



Dependency Status Verification and Appeal

Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Proving self-sufficiency and/or living on your own are not adequate reasons for changing your dependency status and **will not be considered**. However, based on how you answered the FAFSA dependency questions, or if there was an unintentional, involuntary, and uncontrollable break in the relationship between parents and student, MVNU may be able to consider you an independent student.

If one of the circumstances below applies to you, please check the category, attach required documentation along with a **signed copy of your most recent Federal Tax Return**. The Financial Aid Office will review your appeal based on the documentation submitted and notify you of the results.

Please check the applicable response and supply the required documentation. Note: No action will be taken on appeals submitted without required documentation.

A. _____ Are both of your parents deceased?

- Submit copies of both of your parents' death certificates.

B. _____ Are you or were you (since age 13) a ward/dependent of the court?

C. _____ As of today, are you an emancipated minor determined by a court?

D. _____ As of today, are you in a court-appointed legal guardianship?

- If you checked any of these, submit court or legal documents verifying your status.

E. _____ At any time after July 1, 2008, were you determined as an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

- Submit letters (**on official letterhead**) from your school district homeless liaison, director of an emergency shelter, or director of a youth center affirming your circumstances.

For the following circumstances, additional information is needed to determine a student's dependency status. Please check the applicable response and submit the required documentation.

F. ____ Your custodial parent has died and the other natural parent is still living.

You, however, have neither had contact with nor received any financial support from the living parent for a significant period of time.

Submit:

- Letter from you explaining the situation in detail.
- A copy of the death certificate for the deceased custodial parent.
- A letter from an objective third party which supports your claim that you have neither lived with nor received financial support from the non-custodial parent for a significant period of time.

G. ____ Your family situation is untenable. The dysfunction may result from physical abuse, emotional abuse, or drug or alcohol abuse. In many cases, a professional counselor has counseled you to live apart from your parent(s).

Submit:

- A letter (**on official letterhead**) explaining the situation in detail from a pastor, social worker, psychologist, high school counselor, teacher, doctor, or another counseling professional.
- A letter from you explaining the situation in detail.
- One or more of the following:
 - a. A letter, preferably from someone other than a relative or a friend (i.e. – the parents of a friend of the student, a neighbor, an employer)
 - b. Police reports
 - c. Court reports
 - d. Documentation from a social agency

H. ____ Other unusual circumstances.

Submit:

- A detailed written explanation and substantiating documentation of other unusual circumstances.

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information provided with my appeal is complete and correct. Note: Please include your name and MVNU ID# on the top of all attachments.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to:
Financial Aid Office
Mount Vernon Nazarene University
Attn: Vickie Williams
800 Martinsburg Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
financialaid@mvnu.edu