# Southern Polytechnic State University

**Student Financial Aid Dependency Status Appeal**
2007-2008

Read the information below before completing this form

| Last Name | First Name | M.I. | Student I.D. Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

| Address (include apt. no. | Telephone Number |
|---|---|
| | |

**Independent Status Definitions:**
The federally mandated formula used to determine your financial need is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your education. When applying for financial aid, the federal government has specific standards to determine who has dependent status and must include parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and who has independent status and is not required to provide parental information. To have independent status, you must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- You were born before January 1, 1984
- You were a ward of the court until age 18, or both parents are deceased
- You are a veteran of the United States Armed Forces
- You are married
- You have a legal dependent other than a spouse
- You are enrolled in a graduate or a professional program

**Appeal Procedures For Extenuating Circumstances**
If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status outlined above, you may appeal if you believe you have extenuating circumstances. These are generally severe circumstances within your family that prevent you from obtaining your parent's financial information. If you want the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to **consider** a dependency override, which eliminates the requirement for parental information on the FAFSA, you must be able to **explain** and **document** the circumstances.
The following **are not** considered unusual circumstances for the purpose of achieving independent status for financial aid:

- You do not live in your parent's home
- You are self-supporting
- You are not claimed as a federal exemption on your parent's income tax
- Your parents cannot afford or refuse to help with college or living expenses
- Your parents are unwilling to provide their financial information to complete the FAFSA
- You and your parents had disagreements resulting in a breakdown in your relationship

If you feel that you have extenuating circumstances, please submit the following information to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid:

1. A personal letter describing your extenuating circumstances.
2. A letter from a professional or third party confirming your extenuating circumstances. Examples include a high school counselor, caseworker, therapist, clergy person or other professional
3. Other supporting documentation such as police reports or court orders.

I hereby certify that all information contained in this request for dependency override is true and complete. I understand that providing false statements or fraudulent documentation will prevent me from receiving financial aid and may lead to fines and/or imprisonment.

| Student Signature | Date |
|---|---|
| | |

Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid
1100 South Marietta Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30060

**Allow 10-14 days to process this appeal.**