The Federal Government has determined that an **Independent Student** is one who is:

* Born before January 1, 1991
* Married
* A graduate/professional student pursuing a degree beyond a Bachelor’s degree
* Currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training
* A Veteran
* Has children that receive more than half of their support from the student
* An orphan or Ward of the Court
* In foster care since turning age 13
* Has dependents other than a Spouse that receive more than half of their support from student
* Emancipated minor
* In legal guardianship
* Homeless or at risk of being homeless

If you do not meet one of these criteria but believe you have extenuating circumstances and should be considered an Independent student, please provide a detailed description of these circumstances, attach supporting documentation, and return the completed form to the Financial Aid Office. Per GEN 03-07, the Federal Government does not permit dependency overrides for the following:

1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student’s education.
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification.
3. Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
4. Student proving that he/she is self-supporting.

**A. Detailed Description of Extenuating Circumstances:**

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

**B. Required Documents that must be submitted with this completed form:**

1. If selected for verification by the federal government or by the college, you must submit requested documentation to complete verification (i.e. 2013 IRS Tax Transcript, Verification Worksheet, etc.).

2. Documentation to support the extenuating circumstances. For example, students claiming abandonment must submit documentation verifying this from an independent third party on official letterhead. Contact Financial Aid to determine the appropriate documentation for your extenuating circumstance.
Note: The Federal Government believes it is a parent’s responsibility to fund their children’s education. A parent’s refusal to provide assistance is not sufficient reason to process a dependency override. An example of an acceptable extenuating circumstance is abandonment—i.e. the student has had no contact with the parents for a substantial period of time. Dependency overrides will only be considered when this completed form and all required documentation have been submitted. Dependency overrides will only be granted when the documentation warrants it. Professional judgement decisions may only be made by the Financial Aid Administrator and may not be appealed to Murray State College or the Federal Government. You will be notified in writing of the decision when the review is complete.

I certify that the information submitted is true and accurate:

Student Name (Please print)  Social Security Number

Student Signature  Date

FAO Office Use Only

Action taken: