

## **20-21 CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY STATUS**

Students requesting a dependency override should make an appointment with the Financial Aid Director, either in person or by phone, and provide additional documentation as requested.

Dependency overrides will generally be performed for those students who meet one of the following criteria:

- A student has been involuntarily removed from the parents' home and support.
- The student has resided with and been supported by someone other than their parents—the time will depend on the situation. Usually this applies to students who have “always” lived with a relative who was not a legal guardian.
- The student is not receiving support from either parent, there is little to no communication with either parent and there has been an issue of abuse or abandonment that led to the alienation of the student from the parent.

The residency of the student or whether or not the parent has claimed the student as a dependent on their federal tax return is not a basis for appeal.

To request an override of the student's dependency status, the student must submit the following to CCCC:

- Dependency Status Change Request Form
- A letter explaining the student's circumstances and the current living situation
- A letter from the student's teacher, counselor, medical professional, social worker, or clergy who can verify the student's situation
- Court documentation and/or police reports
- Verification Documents including:
  - 2018 Tax Return Transcript and/or signed copy of IRS Tax Return
  - 2018 W-2's
  - 2021-2021 V1 Verification Worksheet
- 2020-2021 Low or No Income Form (if applicable)

In subsequent years, in lieu of repeated documentation, if the dependency situation remains unchanged, the student must provide a written statement to that effect along with completing the Dependency Status Change Request. New documentation will not be required.

CCCC follows the federal guidelines which state that aid administrators cannot use professional judgement to consider a student independent solely on the basis of the students' previous independent status, or because the student is “self supporting”. A dependency override may not be used in the case of parents who are unwilling to provide financial data or support.

The Financial Aid Director reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy in extreme situations.