Harvard Law School Student Financial Services
1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Pound Hall 324, Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: 617-495-4606, Email: sfs@law.harvard.edu

SEVEN-YEAR INDEPENDENCE CERTIFICATION FORM FROM BIOLOGICAL MOTHER ONLY

Members of the J.D. Class of 2010 may appeal to be considered financially independent by the seven-year standard. If you can answer **"YES"** to question 1 and **"NO"** to **ALL** of the remaining questions, and provide the required documentation, you will be considered financially independent from your mother for the purpose of determining eligibility for HLS need-based aid. If you are granted independence from your mother, no parental contribution will be imputed or expected from your mother for this academic year, nor will you be required to submit her financial information when applying for need-based aid in future years.

Student's Printed Name: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Mother's Printed Name: _____

Certification Criteria: Please circle your response to each question for all of the years indicated below:

1.	Are you (the student) a member of the HLS J.D. **Class of 2010**?	**YES**	**NO**
2.	Did you (the student) live with your biological mother for more than **six months** total over the course of the last **seven calendar** years (**January 2002-December 2008**)?	**YES**	**NO**
3.	Did you (the student) receive more than **$5,000** worth of support from your biological mother over the past **seven calendar** years **(January 2002-December 2008)**? (This includes money paid by your mother to cover any of your previous education expenses.)	**YES**	**NO**
4.	Did (or will) your biological mother claim you (the student) as a Federal Income Tax Exemption during **ANY** of the following tax years: **2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008**?	**YES**	**NO**

Required Documentation: To complete the certification process, Harvard Law School requires **signed photocopies of the first two pages** of your biological mother's Federal Income Tax Returns from **ALL** of the following tax years: **2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.**

- If your mother was not required to file taxes in one or more of these years, please ask her to submit a signed written statement to that effect in place of the tax form(s).
- If your mother cannot locate a copy of any of her past tax filings, she can use IRS Form 4506 (http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4506.pdf) to request that a photocopy be sent to her. Be sure to include a copy of any request made to the IRS with this form when submitting it to our office.
- We must have **signed photocopies of the first two pages** of the actual returns filed with the IRS. *IRS transcripts of tax records are not acceptable.*
- Before submitting any tax documentation to the Student Financial Services Office, be sure to write your name and social security number on all pages so that it can be matched up with your records.
- If you do not know the whereabouts of the parent from your mother and/or you are not able to obtain her tax forms signature, please attach a statement to this form explaining in detail the circumstances of your situation. **You, the student, should still include your notarized signature on the Independence Form.** The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review your request and respond accordingly.

Signatures & Notarized Certification: It is REQUIRED that this Form be signed in the presence of a notary.

By signing below we attest to the following statements:

- We have answered the questions on this form in a confident and truthful manner as outlined in detailed in the HLS Student Financial Services Statement of Ethical Responsibility which all students are required to sign as part of their application for aid.
- We understand that Harvard Law School reserves the right to request additional documentation, if needed, to aid in our evaluation of your request for financial independence.

_____ _____

Student's Signature **Date** **Notary's Signature & Seal**

_____ _____

Mother's Signature **Date** **Notary's Signature & Seal**