

Dependency Override Application

STUDENT ID: _____

TERM: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

LAST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

The federally mandated formula used to determine financial need is based on the premise that the individual's family has the primary responsibility to pay for his or her education. The Federal Government has specific standards to determine who has INDEPENDENT STATUS and therefore is not required to provide parental information when applying for financial aid. **If an individual does not meet any of the conditions for INDEPENDENT STATUS as outlined in the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*, he or she may appeal the status based on extenuating circumstances.** Exceptions to the Federal definition of INDEPENDENT STATUS are made on a case-by-case basis. A person who is considered qualified for INDEPENDENT STATUS for financial aid at a previous school is **not automatically qualified** for this status at Polk State College. The individual must follow the petition procedures outlined below to be considered for an override in dependency status.

Circumstances that do NOT warrant a dependency override include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A parent's refusal to contribute to educational costs.
- A parent's unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification purposes.
- A parent does not claim the student as a dependent on the *2017 Tax Return*.
- The student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.
- The parent's income is too high to qualify for aid.

If a student feels that he or she has extenuating circumstances that would enable qualification for INDEPENDENT STATUS for financial aid, he or she must submit the following information to the Office of Student Financial Services:

1. A typed and signed statement describing the extenuating circumstances (i.e., please explain the circumstances of separation from both parents and the reason they do not financially support the student (e.g., death or incarceration)).
2. Supporting documentation proving the extenuating circumstances described in the above statement.
 - (a) Examples of adequate documentation: court documents; a signed statement on official letterhead from a high school counselor, case worker, clergy member, or other professional(s) who can confirm that the situation warrants consideration for independent status. Third party or family statements are not accepted.
 - (b) If both parents are deceased, please provide the death certificates. If one parent is deceased, please submit the death a certificate for this parent and provide proof of separation from the living parent.
3. The 2017 tax transcripts, a notarized statement of financial support, or proof of shelter.
4. A completed *Current Year Verification Worksheet 1*. (Please check "independent.")

I certify the submitted information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read each section and provided the appropriate required documentation. I understand that if I do not provide sufficient supporting documentation, no further action will be taken by Polk State College regarding this request for consideration.

*I understand that the Student Financial Services Office complies with Federal guidelines and reserves the right to deny a **Dependency Override Application** based on these guidelines. If it is discovered that I willingly provided false or misleading information on this form, the Office will remove the funds disbursed to me. I will subsequently be billed by the College for these funds and reported to federal institutions.*

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office of Student Financial Services

999 Avenue H, N.E.

Winter Haven, FL 33881-4299

Phone: 863-.297.1004

Fax: 863.298.6850; Email: financialaid@polk.edu