

**SMC Financial Aid Office**  
**DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE**  
**2018-2019**

**BASIC DEPENDENCY INFORMATION**

***Federal Policy on Dependency***

Students: are considered to be dependent until they reach the age of 24\* - unless they:

- are married (or)
- are an orphan (or)
- are a ward of the court (or)
- are a veteran (or)
- are on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (or)
- are in graduate school (or)
- are considered homeless or at risk of homelessness (or)
- have dependents

(\*Note: for 2018-2019 -students born before 1/1/1995 are considered independent.)

***Federal Policy on Schools Overriding Dependency***

Federal guidelines allow schools to exercise “professional judgment” in overriding a student’s dependency status. The student would need to verify “unusual” or “exceptional” family circumstances before a school can change a dependent student’s status to that of independent.

***What are “unusual” or “exceptional” family circumstances?***

There are no absolute definitions for “unusual” or “exceptional” family circumstances. However, examples might include abusive family situations, dysfunctional families, or families who have broken up because of alcohol or drug abuse. The parent’s unwillingness to assist a student, though, will not solely be a reason for a dependency override.

***To request an override of your dependency status by the SMC Financial Aid Office you must submit (at least) the following:***

- A letter explaining your “unusual” or “exceptional” family circumstances.
- Two typed letters from: ***teacher, counselor, priest, rabbi, social worker, medical professional, or lawyer who can verify your “unusual” circumstances-on “letterhead” stationary.***
- The completed income and housing information section on the other side of this form.
- Your federal tax return for the past year (if you filed a tax return.)

**DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE**  
**INCOME AND HOUSING INFORMATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Last Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(include Apt #)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Telephone Number*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Zip*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*ID# or Social Security Number*

**HOUSING INFORMATION**

Do you pay rent?

Yes

No

If yes, how much is your monthly rent?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Have you signed a rental agreement?

Yes

No

Name and address of your landlord:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Zip*

If you do not pay rent, please explain your current living situation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WORK INFORMATION**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address / phone number of employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Zip*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone Number*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly wages

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Do you have any additional sources of income other than your job?  Yes   No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did your parents claim you on their federal tax returns in the following years?

2016 Yes   No

2017 Yes   No

Will they claim you on their federal tax return for 2018? Yes  No