



2023-2024 Appeal of Unusual Circumstances (Dependency)

This form allows you to request special consideration of your dependency status for financial aid purposes for the 2023-2024 award year. Although you may not meet the requirements to be considered independent according to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®]) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, you may submit this form if you believe your particular circumstance warrants further evaluation.

Student Information (Please print clearly)

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------|----------|
| Last Name | First Name | M.I. | E-mail |
| Street Address | City | State | Zip Code |

A dependency override is granted when a financial aid administrator exercises professional judgment and overrides the criteria for a dependent student to provide parent information on the FAFSA[®] or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. An override allows the student to be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes. You may qualify for a dependency override if you have special circumstances including, but not limited to: parental abandonment or estrangement, parent incarceration, an abusive family environment that threatens your health or safety, or other unusual circumstances beyond your control.

Please note that the following circumstances are **not** approved reasons for a dependency override:

- You do not reside with your parents;
- Your parents are unwilling to provide their information;
- Your parents refuse, or are financially unable, to pay for your college education;
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their taxes;
- Your parents live in another state or country;
- You have the ability to support yourself.

The Financial Aid Office requires supporting documentation before a decision can be made. Please see the documentation requirements on the reverse side of this form for more information. While the Financial Aid Office has the authority to change your status if your circumstances and documentation justify doing so, it is not required to grant your request. The decision of the Financial Aid Office is final, and neither the U.S. Department of Education nor the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will consider appeals to change dependency status.

Reason for Your Appeal

Please select the reason(s) listed below that apply to your unique situation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Incarcerated parent(s) | Victim of Human Trafficking |
| Physical, Mental, or Emotional abuse | Legally granted Refugee or Asylum status |
| Unsafe Home Environment | Custodial Parent Deceased |
| Parental Abandonment or Estrangement (no communication with parents) | You were in Foster Care, Orphan, or Ward of Court |

If you feel you qualify for this appeal but are not sure how to describe your situation, please make an appointment to meet with a Financial Aid Counselor.

Required Documents

Documentation is required to support your appeal and must be submitted with this form.

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