Number: (___)_____

Last Name_____ First Name: _____

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) recognizes that students may have extenuating family circumstances that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) does not consider. This form is for dependent students who **do not** meet the federal criteria for "independency" status as outlined on the 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but who would like to have their unique circumstances reviewed in order to be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes.

Students who are estranged from their parents due to **extenuating or unusual circumstances** (i.e. abuse, family alcoholism, drug abuse, etc.) which can be documented by an objective third party (i.e. high school or college counselor, social service agency official, pastor or clergy member, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, teacher, etc.) may qualify. **Decisions of the OSFA Professional Judgment Appeals Committee are final.**

Students Who Should Not Complete This Form

The following circumstances are not considered viable reasons for independent status:

- You do not reside with your parents.
- Your parents refuse to pay for your college education.
- Your parents do not claim you on their tax return.
- Your parents are not financially able to pay for your college education.
- You were married after you applied for financial aid.
- You do not want your parent's assistance to pay for college.

If you fall under one of the categories below, DO NOT complete this form. Complete the appropriate form as outlined below:

- **Orphan/Ward of the Court/Foster Care:** Complete the Orphan/Ward of Court/Foster Care Form
- **Emancipated Minor/Legal Guardianship:** Complete the Emancipated Minor and Legal Guardianship Form
- **Homeless or Unaccompanied Minor:** Complete the Unaccompanied Minor Form

These forms are available from OSFA and on the OSFA website at http://finaid.wayne.edu/forms.php.

Note: Many financial aid programs have specific deadlines, in which late submission of this appeal may result in a denial as the deadline to process aid eligibility has passed. Please submit the appeal a minimum of 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the semester for which you are requesting a review of your eligibility. **Incomplete appeals will result in a delay in processing time.**

Requirements and Instructions:

1. OSFA must have your 2011-2012 FASFA on file.

2. Submit a completed 2011-2012 Verification Worksheet, which is available from OSFA and on the OSFA website at http://finaid.wayne.edu/forms.php.

3. Submit the following 2010 tax documents:

   - Submit a signed copy of your 2010 federal 1040.
   - Submit a copy of your 2010 W-2 form(s).

4. Submit a personal statement with this appeal, explaining the circumstances of your current family situation. Your personal statement must include the following information:

   - A detailed explanation of your current relationship with each of your parents. If you are estranged from your parents, provide a detailed account of the circumstances which led to the estrangement.
   - When was the last time you spoke with your parents?
   - Where are you living (do you live with someone other than your parents)?
   - How are you able to pay for living expenses such as rent, groceries, and utilities?
   - Do you support yourself? If yes, what year did you begin supporting yourself?

5. Submit supporting documentation to substantiate the reasons for your dependency override request. This documentation may include, but is not limited to:

   - Documentation to confirm that a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated.
   - Documentation confirming that there is a protection/restraining order that prohibits you from having contact with your parents.
   - Other legal documentation that would explain why parent information should or cannot be obtained for your financial aid file.
   - **Two signed letters** verifying the reasons for your dependency override request. These letters should come from responsible adults (i.e. high school or college counselor, social service agency official, pastor or clergy member, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, teacher, etc.) who are able to verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. If the letters are from an outside office/agency, they must be on official letterhead.

I certify that the information I have provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide proof supporting the information on this form.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____