

APPEAL FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS 2025-2026

Student Name _____ Edgewood ID # _____

E-mail _____

Students classified as dependent as defined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may file this petition to be reclassified as independent based upon adverse family conditions. A successful appeal will document that all financial and emotional contact with 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 Edgewood Central.

Examples of eligible circumstances include:

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

Examples of ineligible circumstances include:

- Financial hardship
- Unwillingness of your parent(s) to provide parental data on your financial aid application
- Unwillingness of your parent(s) to financially support your education
- A student's demonstration of financial independence, self-sufficiency or living on their own

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION: ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUCH BE ATTACHED TO THIS APPEAL FOR CONSIDERATION.**1. STUDENT STATEMENT: Please attach a letter of explanation and that will answer ALL the following:**

- ✓ The adverse circumstances that should make you an independent student.
- ✓ Identify the location of your parent(s), if known.
- ✓ Describe the last time you had contact with your parent(s) – when, where, and the nature of the contact.
- ✓ How have you provided for yourself (you may include support received from family and friends)?
- ✓ Include copies of any court orders and/or decisions.

2. THIRD PARTY STATEMENTS - Please attach a MINIMUM of 2 statements from individuals that are familiar with your circumstances. These should be from unbiased community members such as a social worker, counselor, physician, clergy or teacher. At least one of these must be from a non-relative. They should address ALL of the following:

- ✓ The length of time the person has known you.
- ✓ How the person is aware of your situation and provide details about it.
- ✓ To their knowledge, where the parents are located and date of the last contact with the student.
- ✓ Include name, phone and email for follow up if necessary.

3. INCOME VERIFICATION - Please submit a copy of your 2023 Federal Tax Return

4. HOUSING VERIFICATION - Please check one of the following boxes:

- I have attached a copy of my current lease or rental agreement verifying that I no longer reside in my parents' household.
- I do not have a current lease or rental agreement for my place of residence. However, I am providing a signed statement from my current landlord/roommate verifying my tenancy. My documentation includes the following information: address of residence, first date of tenancy, and monthly amount of rent paid.

Certification: I hereby certify that all information reported on this form and any attachments are true, complete, and accurate. False statements or misrepresentations will be cause for denial, reduction or repayment of financial aid.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

It is important to realize that a student who is declared independent as a direct outcome of this form would be considered independent by **professional judgment**. Therefore, in future years, you must contact Edgewood Central for an annual review of your circumstances.

Please retain copies of all the forms and documentation you submit and contact us with any questions.

Submit documentation to:

Edgewood Central
1000 Edgewood College Drive
Madison, WI 53711
Fax: 608-663-3495
Scan & email: ecentral@edgewood.edu

If you have any questions, please contact us at ecentral@edgewood.edu or 608-663-4300.