

Paul Smith's College  
Financial Aid Office  
2011-2012 Independent Appeal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Award Year: 2011-2012

Financial 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 federal definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid.

Occasionally, due to unusual or extenuating circumstances, students should not be considered as dependent. If you can document why you should be considered independent, you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. The fact that you are self-supporting is not considered an unusual or extenuating circumstance.

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, please address all of the following:

1. Explain what unusual or extenuating circumstances should make you an independent student. You may be asked to submit documentation.
2. Describe how you have been self-supporting: a) when did you start meeting your expenses without parental support; b) how have you provided for yourself?
3. Provide a copy of a lease and a utility bill in your name.
4. Provide statements from two responsible adults who are aware of your situation. At least one statement must be from someone who is not a relative or friend, such as a school counselor, physician, or minister. Copies of appropriate court documents are acceptable to support your petition.
5. Provide copies of parent's 2009 & 2010 federal tax return (if available).
6. Provide copies of student's 2009 & 2010 federal tax return.

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS PETITION IS TRUE  
AND CORRECT

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return to:* Financial Aid Office, PO Box 265, Rts. 86 & 30, Paul Smiths, NY 12970  
Phone: (518) 327-6220/ Fax: 518-327-6055  
Email: [financialaid@paulsmiths.edu](mailto:financialaid@paulsmiths.edu)