

Filing this form does not guarantee that your appeal will be approved.

Student's Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____

You are considered an independent student for financial aid purposes if you meet one of the following conditions at the time you complete and sign the 2002-2003 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- You were born before January 1, 1979.
- You are an orphan or ward of the court.
- You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- You are a graduate student working on a post-baccalaureate degree.
- You are married.
- You have legal dependents, other than a spouse, who meet the definition of a legal dependent found in the FAFSA instructions.

If you meet one of the above conditions, you do not need to complete this form.

Reasons for Appeal

Many students believe they are independent because they currently live on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. Others believe they should be considered independent because their parents refuse to provide FAFSA information or because their parents cannot afford to help with college expenses. However, these reasons are not sufficient for an appeal.

The Financial Aid Office at Owens Community College is required to consider parent information and expect a parental contribution for students who are not independent according to the above FAFSA definition, unless exceptions are made. Exceptions are made only when adequate documentation of extenuating circumstances exists. Extenuating circumstances generally are defined by students' inability to have contact with their parents.

The following is a list of some of the reasons students may appeal:

- 1. Severe circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining your parents' financial information.
Examples: a) an abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical and/or mental well-being;
b) abandonment by both parents; c) history of parental alcohol or drug abuse; or d) incarceration of the custodial parent.
- 2. Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions in number 1.
- 3. You are divorced after being married for at least two years and maintained a residence apart from your and your spouse's parents during the time you were married. You now maintain a separate residence from your parents and pay all expenses from your own income and assets.
- 4. You have extenuating circumstances not already described above which prevent contact with your parents in order to obtain parental information for FAFSA filing.

(Continued on other side)

