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### **FAA Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination Document**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by the financial aid administrator (FAA) who is evaluating a student's eligibility for independent student status. Statements related to unaccompanied homeless youth and financial aid are from the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) and the Application and Verification Guide (AVG).

The following information provides guidance to assist FAAs in making a determination if a student seeking independent student status as an unaccompanied homeless youth comes to the attention of a FAA when a determination by a party described in the next section is not available. It is important to note that, while comprehensive, this tool may not adequately represent every homeless situation experienced by youth. As a result, it is important that FAAs make determinations on a case-by-case basis to ensure that students are able to receive the maximum amount of aid for which they are eligible.

The CCRAA expanded the definition of independent student to include youth who are 1) unaccompanied and homeless, or 2) unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at-risk of homelessness. The CCRAA use the McKinney-Vento Act's definitions of homeless, which includes youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and unaccompanied, which includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. It also uses at-risk of homelessness to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

#### **FAA Acceptance of Determination Based on a Documented Interview**

If third party documentation is not available, a documented interview conducted by the FAA is sufficient to confirm that an unaccompanied homeless youth qualifies as independent. The FAA may make the determination based on the following information:

1. In which of the following situations does the student currently reside or in which would the student reside if not staying in on-campus housing:

- ☐ Motel      ☐ Shelter or other temporary housing program
- ☐ Car      ☐ Inadequate housing (inadequate housing is that which is insufficient to meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)
- ☐ Campsite      ☐ Temporarily living with others because the student has nowhere else to go

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843-383-8055 | 800-950-1908 | 843-383-8159 Fax | financial\_aid@coker.edu

2. If the student is living with another household, check all of the following reasons that apply:

- ☐ Loss of housing      ☐ Economic hardship resulting in inability to secure fixed, regular, and adequate housing
- ☐ Other (including if it is not safe for a youth to live with a parent or guardian, when a parent or guardian has forced a child or youth to leave home, and other situations of abuse or conflict)

It may be helpful to ask students who are living with others where they would live if they could not stay at their current location. If the student replies that he/she would be living in one of the situations listed above (motel, car, etc.), or is not sure where he or she would stay, the student does not have fixed, regular, and adequate housing, and therefore meets the definition of homeless.

If the student is living in any of these situations, and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, he or she meets the definitions of homeless and unaccompanied, and qualifies as an independent student. A youth fleeing abuse or neglect and living in one of these situations is considered homeless, even if the parent would provide support and a place for him/her to live.

### **FAA Determination: Considerations for Students Who Are Self-Supporting & At Risk of Homelessness**

1. Is the student self-supporting? (Self-supporting means the student is responsible for his or her own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing.) ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Is the student's housing likely to cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate? Is the student at-risk of homelessness due to eviction or other loss of housing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the student answers yes to both of these questions, and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, he or she meets the definition of an unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting and at risk of homelessness, and qualifies as an independent student.

### **Action Taken**

☐ Independent student status confirmed; please explain:

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☐ Independent student status not confirmed; please explain:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
OSFP Counselor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
OSFP Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **ATTACH DOCUMENTATION**

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