



GIA®

Office of Student Financial Assistance 2021-2022 Petition for Independent Status

Student Information

Last Name, First Name

Student's e-Mail Address

Submit this petition after you have completed and submitted your FAFSA. If your Petition for Independent Status is approved by the office of Financial Aid, GIA will submit a dependency override to the FAFSA Federal Processor. If your petition is denied, you will be instructed to provide parental information on your FAFSA.

Students classified as dependent may file this petition to be reclassified as independent based upon adverse family conditions which make obtaining your parents' FAFSA application information impossible. In order for your appeal to be approved, you must be able to document that all financial and emotional contact with your parents has been severed as a direct result of the adverse family condition. Please complete all steps as outlined in this form and return it to the GIA Office of Financial Aid for processing.

Examples of eligible circumstances include:

- Severe estrangement from parents
- An unsafe domestic environment
- Unknown whereabouts of parents

Examples of non-eligible circumstances include:

- Financial hardship
- Parents' desire NOT to provide financial support to the student
- A student's ability to be self-sufficient

Step 1: Personal Statement

Explain in detail the extenuating family circumstances that you believe warrant review of your dependency status in the space provided below. You may attach additional sheets of paper if more space is needed.

 Student's Name

Step 2: Contact with Parent(s)

- A. When was the last date you had contact with your parent(s)? (month/year) _____
- B. When did you last live with your parent(s)? (month/year) _____
- C. Has/have your parent(s) provided you with support in the last 12 months? Support includes housing, food, cash, gifts, medical insurance, loans, etc. Yes No

If yes, list types (housing, food, etc.) and amount.

Type of Support (housing, food, etc.)	Amount in Past 12 Months
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Step 3: Professional Statement & Witness Statement

In addition to your personal statement, the documents outlined here in Step 3 are required in order to process your independent appeal. Independent appeals will not be accepted if either of the documents outlined below are not provided.

- I have attached a Signed statement from a professional (counselor, social worker, therapist, member of the clergy, etc.) on official letterhead substantiating and documenting the existence of my adverse family circumstance.

AND

- I have attached a Signed statement from a witness (friend, relative, etc.) having comprehensive knowledge regarding the existence of the adverse condition must be provided with this petition.

Step 4: Additional Documentation

If you have additional supporting documentation that supports your adverse family circumstances, it is recommended that you submit these documents along with this appeal. Examples of additional documents may include: police reports, proof of incarcerated parent, death certificates (if applicable), and/or applicable documents that can support the Personal Statement.

Certification Statement

I certify that all information reported on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I have also attached all required documentation, as necessary. I understand that purposely falsifying information may prevent me from receiving financial aid.

 Student's Signature*

*Electronic signature is NOT acceptable

 Date

Mail signed form and supporting documents to:

GIA Office of Student Financial Assistance 5345 Armada Drive MS 7 Carlsbad, CA 92008 800-421-7250, ext 4005