



Office of Financial Aid
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Dependency Override Appeal

Student Name: _____ MHCC ID Number: _____ Award Year: _____

If you have unusual circumstances that prevent you from contacting your parents or if doing so could pose a risk to you, you may be eligible for to be considered for a dependency override. The Office of Financial Aid at MHCC may override dependency status on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. If approved, this means your parent information would not be required to determine your federal aid eligibility.

Please review all of the information below to determine whether you are eligible to appeal. Please submit the completed appeal and any supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid (see contact information above). Submission of this appeal does not guarantee a change of dependency status or an increase to your award. Appeals are reviewed regularly and you will be notified of the result by a Financial Aid Adviser. Please allow up to two weeks for review of your Dependency Override Appeal. **Only one appeal may be submitted per award year**

A. ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

Unusual circumstances DO include:

- You left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
You are abandoned by or estranged from your parents;
You have refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country;
You are a victim of human trafficking;
You are incarcerated, or your parents are incarcerated, and contact with your parents would pose a risk to you; or
You are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents

Unusual circumstances DO NOT include:

- Parents refuse to contribute to your education
Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
You demonstrate total self-sufficiency

B. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If your situation involves an unusual circumstance such as those described above, you may appeal your dependency status by submitting the following documentation (BOTH DOCUMENTS REQUIRED):

- A typed personal letter of explanation describing your unusual circumstance as related to BOTH parents and identifying your current means of support.
Third party documentation verifying your situation. This may be a signed letter on professional letterhead or other official documentation, such as a signed court order. Acceptable third parties include a teacher, counselor, medical authority, clergy member, prison administrator, social worker, lawyers, government agency, or court. The third party should be familiar with your situation.

I certify that all information reported in this appeal and accompanying documentation is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability. I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation may be cause for reduction and/or repayment of federal, state or institutional financial aid. I also agree to provide additional documentation of the information provided, if requested by the Office of Financial Aid.

Student Signature _____

Date _____