



2025-2026 Dependency Override Appeal

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____

Answers to questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determine whether a student is considered dependent or independent for financial aid purposes. The federal student aid programs are based on the concept that it is primarily the student and their family's responsibility to pay for the student's education. A dependent student is assumed to have the support of parents, so the parents' information has to be assessed along with the student's, in order to get a full picture of the family's financial strength. Yet, there may be extraordinary circumstances that warrant students who do not meet the definition of independent to appeal their dependency status.

Examples of extraordinary circumstances that could warrant dependency override may include:

- Parent(s) being incarcerated
- Abandonment by parent(s)
- An abusive or dangerous family environment
- Other clear manifestations of complete distancing of a student from their parent(s)

Circumstances that do not warrant dependency override include:

- Self-sufficiency (living on your own, paying your own bills)
- Parent(s) who are unwilling to provide information or sign the FAFSA
- Parent(s) who are unwilling or unable to provide financial assistance for college
- Parent(s) who no longer claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes

1. Please explain why you believe your personal circumstances justify a decision to consider you an independent student. You may explain below or attach a letter of explanation. You must attach at least one letter of corroboration/verification of your circumstances from someone familiar with your situation (a counselor, attorney, longtime family friend, etc.).

2. Are there other factors that should be taken into consideration? Y N

If yes, what are they? _____

Student Signature

Date