



2017-2018 Request for Independent Status

Instructions:

Submit this *Request for Independent Status*, along with the requested **documentation** to the Financial Aid Office for review. Your request for review can be delayed if information or documentation is incomplete, or if there are inconsistencies that must be clarified.

Student Information

Last Name	First Name	MI	Social Security Number XXX-XX-	Student ID Number
Maricopa Email Address @maricopa.edu			Phone Number with Area Code	

(**Note:** all electronic communications are sent to your **Maricopa email address**)

Information

The primary responsibility for financing a college education rests with students and parents. Many students may feel they are independent because they are currently living on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. The Financial Aid Office is required by federal law to consider parent information unless the student meets specific criteria as defined on the FAFSA. **Parent refusal to contribute to education costs or provide income information is not by itself, a basis for a review.**

We may be able to override your dependent status if **unusual family circumstances exist that makes it impossible for you to have contact with your parents.**

Dependency Override Warrants

May Warrant	Does Not Warrant
• Documented abandonment	• Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA or verification form
• Parental Drug Abuse	• Parents do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes
• Parental mental incapacity	• Parents unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
• Physical or emotional abuse	• Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
• Severe estrangement from parents	• Student reluctant to request income information from parent.(s)
• Your parent(s) live out of the country and you are unable to maintain contact with them.	• Student does not wish to communicate with parents.

If your family situation involves an extreme circumstance such as those described above, you may appeal your dependent status. **Decisions made at other institutions are not accepted.**

Before our office will consider any changes regarding dependency status, you must complete the appropriate sections of this form and provide supporting documentation. This office may request additional information for consideration of your review.

Documentation

Attach the following requirements to this form and either mail, fax, or deliver original documents to the Financial Aid Office for review:

- Received Financial Aid as an Independent Student in a prior year at this college.
 - Provide an updated letter describing your current situation and relationship with your parents.

OR

- A detailed letter from you describing your relationship with both parents. Letter should address:
 - last known location of your parents,
 - your last contact with your parents,
 - how you have been supporting yourself,
 - where and with whom have you been living with, and
 - the extreme extenuating circumstances that have caused it to be unreasonable or impossible for you to provide your parent(s) information on the FAFSA. **Include supporting documentation such as police, medical, and/or court documents.**
- You must attach one reference letter describing your relationship with both of your parents from people not related to you that had involvement in your situation. (e.g. teacher, counselor, medical authority, clergy member, prison administrator, government agency, etc.) The letter must be signed and include contact information from your reference (the letter should be on professional letterhead).

Certification and Signature

Your request for independent status will be reviewed, once ALL documents are submitted.

- If appeal is approved, we will submit the override to the Central Processing System (CPS). Your financial aid will then be packaged based on independent status. PLEASE NOTE: Additional documents may be required after the CPS has processed the revision to your dependency status. **Be sure to check your To-Do-List on my.maricopa.edu.**
 - If appeal is not approved, you will be notified through your Message Center on my.maricopa.edu. In order to receive financial aid, you will have to re-file your FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov including your parent's information and their signature.
 - **NOTE**, Depending on the volume of requests, it can take up to **10-15** business days to process. **ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**
- 1) I certify that the submitted information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to provide additional proof of the information provided on this form.
 - 2) **WARNING:**I understand that purposely providing false or misleading information on this form may result in reduction or repayment of aid, fines and/or imprisonment in this and/or future years. I authorize the use of this information and any supporting documentation for all MCCC institutions.

Student's Signature (<i>electronic signature NOT accepted</i>)	Date