



2021-2022 Dependency Override

2122 DEPOV
Financial Aid Office
401 Thomas Run Road
Bel Air, MD 21015
finaid@harford.edu

Student's Name: _____ H ID # _____

It is the philosophy of Congress and the U.S. Department of Education that parents have the primary responsibility for educating their children. The definition of an independent student, for financial aid purposes, is a student who meets at least one of the following criteria:

<input type="checkbox"/> Since I turned age 13, both of my parents were deceased	<input type="checkbox"/> I am married	<input type="checkbox"/> I was born before Jan 1, 1998
<input type="checkbox"/> I have been legally emancipated from my parents (Court Ordered Emancipated Minor)	<input type="checkbox"/> I have children and I provide more than half of their support	<input type="checkbox"/> I am serving active duty or am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
<input type="checkbox"/> I was in foster care, dependent/ward of the courts at some point since turning age 13	<input type="checkbox"/> I have dependents (other than my children or spouse) who live with me and I provide more than half of their support	<input type="checkbox"/> I will be working on a Master's or Doctorate program (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate)
<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently, or I was in Court Ordered Legal Guardianship	<input type="checkbox"/> I am homeless or I am at risk of being homeless (must be verified)	

If a dependent student's circumstances make it unreasonable to expect a parental contribution, federal regulations allow aid administrators to change or override the student's dependency status. The Department of Education has defined four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, *do not qualify as "unusual circumstances"* or that do not merit a dependency override.

The following circumstances **do not** warrant a request for a dependency override:

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education;
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

The Department of Education has further defined instances when a Dependency Override is appropriate. The following circumstances **may be** considered for a dependency override with the appropriate documentation:

- Abandonment by parents;
- Student has been the victim of domestic violence and is no longer residing with the parents;
- Incarceration of parents.

* NOTE: According to MD law, educators are required to report suspected current and past abuse (including but not limited to child abuse and neglect). This is required even if the former victim is an adult and/or the alleged abuser is deceased at the time of the disclosure. Furthermore, according to Harford Community College's Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy and Procedures, financial aid staff must disclose instances of sexual harassment and discrimination to the College's Title IX Coordinator. If you disclose information to the Financial Aid Office staff, whether in-person or in writing, it may be subject to reporting by Harford Community College. If you have any concerns regarding this requirement, please contact the Student Affairs office at studentaffairs@harford.edu or 443-412-2142 .

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined, sent to prison, or both.

The following documents are necessary to request a Dependency Override:_____ FAFSA – Fill in **STEPS ONE, TWO, THREE, FIVE and SIX.****(DO NOT SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)**

_____ Independent Verification Worksheet

_____ Copy of 2019 Federal Tax Return Transcript and W-2s

_____ Copy of current pay stub

_____ Personal letter of explanation of how you came to support yourself and over what time period you have done this. You must also describe the events in your family which led up to your current separation from them. If you are receiving support from friends or relatives, you must describe the nature of that support and how you came to receive it. Provide any and all information which you feel will help to outline your situation. All information will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used to determine your dependency status for financial aid application purposes.

_____ Attach letters (**on letterhead**) from **three** professionals within the community verifying the family circumstances described in your personal explanation. Professionals include guidance counselors, clergy members, teachers or professors, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, and law enforcement personnel.

_____ Attach a copy of a rent receipt, lease agreement, etc. and, if appropriate a copy of utility/BGE bill in your name.

Please provide all income and support received in 2019:

- **Wages and earnings** \$ _____
- **In-kind* support amount** \$ _____
- **TCA or other welfare benefits** \$ _____
- **Social Security** \$ _____
- **Child Support** \$ _____
- **Other Untaxed Income** \$ _____

***In-kind support** is any financial support received from another individual or resource. Please provide documentation from the source of the amount received in 2019.

CERTIFICATION: All of the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of the information that I have given on this form. If I do not provide proof when asked, my application will not be processed. Also, I understand that there is no guarantee that completion of the Dependency Override Review will result in an increase of financial aid.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____