Unusual Circumstance Form 2026-2027 Award Year

All undergraduate students under age 24 must be considered dependent students based on their contributors' (parents') financial information. If you believe you have unusual circumstances that warrant a review of your dependency status for the current award year, you can appeal to be considered an independent student. The 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) MUST be completed BEFORE this application and all required documentation are submitted to the Financial Aid Department for review.

A. Student Information

Full Name (First, MI, Last): _____ Student ID#: _____

B. Unusual Circumstance Information

Unusual circumstances include the following: unsafe domestic environment, parental neglect, unknown whereabouts of parents, abandonment by parents, human trafficking, parent incarceration, legally granted refugee or asylum status and separated from parents.

Reasons not considered an unusual circumstance (include but not limited to): A parent's unwillingness or inability to provide financial information or support, parents no longer claim the student on their tax return, the student's ability to be self-sufficient.

C. Appeal Documentation

In addition to this form, **all** the following supporting documentation is required. **You must also meet with a Financial Aid Specialist to discuss these circumstances.**

- ☐ A signed statement from you, the student, explaining the circumstance that has resulted in your appeal. You must explain your current relationship with your parents and how you have been supporting yourself without parental assistance.
- ☐ A signed statement from a third-party professional (ex: counselor, health care provider, clergy, court, government agency, law enforcement officer, social worker, teacher) who can attest first-hand to your circumstances.
- ☐ A signed second statement from a third-party OR a statement from another source such as a family member/friend.

Third-party statements must include the following:

- Third-party name/phone number
- How long they have known you, the student
- Their relationship to you
- The person(s) with whom you currently live
- An explanation of your relationship with your biological parents
- Third-party signature (no electronic signatures) and date of statement

You should also submit any documents that would support your request for independent status. This might include police reports, court documents, reports from social workers or medical professionals, etc.

D. Certification and Signature

If you purposely give false or misleading information on this form, you may be fined, sentenced to jail or both. By signing and dating this form you certify that all statements and information are complete and correct. A Financial Aid Specialist will contact you if further information or documentation is required.

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

Financial Aid Department Use Only

Date of Interview: _____

Interview Attendees: _____

_____

_____

Additional Documentation Requested: _____

_____

Additional Documentation Received: _____ Yes _____ No

Appeal Granted: _____ Yes _____ No

Denial Reason: _____

_____

_____

Date Student Notified: _____

Financial Aid Specialist Signature: _____