

Office of Student Financial Aid

2010-2011 2011-2012
(please select application year)

Student's Name: _____ **ID#:** _____
(Please print) Last First

IMPORTANT NOTE: This petition is valid for only one school year. If you will be applying for aid next year without parent information, you will need to re-document your status. Contact PSU Office of Student Financial Aid before you reapply.

PETITION TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID
WITHOUT PARENTAL INFORMATION

Purpose of petition:

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) states the criteria used to determine if a student's parent(s) must provide information on the aid application. If the FAFSA instructs you to provide parental information, but if *you have unusual family circumstances which prevent you from having your parent(s) complete the FAFSA, you may use this petition.*

NOTE: The decision to allow you to apply for financial aid without parental information is made on a case-by-case basis. If you previously applied for financial aid without parental information at another school, you will still need to complete this petition. You may attach documentation that your petition was approved at another school, rather than the supporting documentation requested below. If your petition is approved at PSU and you then transfer to another school, you will need to contact the Financial Aid Office at that school to find out what steps they require.

Instructions for completing petition:

- Read all instructions carefully.
- Attach all documentation requested
- Submit *completed, signed* petition to PSU Office of Student Financial Aid.
- **If you have not already submitted the FAFSA for this year, complete the student section of the FAFSA either online at www.fafsa.gov or by using the paper form. If you are using the paper form, sign the form and attach it to this petition.**

CRITERIA

A. Severe circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining your parent's financial information. Your parent's unwillingness to complete the financial aid application or unwillingness or inability to support you financially **is not** considered as a part of this situation.

Examples:

- An abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being.
- Abandonment by both parents.
- Incarceration of the custodial parent.

DEPOVR- Department Use Only

Approved _____ **Denied** _____ **Counselor:** _____ **Date:** _____
Reason:

| |
|---------|
| Reason: |
|---------|

1. **Attach a written personal statement** which completely explains the reason for your petition. All the information provided with this petition is completely confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone without your written consent. **Your statement must be signed and dated.**

2. **Attach two signed letters** supporting your petition that detail why your parent cannot complete the FAFSA. You may submit **one** letter from a relative or friend **plus one** from a professional source (see list), **or two** from the list. The professional's letter(s) must be on agency letterhead and include their title ("counselor," "rabbi," etc.). Acceptable sources:

- Attorney
- Case worker, such as Department of Human Services, or other child/youth welfare agency
- Clergy member
- Law enforcement officer
- Medical doctor
- Mental health professional
- Officers of the court
- School counselor or teacher

B. You are at risk of Homelessness (*Homelessness is defined as: lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing*).

1. **Attach a typed statement** that completely explains your current housing situation. All the information provided with the petition is completely confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone without your written consent. **Your statement must be signed and dated.**

2. **Attach a signed letter** from a professional source (see list), *The professional's letter(s) must be on agency letterhead and include their title.* Acceptable sources:

- Case worker, such as Department of Human Services, or other child/youth welfare agency
- Clergy member
- Officers of the court
- School counselor or teacher

C. Your parents reside in a foreign country and cannot be contacted by regular means of communication.

If your parents reside in a country which has experienced long-standing political or civil unrest and they cannot receive and return the FAFSA, you may petition for this condition.

1. **Attach a typed statement** explaining when and how you arrived in the United States and your parent's current location. Your statement must be signed and dated.

2. If you arrived in the United States with the assistance of a refugee organization, sponsor or other family member, **attach a letter** from the agency, sponsor or a family member to verify that mail and funds cannot be readily or reasonably transferred between residents of the United States and the country where your parents are currently residing. If you arrived in the United States independently, a letter from the embassy of your former country can be used to verify that mail and funds cannot be readily or reasonably transmitted to and from the United States.

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