



Student Financial Services

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dependency Status Appeal 2016-2017

Instructions:

Federal financial aid regulations require the family to take primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Financial aid eligibility is determined by using both the student and parent financial information for students who are considered dependent according to the federal government criteria. To be considered and receive federal financial aid, dependent students are required to provide parental information and signature(s).

Occasionally, due to extraordinary circumstances, students cannot obtain the parental information needed and required. If this is your situation, you have the option to appeal this federal regulation by completing certain steps and providing documentation to our office to move forward with an appeal review.

None of the conditions below, singly or in combination, qualify as an unusual circumstance meriting a dependency change:

1. Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
2. Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification.
3. Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
4. Student does not live with parent(s) and demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

If you have an unusual circumstance other than those mentioned above please submit a complete packet. A complete packet includes the following required documentation:

1. Your personal statement, signed and dated, that includes the following information:
 - a) Identify the location of each of your parents.
 - b) Describe the last time you had contact with each parent - when, where, and the nature of the contact.
 - c) Explain why you cannot obtain parental information.
 - d) Describe exactly when and how you (or someone other than your parents) started meeting your own expenses without parental support.
2. Provide corroborating statements from three adults familiar with your situation.
 - a) At least one of these three adults must be from outside your family. This person could be clergy, a counselor or teacher, a prison or court administrator, medical personnel, or someone from a community group or agency.
 - b) All three letters must be signed and dated and those from outside your family must be on agency letterhead.

There are three ways to submit a completed PDF and/or accompanying documentation to WSU Student Financial Services office for processing.

- Fax to 509-335-1385
- Mail to PO Box 641068, Washington State University, Pullman WA 99164-1068.
- Drop off in person at your local WSU financial aid office (Pullman, Tri-Cities, Spokane, or Vancouver).

Once this information has been submitted and evaluated, it is possible that Washington State University may need additional documentation. If that is the case, you will be sent an email to your WSU email account outlining this information. **Therefore, along with your WSU ID number, please be certain that your current postal and email address, along with your telephone number are provided on the statement you submit.**

If you have questions, please contact your local campus financial aid representative or the Student Financial Services office on the Pullman Campus for assistance.