



Student Full Name	Student ID	Student's Age
Permanent Address		

Financial aid regulations assume that the family has the primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes, your aid eligibility is determined using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid.

Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances, a student may be considered independent. If you can document why you should be considered independent for an unusual reason, you may petition for a waiver of the federal regulations requiring parent information. In your petition you must address each of the following items:

- Identify the location of both of your parents.
- Describe the contact you have with each parent. Explain: when, where, the nature and the frequency of the contact.
- Explain what unusual circumstances as to why you should be made an independent student. Be as detailed as possible in your explanations.
- Describe how you have been self-supporting:
 - o What month & year did you start meeting your expenses without parental support?
 - o How have you provided for yourself?
- Submit copies of your Federal Income Tax Returns and W2 forms from the previous **two** calendar years.
- Provide statements from **two** responsible adults (priest, minister, caseworker, police officer, high school counselor, etc.) who are aware of your situation. The statements must be from someone who is **not a relative or parent**. Copies of the appropriate court documents are acceptable to support your petition.

Name	Title	Relationship to student
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I certify that the information I have provided in this petition is true and correct and understand that providing false or misleading information may invalidate the petition for independent status.

Student Signature (Required)	Date

You can submit this form via email to financialaid@ben.edu; fax the document to 630-829-6101; or upload the completed form to the Financial Aid dropbox located on our [website](#).