

## 2026-2027 Unusual Circumstance Application

(Formerly Known as Dependency Override Application)

### Student Information

Full Name (First, MI, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

FSU ID/EMPLID: \_\_\_\_\_

The Office of Financial Aid can use “professional judgment” on a case-by-case basis to determine if a student meets the criteria to be considered independent.

If you believe you have extenuating circumstances that may warrant reviewing your dependency status for the current award year, you, the student, are **REQUIRED** to provide documentation to support your request.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **MUST** be completed **BEFORE** this application is submitted to the Office of Financial Aid for review.

Starting in the 2026-2027 award year, applicants who indicate on their FAFSA® form that they have unusual circumstances will be granted Provisional Independent Status indicating that they have unusual circumstances that prevent them from providing parent data.

Financial aid administrators may make appropriate adjustments to each student’s situation with appropriate documentation.

### What is an Unusual Circumstance?

An Unusual Circumstance refers to the conditions that justify adjusting a student’s dependency status, commonly known as a dependency override.

#### A. Circumstances that May Warrant a Professional Judgement:

- Abusive/Neglectful home environment.
- Severe estrangement of family.
- Abandonment.
- Incarcerated parent.
- The student is an unaccompanied youth.
- The student is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- The student is now married.
- Other

#### B. Circumstances that Do Not Warrant a Professional Judgment Adjustment

- Contributors (Parents) refuse to contribute to educational costs.
- Contributors (Parents) are unwilling to provide information on FAFSA or for verification purposes.
- Contributors (Parents) do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Contributors (Parents) income is too high to qualify for need-based aid.
- The student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

Florida State University’s Use of Social Security Number policy is available at <https://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/university-notices>

**Reason for Unusual Circumstance Review:**

(Please check all boxes that pertain to your situation)

Unusual Circumstance	Required Documentation
Incarcerated Parent(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>
Parental Abuse/Abandonment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>
Custodial Parent Deceased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Copy of Death Certificate</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>
Human Trafficking (as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>
Legally Granted Refugee or Asylum Status (And are separated from their parents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>
Unaccompanied Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>
Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TWO</b> Third Party Documentation Statements</li> <li>• Student Statement</li> </ul>

**Third-Party Documentation Requirements:**

Third-Party Acceptable Sources:

- Teacher/Professor
- Guidance Counselor
- Professional Social Worker
- Attorney
- Psychiatrist/Health Care Provider
- Clergy Member
- Court/Public Agency
- Family Friend
- Law Enforcement Officer
- University Staff/Faculty
- Other

Third-Party Documentation Must Include ALL of the Following:

- Third Party Name and Telephone Number
- Third Party Signature and Date (No Electronic Signatures)
- How long have they known the student?
- With whom does the student reside?
- What is their relationship with the student?
- Explanation of the Student's Relationship with their biological parents.

**Student Description of Circumstances Description:**

Please write a statement describing and explaining in detail the EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES that would merit the change to "Independent" status, including how you have been supporting yourself without parental support.

Documentation that will substantiate your claim must be provided with this form.

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**Please Read and Certify the Following:**

- I certify that the submitted information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I have read each section and provided the appropriate required documentation.
- I understand that I may be contacted if further information is needed.
- I understand that if I **DO NOT** provide supporting documentation, no further action will be taken on this request by the Office of Financial Aid.

**Student Signature** (No Electronic Signatures): \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_