

DEPENDENCY PETITION 2008-2009

FAO Date Stamp

***** **IMPORTANT** *****

You must complete a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* as if you are an **independent** student (no parental data included) and submit your completed application with this document to the SRJC Financial Aid Office. If your Dependency Petition is approved, the FAFSA will then be sent electronically to the processor. If it is denied, your FAFSA will be returned to you and then you must include your parent(s) information before you mail your FAFSA to the processor.

Your Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Social Security Number: _____ Telephone: _____

DEPENDENCY:

Congress defines an **independent** student as one who:

- was born before January 1, 1985 or
- as of today, is married or
- is/was a ward of the court until age 18 or an orphan or
- is a veteran of the US Armed Forces or
- will be a graduate or professional student (*beyond a bachelors degree*) in 2008-2009 or
- has legal dependents other than a spouse

Unless one of these above criteria applies to you, your parents share responsibility for your educational expenses, and their financial information must be included on your FAFSA. In our opinion, these rules will not prevent needy families and students from qualifying for financial assistance; they are intended to encourage families who have the capacity to pay to do so.

It is no longer relevant if your parents did not claim you on their taxes, if you supported yourself, if your parents are unwilling or unable to pay, if you don't communicate with them, or if it is difficult to acquire their information.

EXCEPTIONS:

In the view of the Department of Education, exceptions may be made only if you can **document extraordinary and unusual circumstances**. Examples might include physically abusive relationships, former wards of the court, refugees, political asylees, incarcerated parents, etc. If you have similar exceptional circumstances, please describe these on the back of this sheet in complete detail, attach corroborating documentation, and submit this to the SRJC Financial Aid Office. If your comments are confidential, you may fold and staple this form so your name is visible but your comments are sealed inside.

If you have difficulty with English and need to discuss your circumstances verbally, please call for an in-person or telephone appointment with your technician. You should forward any related documentation to the SRJC Financial Aid Office prior to your interview.

Please make a complete presentation of facts and documentation at this time. We will notify you of our decision by mail.

DOCUMENTATION:

The documentation must be complete and specific, and must describe the person's own direct, firsthand experience with your family's circumstances. It should not be a restatement of your comments. An example may include official letters (on letterhead stationery) from clergy, licensed counselors, the courts, social workers and other non-family members. These letters can be sealed and marked confidential if appropriate.

