

Family Breakdown Review

Presented by: The Ontario Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators
Date: April 28, 2021



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Determining Eligibility: Family Breakdown Review
4. Processing: Family Breakdown Review
5. Questions





Introduction



Celeste Coles
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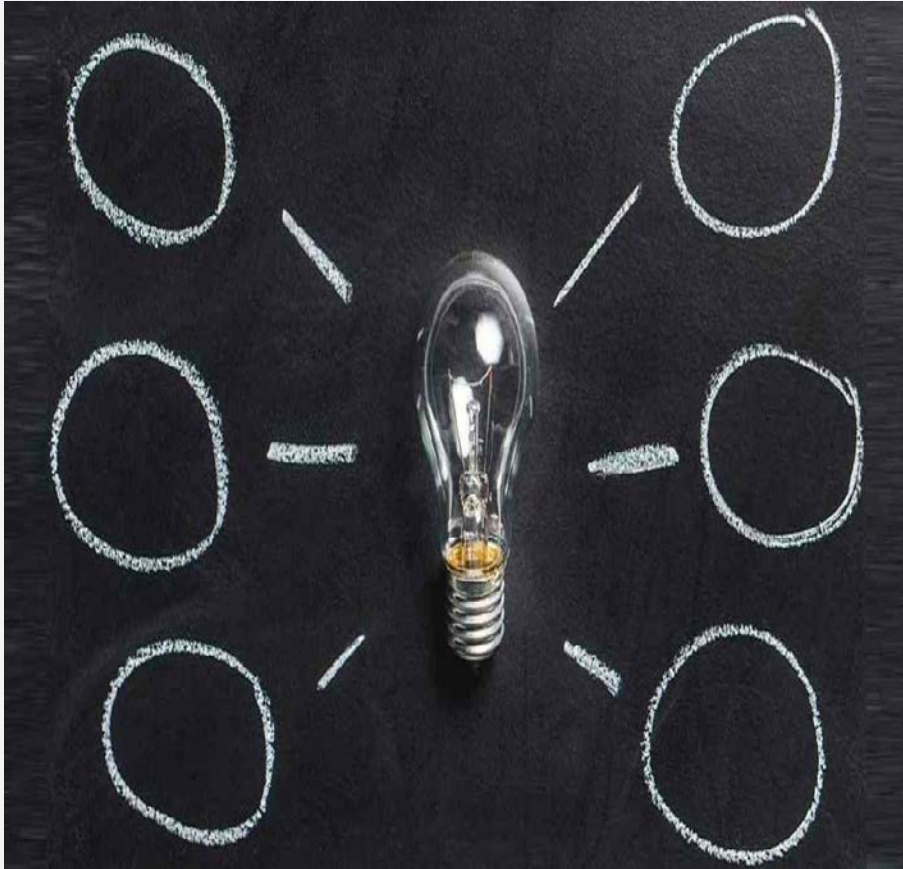


Land Acknowledgement

Durham College (DC) is situated on the Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas and the territory that is covered by the Williams Treaty, and we are thankful for the opportunity to teach and learn on the lands of the Peoples of Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.



Family Breakdown Review



- Thinking back on all of the family breakdown reviews you've processed, use the chat function to share one word that describes your experience...



Family Breakdown Review

- May allow student to have OSAP assessment generated without reference to one or both parent's financial information.
- Serious rift in the family and the student is estranged from one or both parents due to **documented** mental, physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse or drug or alcohol addiction in the student's family.





What is your biggest challenge processing family breakdown reviews?





Determining Review Eligibility

- Consider the following factors:
 - Severity and degree of breakdown
 - Length of time the rift has existed
 - Parental treatment of other siblings
 - Non-arbitrary reasons for the family breakdown
 - Attempts at, or likelihood of reconciliation
 - If the program/rifts exists with only parent, consideration of the other parent's position in the breakdown and their ability or willingness to assist the student
- Ask probing questions to better understand students circumstances





Do you have difficulty communicating your decision when the appeal indicates an arbitrary refusal?





Arbitrary Refusal

What is it?

- Parents feel that it is the responsibility of the government to fund postsecondary education
- Parents feel that once student reaches age 18, they're independent
- Parents do not agree with the student's program choice, school, or level of postsecondary
- Parents do not approve of the student's living arrangements



Arbitrary Refusal is evident...

- Speak to student regarding OSAP documentation requirements
- Provide parent information package
- Offer to speak with student and parents together

A parent's decision not to claim the non-refundable tax credit on their 2019 income tax form (that is, amount for an eligible dependant) does not prove that they do not support the student or that a family breakdown has occurred. Therefore, whether or not a parent claimed amounts for the student on their income tax form **must not be considered a determining factor when conducting a family breakdown review.

Family Breakdown appears evident...

- Continue with family breakdown review...



What is your biggest challenge when considering the documentation requirements for family breakdown review?





Family Breakdown: Documentation Requirements

- Letter from student:
 - Date of final rift with parent(s)
 - If rift is with both parents:
 - Date student left home, and
 - How the student has supported themselves since leaving home
 - Possibility of reconciliation
 - Proof that student is not living with parent(s)
 - Copy of lease/rental agreement or
 - Letter from the individual who owns or rents the home they are living in
 - Professional third-party letter who was directly involved with the situation
 - Ex. Court reports, letters from police, social workers, children's shelters or physicians)
 - If a professional third party was not involved:
 - Letters from 2 other reliable third parties who were indirectly involved with the situation
- **All documents must be signed, dated and include contact information****



Family Breakdown: Youth Without Shelter, Stay in School Program

Documentation Required:

- Third-party letter from the program identifying that the student is living in the shelter provided by the program and receiving basic living supports while in school and the extent, if any, of professional involvement in the situation (for example, social agency, psychologist, psychiatrist, counsellor)
- Letter must contain the contact information for the third party, including telephone number and address, and the signature of the third party

Processing Notes:

- Assess the student as living at home since the program provides shelter, food, and other living supports



Family Breakdown: Processing

Refer to “Work with Parental Override” in the “Adding Family Breakdown Information” section of the current OSAP Administrative Systems Guide: Full-Time Administrative Portal



Family Breakdown: Processing

- Use the “Work With Parental Override” to complete the parent information on a file where you have determined family breakdown review is not applicable.
- Note your summary of the situation and decision

Parent Information ▼		Completed - (Apr 13, 2021)
Parents marital status:	Single	EDIT > WORK WITH PARENTAL OVERRIDE >
Parent filling out information:	Parent 1	
Parent 1 Information		
<i>I am unable to provide information about Parent 1 because I am estranged from my parent due to extenuating circumstances. I understand that I must provide documentation to support my request for the review of my application.</i>		
Children Information		
Number of dependent children your parents have (including you):	1	
How many of those dependent children (including you) will be taking postsecondary studies in the 2020-21 academic year?	1	

Family Breakdown: Processing

- Satisfy the family breakdown requirement under the supporting document section
- Note your summary of the situation and decision

Study Period(s):	May 3, 2021 - August 13, 2021 (15 weeks)			
Student Status:	Dependent			
Supporting Documentation				
Required Documentation ▾				
Code:	Description:	Severity:	Status:	Action:
079	No Parental Information/ Family Breakdown Review	Third Party	Required ▾	
Approved Application Documentation ▾				



Share your best practices!



Question & Answer



Thank you for joining us!