

**Dependency Petition
2011-2012**

INSTRUCTIONS

- ❑ Federal guidelines for independency status have been established by the Federal Government. A student is considered independent if he/she meets one or more of the following conditions:
 - is 24 years of age by December 31st of the award year,
 - is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces; or on active military duty,
 - is working on, or pursuing a graduate or professional degree,
 - is married,
 - is (or was) an orphan or ward of the court (with official legal court documents),
 - has legal dependents other than a spouse,
 - is an emancipated minor (in the state of legal residency with official court documents),
 - is in legal guardianship (the state of legal residency with official court documents),
 - is determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless (with a determination letter from the Program Liaison of the shelter or program funded by HUD),
 - is determined to be self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, OR was one of the following since turning age 13:
 - You were a ward of the state or court (with official legal court documents)
 - Both of your parents deceased (copies of both death certificates) or
 - You were in foster care (with official legal court documents)

- ❑ If you meet any of the above criteria you are already considered to be independent per the FAFSA and do not need to submit this petition.

- ❑ If you think you have **unusual or extenuating circumstances** that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, even though none of the above criteria apply to you, you may appeal for a dependency override to the Office of Financial Aid at San Diego Mesa College. Examples that **MAY** qualify for a Dependency Override:
 - Documented abandonment
 - Documented abuse

- ❑ Please note that the following **are not** considered unusual or extenuating circumstances and **will not** qualify you as an independent student:
 - you do not reside with your parents,
 - you are self-supporting,
 - your parents refuse or are unwilling to provide their income information, or pay for your college education,
 - your parents are not financially able to pay for education,
 - you were married after you applied for financial aid,
 - you do not want your parent's assistance and have decided to pay for your own college education.

- ❑ **A dependency override will not guarantee an increase in your financial aid award.**

Office of Financial Aid

7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, CA 92111-4908, (619) 388-2817, fax (619) 388-2824



Dependency Petition 2011-2012

Student Name: _____

Social Security# _____

CSID: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Required Documentation

- # A detailed statement explaining your unusual or extenuating circumstances which you feel should qualify you as an independent student including dates and descriptions of specific incidents (you should include the circumstances of both parents),
- # A 2011/2012 FAFSA application filed electronically at www.fafsa.gov,
- # A SIGNED copy of your 2010 Federal Tax Return (1040EZ, 1040A, 1040) (if applicable),
- # A copy of all 2010 W2s (if applicable),
- # Must include Two (2) letters on letterhead stationery from objective third party and/or professional individuals, such as a high school counselor, case worker, rabbi, minister, therapist, or other professional who can **confirm** the unusual or extenuating circumstances in your family from their perspective as witnessed *. These statements should include the following information:
 - + Their relationship to you and your parents
 - + Full Name, Address, Telephone Number & Email Address
 - + Their understanding of your family circumstances, and
- # Any other supporting documentation such as proof of parent(s) abandonment or abuse, court documents, police reports, or certificate of death.
- # Please bring information to the Office of Financial Aid or mail to:

Mail: San Diego Mesa College Fax: (619) 388-2824
 Office of Financial Aid I-300 Room 100
 7250 Mesa College Drive
 San Diego, CA 92111

I certify that the information I have provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide proof supporting the information on this form. I certify that any copies of tax returns that I have provided are true copies of the documents as filed with the IRS. I realized that giving false or misleading information may result in a \$20,000 dollar fine, a prison sentence or both.

My signature below signifies that I have read and understand the above information and that the information provided for in this appeal is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Dependency Petition Deadlines (due by Noon)
 Fall 2011 12/02/2011
 Spring 2012 05/04/2012
 Summer 2012 06/29/2012

* Adults who witnessed your circumstances first hand and can fully explain your situation.