

Student Name:

Student ID:

Email:

Telephone:

Academic Year:

Unusual Circumstance, Dependency Status Appeal Form

Reconsideration of a student's dependency status from "dependent" to "independent" may be warranted if you fall into any of these categories related to no contact with your parents.

- Human trafficking, as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq).
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status.
- Parental abandonment or estrangement.
- Student or parental incarceration.
- An abusive family environment that threatens the student's health or safety.
- Homeless unaccompanied youth.
- Risk of homelessness.

You should not request this adjustment if you fall into the below circumstances. Instead, please complete your FAFSA as a dependent student and include both you and your parent(s)' information.

- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses.
- Your parents refuse to supply the necessary information for FAFSA or FAFSA verification completion.
- Your parents don't claim you as a dependent for federal tax filing.
- You demonstrate complete financial self-sufficiency.

Documentation is required and may include (but is not limited to) the following:

- A documented interview between the student and the financial aid administrator;
 - Submission of a court order or official federal or state documentation that the student or student's parents or legal guardians are incarcerated;
 - A documented phone call or written statement, which confirms the unusual circumstances with:
 - A state, county or tribal welfare agency;
 - An independent living case worker who supports current and former foster youth with the transition to adulthood; or
 - A public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence.
 - A documented phone call or written statement from an attorney, guardian ad litem, a court-appointed special advocate (or similar), or a representative of a TRIO or GEAR UP program which confirms the circumstances and the person's relationship to the student;
 - A documented determination of independence made by a financial aid administrator at another institution in the same or a prior award year; or
 - Utility bills, health insurance, or other documents that demonstrate a separation from parents or legal guardians.
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