



Petition to Change Status from Dependent to Independent 2025-2026

Name: _____ Student or STAR ID: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

I am petitioning the Financial Aid Office for consideration to change my status from dependent to independent and waive the required parent information.

Federal law says that a student who does not meet federal standards to be considered independent for financial aid purposes may be considered independent if the institution's financial aid office determines and documents that the student has unusual circumstances. An unusual circumstance is defined as the inability of the student to provide the information because the parent lives in a country that is not accessible by normal means of communication; the student was removed from the home at a young age due to adverse living conditions; the parental relationship has been permanently severed due to an extreme home situation, etc.

A parent's unwillingness to complete the FAFSA or assist in financing the student's education **is not** considered an unusual circumstance. The choice of a student to no longer live with a parent **is not** considered an unusual circumstance.

In order for this petition to be considered, you MUST complete the front of this form and attach ALL the documentation requested on the back of this form.

I certify that all of the information stated in the letters attached concerning my request for a change from dependent to independent is true and complete.

Student's Signature

Date

Return by mail or fax:

Faribault Campus
South Central College
Financial Aid Office
1225 Third Street SW
Faribault, MN 55021

OR

North Mankato Campus
South Central College
Financial Aid Office
1920 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, MN 56003

Fax: (507) 389-7419

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

a. **A personal letter from you** explaining why you are **unable** to provide parental information. The letter should be one to two pages and provide as much detail as possible describing your separation from your parents. You are required to include the following information in your letter:

- ☐ Why you are **not able** to provide parental information on the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Describe **in detail** when and why the permanent separation from **both** your parents occurred.
- ☐ The whereabouts of your biological father and his current living arrangements. If you do not know, explain why. Include the date and nature of the last contact you had with your biological father and the frequency of contact with him over the past three (3) years.
- ☐ The whereabouts of your biological mother and her current living arrangements. If you do not know, explain why. Include the date and nature of the last contact you had with your biological mother and the frequency of contact with her over the past three (3) years.
- ☐ Your living arrangements over the past three (3) years. Include the names with whom you resided, the addresses and the dates.
- ☐ For each of the past three (3) years, explain how you have paid for rent, food, transportation, utilities, etc. Be specific.
- ☐ Your name, date and signature.

b. **Two letters from individuals from the community who can attest to your situation.** Examples of individuals from the community include, a school official, clergy, social worker, counselor, landlord, employer, medical authority. Their letter should be one to two pages and provide as much detail as possible describing your permanent separation from your parents. They are required to include the following information in their letter:

- ☐ Why you are **not able** to provide parental information. They need to describe **in detail** when and why the permanent separation from **both** your parents occurred.
- ☐ They'll need to outline clearly their knowledge of you and how you are self-supporting.
- ☐ The individual's name, title or position, address, the date and their signature.

c. **A copy of your 2023 and 2024 Federal Income Tax Return Transcripts (1040, 1040A or 1040EZ).**

To request a Tax Return Transcript go to IRS.gov and Select 'Get Your Tax Record'. Or use the automated phone system by calling 1-800-908-9946.

If you did not file a federal tax return contact our office.

d. **A completed and signed 2025-2026 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** If you have not already filed your FAFSA, file it electronically at www.fafsa.gov and sent the results to South Central College (005537).