

2024-2025 Unusual Circumstances - Dependency Appeal

Last Name	First Name	MI	Student ID Number
Address	City	State/Zip	Email

INDEPENDENT STATUS DEFINITION:

When applying for financial aid, the government has specific standards to determine who has dependent status and must include parental information of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and who has independent status and is not required to provide parental information.

If you can answer "Yes" to one or more of the questions below, you are considered an independent student for federal student aid purposes when filing the FAFSA.

- Were you born before January 1, 2001?
- As of the date you filed the FAFSA, are you married?
- At the beginning of the 2024–25 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an M.A., M.B.A., M.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
- Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent)?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care?
- Are you or were you a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of residence?
- Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2023, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? If you do not have a determination that you are homeless, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, answer "No" to the FAFSA questions concerning being homeless.

APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status outlined above; you may appeal if you believe you have unusual circumstances. These are generally severe circumstances within your family that prevent you from obtaining your parent's financial information. If you want Student Financial Assistance to **consider** a dependency override, which eliminates the requirement for parental information on the FAFSA, you must be able to **explain in detail and document the circumstances**.

The following **ARE NOT** considered unusual circumstances for the purpose of achieving independent status for Financial Assistance:

- You do not live in your parent's home
- You are self-supporting
- You are not claimed as a federal income tax exemption on your parents taxes
- Your parents cannot afford or they refuse to help with your college expenses
- Your parents are not willing to provide their financial information to complete the FAFSA and/or verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.

If you feel that you have extenuating circumstances, please submit the following to the Student Financial Assistance Office:

1. **A personal letter describing in detail your extenuating circumstances & lack of relationship with BOTH parents**
2. **A letter from a non-related professional or third party confirming your extenuating circumstances.**
Examples include: A high school counselor, caseworker, therapist, clergy person, or other professional
3. **AND/OR Other supporting documents such as police reports or court orders**

I hereby certify that all information contained in the request for dependency override is true and complete. I understand that providing false information or fraudulent documentation will prevent me from receiving financial assistance and may lead to fines and/or imprisonment.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Handwritten signature required)

Please allow around 14 days to complete processing.