

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SELMA  
*Request for Independent Student Status*  
*Dependency Override Petition Request*  
Telephone (334) 876-9296 Fax (334) 876-9366

**To be completed by student (please print):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Dependency Override Petition 2 weeks before classes begin**

**Section I:**

Federal Aid Regulations require the family to take primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Eligibility is based on the criteria from "The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)", it determined by using both the student's and parent (s)'s financial information. If the directions on your FAFSA instruct you to provide parent information, then by law you are considered a "Dependent Student" for federal aid purposes and must provide parent information and signature(s).

However, a student who is considered a "Dependent Student" may have family circumstances that warrant an evaluation so that the student can be considered an "Independent Student". The federal government allows the school to review these unique circumstances to determine if the situation warrants special consideration. Please note that a request for consideration of a special/unusual circumstance does not guarantee approval.

Circumstances that will not be considered for a dependency override:

- 1) Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
- 2) Parents are unwilling to provide information on the student's FAFSA (or for verification)
- 3) Parents do not claim student as a dependent for tax-filing purposes
- 4) Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency or self-support
- 5) Student and parents "don't get along"
- 6) Student is a single parent and pregnant
- 7) Student lives with grandparents, family or friends

Some "special/unusual circumstances" which may qualify as considerations for a dependency override may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Parental abandonment of the student
- 2) Abusive family environment which threatens the student's health or safety
- 3) Student's inability to locate parents for a long-term and on-going basis
- 4) Parent (s)'s death after FAFSA was completed
- 5) Student is at risk of being homeless or unaccompanied homeless
- 6) Dependent student marries after the FAFSA was filed
- 7) Dependent student becomes active duty military after the FAFSA was filed

Please note that a request for consideration of a special/unusual circumstances requires supporting documents. Failure to submit supporting documentation will result is a denied petition.

## Section II:

**Have you completed a dependency petition request before at WCCS?**

\_\_\_ Yes, I have completed a previous dependency petition request before at WCCS, and it was approved. If your situation has not changed (*Skip to Section IV*). If your situation has changed continue to Section III.

\_\_\_ No, I have not completed a previous dependency petition request. *Continue to Section III*

## Section III:

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Submit typed, signed and dated letter detailing the circumstance from the student.

**Please read carefully and select the appropriate circumstance for which you are submitting a petition.**

**If the Dependency Override Petition is being requested due to...** (submit the following information listed):

**(A) the death of a parent or parents**

\_\_\_ Death Certificate of Mother    \_\_\_ Death Certificate of Father    \_\_\_ Birth Certificate of Student

**(B) adoption or ward of the court status**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adoption Documents            \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Court Documents

**(C) marriage after FAFSA filed**

\_\_\_\_\_ Marriage License

**(D) active duty military after FAFSA filed**

\_\_\_\_\_ Military Documents

**(E) abandonment or abusive environment**

\_\_\_ (2) Letters on an official letter head (non-relative) detailing the student's circumstance regarding both parents or legal documents. Two statements must be from a certified person of authority such as but not limited to: local school district homeless liaisons, state homeless coordinators teacher, counselor, medical professional or authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency, or court.

**(F) at risk or unaccompanied homeless**

\_\_\_ (2) Letters on an official letter head (non-relative) detailing the student's circumstance regarding both parents or legal documents. Two statements must be from a certified person of authority such as but not limited to: local school district homeless liaisons, state homeless coordinators teacher, counselor, medical professional or authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency, or court.

**Section IV: Read Carefully Before You Sign**

I understand that the dependency override petition request is considered on a case-by-case basis each academic year and will require, if deemed necessary, the submission of new or updated documentation each year a petition request is required.

I understand that in order for the dependency override petition request to be evaluated, all forms must be completed and supporting documents submitted.

I understand that the request for the petition with supporting documents may be an annual review process until the age of 24, married, or active duty military and the decision regarding approval independent status will only apply to the current academic year.

I understand financial aid will be terminated if false information is submitted on any financial aid document required by WCCS and the student will be billed by the Business Office. *False or fraudulent information may be reported to the Federal Office of the Inspector General and you may be fined up to \$20,000, sent to prison or both.*

I further understand that if the approval of the dependency petition situation changes, the Financial Aid Office must be notified immediately.

*By signing below, I certify that I understand the above information and all information provided is true and correct.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_