2025-26 Dependency Override Request Form

CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

An independent student is defined within federal financial aid regulation as someone who fits into one or more of ten categories. Under these categories, a student is considered independent if they can answer "Yes" to one or more of the following questions on the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

1. Were you born before January 1, 2002?
2. Are you married as of the date you complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA?
3. At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program?
4. Are you a veteran, or serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
5. Do you now have or will you have children who receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026?
6. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2026?
7. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
8. As determined by a court in your legal state of residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
9. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your legal state of residence?
10. At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did your high school, school district homeless liaison, emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, or a director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

The regulation provides students an opportunity to petition the Financial Aid Office for what is known as a dependency override. Financial Aid Administrators may grant dependency overrides for students who present with "unusual circumstances" on a case-by-case basis and with documentation each award year. The US Department of Education recognizes qualifying events to include, but are not limited to an abusive family environment, parental abandonment, or incarceration or institutionalization of both parents.

The US Department of Education indicates that a dependency override cannot be performed for the following reasons:

- Parental refusal to contribute to the student's education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for Verification
- Parents do not claim the student for tax purposes
- The student demonstrates self-sufficiency (financial independence)

Items to include for your dependency override request:

1. This Dependency Override Request Form, signed and dated.
2. A typed, detailed letter explaining in your own words your "unusual circumstances."
3. Two (2) letters of support from third parties, which may include a high school counselor, clergy, social worker, doctor, or court. Official letters must be on agency letterhead. Personal statements must be notarized.
4. Any other documentation that you believe will help demonstrate your independent status under the regulation.

Please submit all items electronically using the Student Document Upload, located on the Financial Aid card in your **myCTState** portal.

By signing below, I certify that all information reported in my request is truthful and accurate. I further agree to submit any other requested documentation, if required. I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information and/or fraudulently sign this form, I may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both.

Student Name _____ Banner ID# _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____