

Petition for Independent Status

The basic premise underlying student financial aid is that it is primarily the responsibility of the student and his or her family to pay educational costs. When family resources are insufficient, financial aid may be awarded to supplement the resources of the student's family to help pay educational expenses. By petitioning for independent status as a financial aid recipient, you are asking us to relieve your parents of the responsibility for using their resources to pay part of your college costs. **Only very extenuating circumstances will make it reasonable to approve such a petition.**

The unwillingness of your parent (s) to provide parental data on your financial aid application or to financially support your education, or your unwillingness to seek financial assistance from your parent(s) is not an acceptable reason to appeal your dependency status.

Please attach a separate sheet explaining in detail the answers to these questions:

1. Identify the location of both your parents.
2. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents-when, where, and the nature of the contact.
3. Explain what unusual circumstances should make you an independent student.
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. Were you claimed as a dependent on your parent(s) tax return?

Upon receipt of this signed petition and the attached explanation/documentation, the Director of Financial Aid will review your circumstances and you may be contacted to set up an appointment for a personal interview. You will receive a response in writing from the Director of Financial Aid regarding your petition for independent status when the review process has been completed. **THE DEADLINE FOR FILING THIS FORM IS August 1, 2006.**

Student Printed Name	Student Signature	Fisk University ID Number
E-mail Address		Date Signed

Office of Student Financial Aid use only*

Approved: Yes _____ No _____

By: _____ Date: _____