

2022-2023 Dependency Override Request Form

The Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, established a statutory definition of an independent student for Federal Title IV Student Financial Aid. In doing so, the US Congress reaffirmed that the family has the primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of the student. The role of Federal Student Aid is to assist the student when it is determined that the family is unable to meet this responsibility on its own based on the analysis of the FAFSA.

Occasionally, due to “unusual and unavoidable circumstances,” a student may need to request an override to their dependency status. According to the Department of Education, a Dependency Override **cannot** be performed for the following reasons:

- Parents or stepparents refuse to contribute to student’s education.
- Parents or stepparents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for federal verification.
- Parents or stepparents do not claim the student as a dependent or exemption for income tax purposes.
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

A Dependency Override Appeal Application is considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the situation and the supporting documentation provided. For a situation to be considered as an unusual circumstance and a possible basis for a dependency override, it must belong in one of the following categories:

- Abandonment and no ongoing contact with biological parents
- Both parents are incarcerated
- Abusive home environment (physical, emotional, and/or sexual)

Documentation submitted to support your case must be as specific as possible and should focus on your relationship (or lack thereof) with your parents/stepparents, not on the lack of parental financial support.

Please submit the following documentation with this form:

1. A typed, detailed letter explaining in your own words your “unusual circumstances”.
2. Two (2) letters of support from non-relatives (e.g., proprietor, employer, teacher or clergy), which can confirm the circumstances in your letter of explanation.
 - The letters of support should also include how and for how long they have known you.
3. Any official and/or legal documentation you have to support your claims.
4. All other documentation that you believe will help demonstrate your independent status.

By signing, I am certifying that this request is subject to the professional judgment of the Central Carolina Technical College Financial Aid Office. This request may be subject to further documentation and all subsequent decisions are final.

STUDENT NAME (PRINT) _____ C# _____
 STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____

WARNING: If you purposely provide false or misleading information, you will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education where you may be fined, sent to prison, or both.

OFFICE USE ONLY

____ Approved ____ Denied Trans #: _____ Notice Sent: _____ FAA Initials: _____ Date: _____