



Dependency Status Appeal Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
What is a dependency status appeal?	A dependency status appeal is a process by which an otherwise dependent student can be considered independent for financial aid purposes. Financial aid administrators make dependency status appeal decisions on a case-by-case basis using documentation submitted by the student.
Who can request a dependency status appeal?	Students experiencing unusual circumstances such as abandonment by parents, fleeing abusive family situations, being unable to locate parents, or being homeless when no longer considered a “youth” for the purpose of filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can request a dependency status appeal.
How do I complete FAFSA if I am unaccompanied and homeless, but no longer a youth?	When completing the FAFSA you should submit the application without parental information, and follow up with the financial aid office at your school to request a dependency status appeal. If you are an unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 22, you are considered an independent student and are able to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) without your parent’s information.
Do I need to complete the FAFSA before submitting my dependency status appeal?	Dependency status appeals can be submitted and processed prior to completing the FAFSA.
What documentation do I need to submit with my dependency status appeal?	You may be asked to submit a personal statement describing the situation that led you to become an unaccompanied homeless youth. In addition to providing your personal statement, you may be asked to submit documentation from third-party sources such as teachers, counselors, social workers, clergy members, or your high school or district McKinney-Vento liaison. If you are unable to get letters from any of these sources you may submit letters from relatives or other adults who know about your situation.
How long is a dependency status appeal valid?	Dependency status appeals are only valid for one year, so you will need to complete the appeal each year until you turn 24 and are automatically independent.