

Federal regulations permit the University to override a student's dependency status for federal financial aid purposes if **unusual circumstances exist and can be documented**. This determination is made on a case by case basis. Not all requests will qualify for a Dependency Override. A Dependency Override request can take up to 30 business days to process.

The following conditions are NOT considered unusual circumstances:

- A parent refusing to provide data or refusing to contribute towards the student's education
- A student who does not wish to communicate with parents or who is not claimed on the parents' income tax
- A student who demonstrate total self-sufficiency and does not meet at least one of the current definitions of an independent student (as established on section 3 of the FAFSA application)
- A student who has been previously considered independent for the purposes of receiving financial aid but does not meet at least one of the current definition of an independent student (as established on section 3 of the FAFSA application)
- A student who is divorced at the time of filing and does not meet one of the current definitions of an independent student (as established on section 3 of the FAFSA application)

A. STUDENT INFORMATION

Name (Print) _____ Panther ID _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____

B. MINIMUM REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION (ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REQUESTED)

- Complete 2019-2020 FAFSA application (www.fafsa.gov)
- 2017 SIGNED student taxes and W-2's. If you did not/ will not file 2017 taxes, please provide a NOTARIZED, SIGNED, ITEMIZED statement of support. Please list your monthly expenses (rent, food, transportation, utilities, etc) for 2017 and how they were paid for (i.e., parents, friends, savings, salary, etc).
- A SIGNED, NOTARIZED letter from you explaining your request for a dependency override, including detailed information on the whereabouts of **BOTH** your parents and the status of your relationship with them as well as any unusual circumstances you want to be considered.
- Three (3) letters, either NOTARIZED with business card or on LETTERHEAD from officials (employer, clergy, doctor, lawyer, professor, teacher, counselor/psychiatrist/psychologist, government agencies, courts, prison administrators, etc.) that can attest to your independent status, as well as the whereabouts of **BOTH** your parents and your relationship with them. **The letters CANNOT be from relatives or friends.**

C. DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE RENEWAL (select if applicable)

- A student with a previously **approved** Dependency Override for the 2018-2019 aid year at Florida International University who does not meet the federal criteria for independent status on the 2019-2020 FAFSA may submit this application with a notarized statement documenting current status for determination if the extenuating circumstances established in the prior year still exist.



D. STUDENT CERTIFICATION

All of the information on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and I have attached the appropriate supporting documentation.

Student Signature _____ Panther ID _____ Date _____

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Login to your my.fiu.edu account
- 2) Click on the *Student Tools* tile
- 3) Click on the *Document Upload* tile
- 4) Select *Financial Aid, 2020*, and *Dependency Override* from the drop down menu
- 5) Upload and submit