



THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID  
2545 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35244  
205-970-9216 fax: 205-970-9207  
finaid@sebc.edu

## 2010-2011 Petition for Independent Status

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the information below before completing this form.

### INDEPENDENT STATUS DEFINITION:

The federally mandated formula used to determine your financial need is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your education. When applying for financial aid, the federal government has established specific standards to determine who qualifies as a dependent or independent student. To be considered independent for financial aid purposes, you must meet at least one (1) of the following conditions:

- You were born before January 1, 1987.
- You were a ward of the court since age 13, or both parents are deceased.\*
- You are a veteran of the US Armed Forces or on active duty (not training).\*
- You are married.\*
- You have a legal dependent other than a spouse for whom you provide at least 51% of their support.\*
- You are enrolled in a graduate or professional program.
- You are or were an emancipated minor as determined by court.\*
- You are or were in legal guardianship as determined by court.\*
- You were determined to be an accompanied youth who was homeless since July 1, 2009.\*

*\* Official documentation required*

### APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES:

If you do not meet any of the conditions outlined above, you may appeal if you believe you have extenuating circumstances. The US Department of Education has identified four (4) conditions that individually or in combination do **NOT** merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:

- You are self-supporting.
- You are not claimed as a federal income tax exemption on your parents' income tax return.
- Your parents are unable or unwilling to help with college or living expenses.
- Your parents are unwilling to provide their financial information required to complete the FAFSA.

(Over)

The following information will be used by the Office of Financial Aid in reviewing a student's petition for independent status. You must complete all sections of this form in order for your request to be considered.

1. Identify the location of both of your parents.

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_ Father: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Were you claimed as a dependent on your parents' 2009 tax return?

Yes  No

3. On a separate page, describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents – when, where, and the nature of the contact. Describe how you have been self-supporting. How are you providing for yourself?

4. Are you covered on anyone's health insurance and/or auto insurance?  Yes  No  
If so, attach a photocopy of your insurance card or statement showing coverage.

5. You must provide signed statements from two responsible adults who are aware of your situation. They **must** include contact information where they may be reached, either by phone or email. At least one statement must be from someone who is not a relative or friend – this may be a counselor, social worker, clergy, etc. You may also submit other supporting documentation that you deem appropriate.

I certify that the information listed on this form and all supporting documents concerning my request for a dependency override is correct and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please note: The Financial Aid Administrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed to the Department of Education.*

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Approved per professional judgment \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_