

# Appeal Request Form Instructions

## MODIFIED INDEPENDENT STATUS

The criteria used to determine a student's category (Dependent or Independent Student) is found in Section 2 of Chapter 7 (Financial Need Assessment Process) in the 2017/2018 StudentAid BC Policy Manual, located here:

[https://studentaidbc.ca/sites/all/files/school-officials/policy\\_manual.pdf](https://studentaidbc.ca/sites/all/files/school-officials/policy_manual.pdf)

### APPEAL CRITERIA

A student who would normally be classified as a Dependent Student by StudentAid BC, may appeal this status if:

- the student no longer communicates with her/his family due to an irreconcilable rift, and can provide satisfactory evidence of a severe and permanent breakdown in their relationship with the parent(s), e.g. being disowned. Unless a sudden serious situation has arisen recently, the family rift must have existed for at least one year before the student applied to StudentAid BC; and/or
- the student was a youth in continuing custody of a director of child welfare, or a participant in a Youth Agreement on their 19th birthday..

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

You must provide the following:

- a notarized statement from you detailing the nature of the family rift, how long the rift has existed, and why it continues.
- a letter from a professional third party (not a member of your immediate or extended family) on business letterhead, testifying as to the truthfulness of your explanation and providing an independent assessment of the situation. This letter must state how long the person has known you and in what capacity. The third party could be any of the following:
  - counsellor
  - psychologist
  - religious adviser
  - doctor
  - teacher
  - social worker, or
  - law enforcement officera detailed letter from your parent(s)/step-parent/sponsor/legal guardian explaining the nature of the family rift, how long the rift has existed and why it continues. NOTE: If a parental letter cannot be obtained, a second letter from another professional third party must be submitted.
- a letter from the appropriate provincial or territorial agency confirming that you were a youth under the guardianship of, or in a Youth Agreement with, the agency on your 19th birthday.

StudentAid BC cannot guarantee a final decision before your study period ends if all required documentation is not submitted by the appropriate deadline.

**DEADLINE: SIX WEEKS BEFORE STUDY PERIOD ENDS**

For detailed instructions and potential outcomes from the appeal visit the [StudentAid BC website](https://studentaidbc.ca)

Submit complete form to [SABC.AppealsUnit@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SABC.AppealsUnit@gov.bc.ca)

