

Providing self-sufficiency and living on your own are not adequate reasons for changing the dependency status. However, if there is an unintentional, involuntary and uncontrollable break in the relationship between parents and student, Lake Superior State University may be able to consider the student *independent*. To make that determination we will need a detailed written explanation and supporting documentation.

If one of the circumstances **on the second page of this form** applies to you, please check the category, attach required documentation, and send these documents to:

**Lake Superior State University
Financial Aid Office
650 West Easterday Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783
Fax: 906-635-6669**

A Financial Aid Officer will review your appeal based on the documentation submitted and notify you of the results. If you have submitted a signed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) *and* an override is granted, the Financial Aid Office will process your form electronically. If your appeal is not granted, your FAFSA will be returned to you with your denial letter. **Note:** Do not submit your FAFSA online. You must submit your FAFSA directly to the Financial Aid Office for processing with your completed appeal.

You are automatically considered to be *independent* and do not need to submit this form if any of the following apply when you complete the 2017-18 Free Application for Federal Student Aid:

- You were born before January 1, 1994.
- You are married or separated (but not divorced).
- You have any children who receive more than half of their support from you.
- You have dependents (other than children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you and will continue to receive that support during the 2017-18 school year.
- You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training.
- You will be enrolled in a master's degree **graduate program** in 2017-18.
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2016, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2016, did the director on any emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2016, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk for being homeless?

This form allows you to request special consideration of your dependency status for financial aid purposes for 2017-18. Although you do not meet the federal requirements to be considered an *independent* student, you believe your particular family circumstances warrant further evaluation.

Student Name	ID #
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Please complete form in blue or black ink. Incomplete forms will not be accepted

Review the situations listed below and check the one that best describes your situation. Sign the form and submit it along with the required documentation. Completing this form and providing the documentation requested **does not guarantee that a change will be made.**

- ☐ There has been a breakdown in my family structure due to physical abuse, emotional abuse, and/or substance abuse.

Required supporting documentation:

- A. Letter from you fully explaining your situation, **and**
- B. Court documents, **or**
- C. Letter (on official letterhead) explaining the situation in detail from a minister, social worker, psychologist, high school counselor, teacher, doctor, social agency or other counseling professional, **or**
- D. Police reports

- ☐ My custodial parent is deceased and my other parent is still living. However, I have had no contact with my living parent (including financial support) for a significant period of time.

Required supporting documentation:

- A. Letter from you fully explaining your situation, **and**
- B. A copy of the death certificate for the deceased custodial parent, **and**
- C. Documentation of the custodial relationship (i.e., a court document, a copy of the divorce decree, or other evidence) that the deceased was the custodial parent, **and**
- D. Letter (on official letterhead) from a minister, social worker, psychologist, high school counselor, teacher, doctor, social agency or other counseling professional, which supports the claim of not having lived with nor received financial support from the non-custodial parent.

- ☐ My situation does not fit those listed above.

Required supporting documentation:

- A. Letter from you fully explaining your situation and why you are requesting a change from *dependent* to *independent* **and**
- B. Documentation which will give an accurate view of your past history and situation that supports your explanation and request for an override **and**
- C. Signed copies of your Federal Income Tax forms. (If you have not filed a current return, provide copies of your W-2 forms and any untaxed income.) **and**
- D. Provide a copy of your lease or other written housing agreement, copies of utility bills and/or canceled checks showing that you pay for personal expenses.

Street Address: _____

City, State & ZIP: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

- ☐ I am also submitting my completed and signed FAFSA with this request.

I certify that all of the above information on this form and accompanying documents are complete and correct.

Student Signature	Date
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Internal use **ONLY**

Reviewed: _____

Scanned: _____

RETURN FORM with attachments to:
Lake Superior State University
Financial Aid Office
650 West Easterday Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783-1699
Phone: 906-635-2678 Fax: 906-635-6669
Email: finaid@lssu.edu