

Dependency Adjustment

2025-2026 Petition for Dependency Status Review

Student Name: _____ **Bronc ID#:** _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Student's phone #: _____ **Student's Rider email address:** _____

Federal aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using both you and your parent(s') income and asset information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures. The unwillingness of your parent(s) to provide parental data or your unwillingness to seek financial assistance from your parent(s) is not an acceptable reason to appeal your dependency status. Similarly, financial self-sufficiency and/or tax filing status does not determine dependency status.

Occasionally, students can be considered independent due to unusual circumstances (for example, students who have been separated from their families due to an unsafe environment). If you can document that you should be considered an independent student, you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. Your petition will be reviewed; if additional documents are needed, you will be contacted via your Rider email address. An appointment with a Financial Aid Office Officer may be required.

All documentation (including this application) should be submitted via the [One Stop Document uploading system](#). If you have any questions while completing this process please contact the One Stop Office via email at verification@rider.edu.

Please complete all of the following items in support of your request:

1. Explain the unusual circumstances that you think make you an independent student.

2. Identify the name and location of both of your parents:

Mother: _____

Father: _____

3. Describe when and where was the last time that you had contact with each of your parents and why you no longer consider yourself their dependent.

4. Indicate where and with whom you currently reside and when you began living there.

5. Provide signed statements from at least one responsible adult (3rd party) who is aware of your situation. Statements from teachers, guidance counselors, members of the clergy are acceptable. These statements should be on agency stationary or school letterhead.

These statements must include the following:

- Supporter's relationship to you
- Date the supporter met you
- Date the supporter first learned about your circumstances
- A concise summary of the details surrounding your situation

*Incomplete statements will not be acceptable and will delay the financial aid process. *

**Copies of appropriate court documents are also acceptable. Statements from family members are not acceptable. **

5a. Provide the following information for each of the individuals submitting documents on your behalf

(name, address, and relationship to you):

1. _____

2. _____

I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and correct.

Student Signature

Date