



/Appeal for Independent Status

The Federal government’s philosophy on financial aid dictates that a student’s family has the primary responsibility for paying education expenses. However, financial aid administrators may override a dependency status on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances, given sufficient documentation is provided. When an **unintentional, involuntary, and uncontrollable** break between the parent(s) and student occurs, Southeast may review the situation and consider making a student independent for financial aid purposes.

Some conditions are **never eligible** for appeal, including:

1. Parent(s) refuse to contribute to the student’s education;
2. Parent(s) are unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
3. Parent(s) do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
4. Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

To appeal, please submit the completed appeal form, a letter of explanation including your current living arrangements, and all supporting documentation as indicated below.

STUDENT INFORMATION	
Southeast ID #: <u>SO</u>	
Student Name: _____	Phone Number: _____

REASON FOR APPEAL	
<input type="checkbox"/> DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SITUATION A student’s family situation is dysfunctional. Dysfunction may result from physical abuse, emotional abuse, drug or alcohol abuse, or abandonment. In many cases a professional counselor has counseled the student to live apart from the parent(s).	Required Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A personal letter explaining the circumstances, including your current living situation ▪ A letter (on official letterhead) explaining the situation in detail from a minister, social worker, psychologist, high school counselor or teacher, doctor, or another counseling professional ▪ One or more of the following documents: police reports, court reports, documentation from a social agency
<input type="checkbox"/> DEATH OF CUSTODIAL PARENT & NO CONTACT WITH LIVING PARENT A student’s custodial parent has died, and while the other natural parent is still living, the student has neither had contact with nor received any financial support from the living parent for a significant length of time.	Required Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A personal letter explaining the circumstances, including your current living situation ▪ A copy of the death certificate for the deceased custodial parent ▪ Documentation of the custodial relationship (e.g. A court document, copy of divorce decree, or other strong evidence that the deceased was the custodial parent) ▪ A letter from an objective third party (on letterhead) supporting that the student has not lived with nor had contact with or received financial support from the non-custodial parent for a significant length of time

SIGNATURE	
_____ Student Signature	_____ Date

Note: Circumstances must be unusual and not simply a choice of the student and/or parent to reside in separate households.