

## 2020-2021 DEPENDENCY STATUS APPEAL FORM

**STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SS#: XXX-XX-** \_\_\_\_\_ **CUNYFirst ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a dependent student because you answered “No” to all the questions in Step Three on your FAFSA application, but wish to apply for financial aid as an independent student, you should complete this form to appeal for Dependency Re-Classification. Carefully read all the instructions, complete this form and upload it to the Financial Aid Office. You must complete and provide all required income documentation. Your appeal will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office and you may be asked for additional information or documents before a final determination of your status can be determined.

**Filing this form does not mean your appeal is automatically approved.**

### **A. Please submit the following documentation applicable to your appeal.**

- ✓ Submit a 2020-2021 V1Verification Worksheet Form
- ✓ 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript and W2 form(s)
- ✓ IRS Verification of non-filing letter for 2018 (if unemployed)
- ✓ Non-taxable income received in 2018, i.e. public assistance, social security benefits. Please provide proof of benefits and/ or a statement of income form.

### **B. REASON FOR APPEAL**

*(Check one reason below and provide the requested documentation. When writing your personal statement, **be clear and specific**. Be assured that all information you provide will be held in strictest confidence and used by the Financial Aid Office solely to determine your dependency status.)*



**1. A severe situation exists in your family that prevents you from obtaining your parents’ financial information, such as physical or emotional abuse, severe estrangement, abandonment, parental drug or alcohol abuse, mental incapacity, or another situation beyond your control.**

#### **a. PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Provide a typed personal statement describing in your own words why you should be considered an independent student. Please tell us about the events in your life that led up to the dissolution of your family. Include a description of your past and current relationship with **each** of your parents (that is, both your mother and father), and provide a timeline with the approximate dates of the events leading to the separation of your family relationship. If you are receiving support from friends or relatives, describe the nature of that support and how much support they provide you. If you are self-supporting, explain how long you have been supporting yourself. **(Your personal statement must be typed, signed and dated.)**

#### **b. DOCUMENTATION**

Provide statements from at least **two** adult professionals who are not family members who can verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. Signed statements should be on the Professional’s official letterhead accompanied with a business card. Adult professionals include clergy members, lawyers, high school guidance counselors, family counselors, teachers, doctors, or other qualified professionals and law enforcement officers. If you were raised by a family member or another person who is not your parent, he or she must also provide a statement to support your narrative. Their statement must explain their relationship with you and how their knowledge of your family circumstances. All statements must be originals, not photocopies. If you are self-supporting, provide photocopies of your 2018 tax return transcript or other financial documents. If you have other documents that you believe could support your appeal, such as death certificates, police reports, apartment leases, utility bills, etc., please submit copies of the documents.

**C. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

1. Where do you currently live (please give your address)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are your parents' full names? Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your father's current (or last known) address? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is your mother's current (or last known) address? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did you stop living with your parent(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yr)
6. What was the last date of any contact or communication with your parent(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yr)
7. Whom **did** you live with in 2019? With Parent \_\_\_\_ With Friend/Relative/Guardian \_\_\_\_ On your own \_\_\_\_
8. Whom **will** you live with 2020/21? With Parent \_\_\_\_ With Friend/Relative/Guardian \_\_\_\_ On your own \_\_\_\_

**D. MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENSE WORKSHEET**

*(You must complete this section and be prepared to document the amounts listed. Documentation of income include pay stubs, benefit letters, bank statements, etc. Expense documentation could include a lease, utility bills, paid receipts, etc.)*

**2018 INCOME** – Please answer the following questions:

1. Were you employed in 2018? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If No, explain how you supported yourself last year:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Were you claimed by a parent or anyone else on a 2018 income tax return? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
If Yes, give name and relationship of person who claimed you \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cash support you received in 2018 from other people: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Give name and relationship of person who provided the cash support \_\_\_\_\_

**E. STUDENT CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that all information contained in this appeal for independent status, including the personal statement and other documentation, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I swear that I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any fraudulent documentation. I understand that if I am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false statements or fraudulent documentation, my appeal will be denied and my eligibility for federal student aid is jeopardized.

**Through the knowledge and application of University policy and state laws, Bronx Community College employees have the authority and responsibility to report any Title IX violations towards our students. We are required to report incidents we personally observe as well as incidents reported to us in personal statements. Title IX laws allow action to be taken to protect the victim and prevent future offenses.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date