

Name: _____ **SID#:** _____

The Dependency Override Appeal Petition is for dependent students who do not meet the federal criteria for “independent” status as outlined on the 2020-2021 FAFSA but who would like to have their unique circumstances reviewed in order to be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes. Students who are estranged from their parents due to extenuating or unusual circumstances *which can be documented by objective third party* may qualify. Please note that the following circumstances are **NOT** considered viable reasons for independency status;

- You do not reside with your parents.
- Your parent refuses to pay for your college education.
- Your parents do not claim you on their tax return.
- Your parent are not willing to provide their information to complete the parent section of the FAFSA.
- You (*the student*) do not rely on your parents for support, financially or otherwise.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete all requirements outlined below before submitting this appeal to the Financial Aid Office. Be thorough as the information provided on this appeal will ultimately determine your eligibility to receive financial aid at DVC. If you have been approved for a Dependency Override Appeal at Diablo Valley College in previous years you do not have to complete requirements for # 2, 3, and 4 below.

1. Write a **PERSONAL STATEMENT** on a separate piece of paper explaining your situation and attach it to this form. You must describe your current relationship (even if it is non-existent) with your biological or adoptive father and mother. Please address the following questions in you statement:
 - Describe the nature of your relationship with each of your parent(s) and provide a detailed account of your circumstances.
 - Provide the date and place of your last contact with your parents(s).
 - Do you live with someone other than your parents, does that person support you, and for how long?
 - Do you support yourself? If yes, what year did you begin supporting yourself?
2. Provide a **LETTER FROM A PROFESSIONAL** who is familiar with your case and can verify reasons for your independent status request. (i.e. high school or college counselor, social services agency official, pastor or clergy member, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, teacher, etc.) The letter must be on *official letterhead* and must include the individuals name, title or positions, address, contact number, and original signature. The letter must also contain the following information:
 - Describe the nature of the person’s relationship with the student and length of time known
 - Any knowledge of the student’s relationship with his/her parents
 - Describe when the last time the student lived and/or received financial support from his/her parents
3. Provide a **PERSONAL REFERENCE LETTER** this individual cannot be related to you and should be able to verify the reasons why you are not able to provide your parent’s information on the FAFSA (i.e. friend, co-worker, neighbor, mentor, etc.). The letter must include the individual’s name, relationship to your, address, contact number, and original signature. The letter must also contain the following information:
 - Describe the nature of the person’s relationship with the student ad length of time known
 - Any knowledge of the student’s relationship with his/her parents
 - Describe when the last time the student lived and/or received financial support from his/her parents

4. A **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION** that verifies/substantiates the reasons for your independent status request. This is an essential part of your petition as providing sufficient documentation supports your statements. Some examples of supporting documentation are:
 - Documentation confirming that a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated.
 - Documentation confirming that there is a protection/restraining order prohibiting you from having contact with your parents.
 - Other legal documentation to explain why parental information could not be obtained to determine financial eligibility

5. Complete the **2020-2021 FAFSA**. If you do not have parent information available, you may leave responses to parent questions blank on the FAFSA pending review of your Dependency Override Appeal by the Financial Aid Office. Note that your FAFSA will be considered rejected and incomplete without parental information. Make sure DVC's federal school code (001191) is listed on the FAFSA. You may add the DVC federal school code online at <https://fafsa.gov/> by selecting the "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA" option.

6. Go to www.dvc.edu/student-services/financial-aid/ locate the "FORMS AND TUTORIALS" link on the left sidebar menu to complete the following requirements.
 - Print and complete the **2020-2021 V1 VERIFICATION WORKSHEET** (answer the questions as an independent student and make sure to complete Section E: Income Certification).

By signing this form, I certify that: (Initial by each statement)

- _____ All statements and/or supporting documentation are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- _____ I understand that further documentation may be requested if needed in order to reach a decision.
- _____ Once a decision has been made, I will be notified in writing via the Insite Portal email.
- _____ I understand that if my petition is denied, my status will remain as a Dependent Student and I will need to provide parental information to continue with my application for financial aid.
- _____ If my appeal is approved, I must adhere to the District's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy posted on the DVC Financial Aid website to continue receiving aid at DVC.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____