A. REASON FOR THE REQUEST:

The Financial Aid Office is required to consider parent information and expected parental contribution for students who are not independent according to the FAFSA definition unless exceptions are made. Exceptions are made only when adequate documentation of extenuating family circumstances exists.

Extenuating circumstances are generally defined by students’ inability to have contact with their parents. Review the extenuating circumstances below and check the one that best describes your circumstance. If none of these circumstances apply to your situation, do not complete this form.

Note: Appeals will not be approved simply because you support yourself financially. There must be extraordinary circumstances (outside of your control) why you cannot provide the parental information. If you have documentation to support your request, please attach copies.

Check:

____ 1. Severe circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining your parents’ financial information. Examples:
   a.) an abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being
   b.) abandonment by both parents
   c.) history of parental alcohol or drug abuse
   d.) incarceration of the custodial parent

____ 2. Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions listed above.

____ 3. You are a non-citizen of the USA (who is eligible to receive Federal Financial Aid) and your parents currently reside in a foreign country and you are unable to communicate with your parents because of long standing political policy or civil unrest in your parents’ country of residence.

____ 4. You have extenuating circumstances not described above which prevent you from having contact with your parents to obtain parental information for FAFSA filing.

B. PERSONAL STATEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION:

- Attach a personal statement that completely and explicitly explains the basis for your request. Please note that your statement will be used only to determine if a dependency exception should be made. The information will be held in strictest confidence. Make sure your statement is signed and dated.
Attach a statement that clearly indicates how you are supporting yourself financially.

Attach at least two letters supporting your request for independence. For example if there is a teacher, counselor, employer, clergy person, therapist or social worker, etc. who knows your situation well, please ask them to write confirming your status. These letters should be signed and on agency letterhead.

C. PERSONAL DATA

1. When did you last live with your parent(s)? Month_______ Year________

2. When did you last receive financial support from your parent(s)? Month_______ Year _______

3. In what year were you last claimed by your parent(s) as a dependent on a Federal Tax Return? Year_______________

D. STUDENT CERTIFICATION – Read carefully before you sign.

I hereby certify that all information contained in this request for independent status, including my personal statement and other documentation, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I swear or affirm that I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false statements or fraudulent documentation. I understand that if I am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false or fraudulent statements and/or documentation, my request will be denied and my eligibility for Federal and State student aid may be adjusted or completely rescinded.

_____________________________________      _________________________
Your signature      Today’s date

E. STUDENT INDEPENDENT STATUS RENEWAL CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the documentation submitted for a previous award year is still true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

_____________________________________   __________________________
Your signature                 Today’s date

Return this completed form, supporting documentation, and your completed FAFSA to:

Cape Cod Community College,
Financial Aid Office
2240 Iyannough Road
West Barnstable, MA 02668-1599
Phone: (508)362-2131 ext 4393
Fax: (508)375-4026

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