

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

2008-2009 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE INFORMATION SHEET

Who may apply for a Dependency Override?

Many students feel that they are independent because they currently live on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their federal income taxes. Others feel they should be considered independent because their parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA or because their parents cannot financially afford to help with their college expenses. These reasons are not sufficient for an override. The Office of Financial Aid is required to consider parent information and expect a parent contribution for students who do not qualify as independent according to the FAFSA definition (see FAFSA, page 8, step three Questions 48-55). The law does allow limited discretion on the part of the institution to make a "professional judgement" as to the dependency status of a student. Extreme circumstances may be considered on an individual, yearly basis.

If the student feels that he/she has true, unusual and verifiable circumstances that warrant a re-evaluation of the dependency status, a professional judgement process has been established to review these individual cases.

INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for a Dependency Override you must:

- (1) Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or provide a completed and signed paper FAFSA to the Office of Financial Aid
- (2) Complete the entire Dependency Override Application (DOAP)
- (3) Attach the required documentation and submit to the Office of Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid will review your application and supporting documentation and you will be notified in writing of the decision. Transfer students must reapply for a dependency override at FSU.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Types of required acceptable documentation to warrant a Dependency Override include but are not limited to:

- (1) Divorce Decree
- (2) Court Order(s)
- (3) Affidavit of Guardianship
- (4) Birth Certificate(s), Death Certificate(s)
- (5) Letter(s) from social service agency, detention center, school guidance counselors, minister or funeral director. Such documents must be signed and notarized and should include the student's social security number.