

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE PETITION TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID AS AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT

When you completed and submitted your 2009-2010 Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) your answers to the dependency status questions identified you as a dependent student. This means you were required to provide parental information. You indicated that you have an unusual circumstance and were unable to provide parental information.

Under Federal law to the extent your family is able, they are primarily responsible for paying for your college expenses. To determine how much your family can afford to pay toward your college expenses, we must collect your financial information and your parents' financial information.

However, Federal law allows for some exceptions, if you have an unusual circumstance. The following are examples of some unusual circumstances where you may submit your FAFSA without providing parental information:

- ◆ Your parents are incarcerated; or
- ◆ You have left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- ◆ You have circumstances which have resulted in family estrangement; or
- ◆ You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

But not all situations are considered an unusual circumstance. The following are situations that would not be considered an unusual circumstance:

- ◆ Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
- ◆ Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- ◆ Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
- ◆ You do not live with your parents.

If you have an unusual circumstance that would allow you to submit your FAFSA without parental information, please complete and submit the attached form for a decision.

If you do not have an unusual circumstance but your parents have ended financial support and refuse to file the FAFSA, contact the Office of Financial Aid to discuss your situation with a Financial Aid Administrator.

The decision for you to be considered as an independent student for the purpose of awarding Federal Financial Aid is made on a case by case basis by a committee in the Office of Financial Aid. The decision of the Office of Financial Aid is final and cannot be appealed to Federal Student Aid.

FORM PI - IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
PETITION to APPLY for FINANCIAL AID
as an INDEPENDENT STUDENT

09-10

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Financial Aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signature(s) to be considered for financial aid. Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances which result in family estrangement, students should not be considered as dependent.

Office of Financial Aid, Idaho State University, Museum Building, Room 337
921 S 8th Ave, Stop 8077, Pocatello, ID 83209-8077
Phone: (208)282-2756 Fax: (208)282-4755

Student Name: _____
(Use blue or black ink) Last First M.I.

ISU ID (Bengal Card #): _____ Social Security #: _____

Address: _____
Street City St Zip

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer the items below and attach documentation as specified. **If you have not already submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), complete the 2009-2010 paper version of the FAFSA using your information only** available on line at http://fsa.ed.gov/fafsa/fafsa_options.html. Submit the completed petition with documentation and the completed FAFSA to the ISU Office of Financial Aid (address above).

Award year or time frame you are petitioning for: _____ (e.g. 2009-10 Award Year)

Complete the following with as much *detailed* information as possible. **Attach additional pages if needed.**

1. Identify the location of both your parents.
2. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents - when, where and nature of contact.
3. Provide a statement written by you fully describing the unusual circumstances which prevent you from providing parental information.
4. Describe how you have been self-supporting: a) when did you start meeting your expenses without parental support; and b) how have you provided for yourself?
5. Provide written evidence from at least two responsible adults who can verify your situation. This written evidence may include court or law enforcement documents, letters from a clergy member, school counselor or social worker and/or any other relevant data that explains your situation..
6. I have attached statements from the following persons (name, address, job title and relationship to you):
A. _____
B. _____

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____
(v. 03/20/2009)

Date: _____
(S:\10 Forms\formpi.wpd)