

2020-2021 Petition for Dependency Override

Student Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

This petition is to be completed only if you are currently considered **dependent** when applying for federal student aid, but through extenuating circumstances you feel that you should be considered **independent** and you are requesting a **dependency override**. Please read and complete this form carefully, following steps 1-3, and return it with appropriate documentation to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Instructions:

1. Write a personal statement addressing the following items. Attach appropriate documentation to support your statements.
 - Identify the location of both parents.
 - Describe the last time you had contact with each parent—when, where, and nature of contact.
 - Explain what circumstances make you independent from your parents **and WHEN** you became independent.
 - Describe how you have provided for yourself (shelter, food, clothing, transportation, medical care, etc.) **and WHEN** you started meeting your own expenses without parental support.
2. Submit at least two letters from responsible adults who personally have knowledge of your situation and can verify your circumstances.
 - It is preferable that at least one of the letters is written on a professional letterhead from a guidance counselor, clergy person, social worker, physician, or another individual who has been involved in your circumstances in a professional capacity.
 - At least one letter must be from someone who is not a relative or personal friend.
 - All letters must include a telephone number and address where the individual can be reached for follow-up questions.
3. If you have not already submitted your 2020-2021 financial aid application (FAFSA), you may complete all student sections of the FAFSA and attach it to this petition. If your petition is approved, your Financial Aid Coordinator will note approval of petition and mail your FAFSA to the federal processor. If not approved, your FAFSA will be returned to you with a letter of explanation. If you have already submitted your 2020-2021 FAFSA, notify the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. You will be instructed what to do if your petition is approved.

Please Note the Following:

- Examples of situations where petitions may be approved are documented abandonment, parental drug abuse, parental mental incapacity, physical or emotional abuse, parental incarceration, or severe estrangement.
- A successful petition for a dependency override depends on the specific information and documentation you are able to provide. Therefore, copies of appropriate court documents may be required to support your petition. Please be as complete and thorough as possible.

None of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification.
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.
- Federal funds **are not** awarded to help students **establish** their independence.
- In all cases, independence must have occurred out of **necessity** rather than **choice**.

Student's Statement:

All information provided in my petition for dependency override is correct and true. I understand that the decision made on the basis of this petition only affects my application for aid at Heritage University. I also understand that if it is discovered that I have provided false and/or misleading information in order to receive federal financial aid funds, I will be required to repay any funds paid to me as a result of approval of this petition.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return signed and completed form(s) or other documents to your local campus.

Main Campus: 3240 Fort Rd, Toppenish, WA 98948 Phone: (509) 865-8502 Fax: (509) 865-1853 Email: financial_aid@heritage.edu