Financial aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signature to be considered for financial aid. Congress has established six criteria that automatically classify a student as independent.

Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances, students should not be considered as dependent. If you can document why you should be considered independent you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information.

**NOTE:** None of the conditions below, alone or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances or merit a dependency override:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student’s education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

Please complete the following steps and provide the required documentation:

1. If you have not already filled out a 2014-2015 FAFSA, please complete it online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
2. On a separate piece of paper, write a narrative detailing the relationship between you and your parents.
3. Provide at least one of the following types of documentation:
   a. Certification/Documentation from a social worker, doctor, or other professional documenting abuse or neglect.
   b. Letter from a warden, sheriff, or other public official certifying your parent(s) incarceration or institutionalization.
   c. Court Documents.
   d. Statements from two people who are aware of your situation that describe your relationship with your parents. At least one statement must be from a professional (high school/professional counselor, social worker, teacher, lawyer, religious leader).
4. Complete and submit the 2014-2015 V1 Independent Verification Worksheet. This can be found on the PTC website.
5. Submit a copy of your 2013 Federal Tax Transcript or complete the IRS data retrieval process through the FAFSA.

_I certify that the information provided on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If necessary, I agree to provide further proof of the information that I have given. I agree to notify the Financial Aid Office if my situation changes. Attached is my statement, required documentation, and verification worksheet._

**Electronic signatures cannot be accepted.**