

## 2020-2021 Dependency Override Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Last Name   Student's First Name   Student's M.I.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stevenson University I.D. #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Home Phone Number (include area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Date of Birth

The Federal government believes that students and their parents have the primary responsibility to pay for education. However, the government recognizes exceptions to this rule and allows students to appeal based on extreme circumstances. For federal aid purposes, an independent student is someone who can answer YES to any one of the following:

- Born before January 1, 1997
- Living with legal guardian as determined by a court of law
- Emancipated minor as determined by a court of law
- Deemed at risk of homelessness
- Married as of the date you filed your 2020-21 FAFSA
- Working on a master's or doctorate program
- Have children and will provide more than half support between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021
- Presently live with dependents other than children or a spouse, and will provide more than half support through June 30, 2021
- Orphan, foster child, or ward of the court (until age 18)
- Veteran of the armed forces
- Currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces

The financial aid administrator, in determining a dependency override, focuses on truly exceptional circumstances and consideration of individual cases. Examples of extraordinary circumstances include documented cases of child abuse, incarceration of custodial parent, estrangement from parent or death of parent(s). These circumstances must be reviewed for every academic year.

A dependency override can be made only to change a student's status from dependent to independent. Financial aid administrators cannot use professional judgment to consider a student independent solely on the basis of the student's previous independent status or because the student is "self-supporting."

### **Students who wish to apply for a Dependency Override must complete the following steps and submit documentation to the Financial Aid Office:**

1. Be a student or prospective student who will be enrolled in a degree seeking program at Stevenson University.
2. The student must complete or update your FAFSA, leaving parent information blank and answering NO to all Student Dependency Questions. This will cause your FAFSA to be rejected. Do NOT answer any questions regarding your parents.
3. Submit a letter of explanation, written by the student. This letter must include:
  - Your relationship with your biological and or legally adoptive parents.
  - Specific dates of events that caused your separation from your parents.
  - Where you have lived since separating from your parents.
  - Specific financial information detailing how you have supported yourself while living apart from your parents.
4. Three signed and dated letters from professionals (on their letterhead) documenting their first-hand knowledge of your exceptional circumstances. The Financial aid Office may contact these references for additional information or clarification of your situation.
  - Professionals include: clergy, counselors, social workers, police, physicians, high school administrators.
  - Letters should be detailed and refer to actual events – they should not be reiterations of events you have shared, but should reflect the writer's direct knowledge.
  - Death Certifications, court documents and police/social worker reports may be substituted for one letter.

5. If you filed taxes, you may complete IRS Data Retrieval through the FAFSA or provide us with a copy of your 2018 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript. To access and print an official IRS Tax Transcript go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and under the "Tools" menu select "Get Transcript for My Tax Returns".

**OR**

In the event that you did not file taxes, you will need to complete and submit a 2020-2021 Independent Student Non-Tax Filer Form.

6. Complete and submit a 2020-2021 Independent Student Household Worksheet found on the Stevenson University Financial Aid Website under FORMS.

7. If you are a non-tax filer, provide us with a copy of your W-2s from 2018.

**If requested, I agree to provide further documentation to substantiate the information provided. I understand all dependency override decisions are made on a case-by-case basis; and this written request does not guarantee approval or an increase in funding.**

**Certifications and Signatures:**

I certify that all of the information reported is complete and correct.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Warning: If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined, sent to prison, or both.

**Do not mail this worksheet to the U.S. Dept. of Education. Submit this worksheet to the Stevenson Financial Aid Office.**