



## 2026-27 Unusual Circumstances Appeal

This form is for dependent students who do not meet the federal criteria for independent status as outlined on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), but have also indicated that they fall under an unusual circumstance. Students who are unable to contact a parent or where contact with a parent poses a risk to the student, and who would like to have their unique situation reviewed, may qualify for a change to their dependency status. Complete and submit this form along with supporting documents. Additional documentation may be requested after the initial review. Your request will be reviewed within 14 days once all required documentation is received and you will be notified via email of the decision.

### STUDENT INFORMATION — Please type or print clearly

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

### Unusual Circumstances that **COULD** warrant a Dependency override include, but are not limited to:

- Parental abandonment or estrangement from emotional, financial, and physical support
- Your contributing parent has died, and the other biological parent is still living, however you have not had contact with or received any financial support from the living parent for a significant period of time
- Abusive family situation, which has created an extreme hardship and may prevent the student from attending college
- Parental abuse (drug, alcohol, physical, or emotional) where police or court involvement is on record
- Student is a ward of the court, victim of a documented child abuse case, or is in the custody of DHS
- Human trafficking, as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.)
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status
- Parental or student incarceration

### By Federal Law, the following conditions **DO NOT** warrant a Dependency override:

- Parents will not provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification
- Parents refuse to or are unable to contribute to student's education
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency
- Student does not live with parents
- Student does not wish to communicate with parents
- Student does not want parent's assistance to pay for college

## Supporting Documentation

In addition to this form, please submit a **Personal Statement** detailing your unusual circumstances. You must describe your current relationship (even if it is non-existent) with your biological/adoptive parents. Please elaborate on your current housing and residency status, as well as how you are financially supporting yourself.

In addition to your **Personal Statement**, you must include at least two pieces of documentation that supports your appeal such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Third-Party Professional Statement – provide a signed letter (on official letterhead) from an objective third-party who can corroborate your circumstances and has been involved in a professional capacity.
  - Examples include, but are not limited to: guidance counselors, police officers, physicians, social workers, clergy members, teachers, employers, and mental health providers.
- Third-Party Personal Statement – provide a signed letter or email from a third-party adult (relatives, family friends, etc.) who personally has knowledge of your situation and can corroborate the facts you present in your statement.
  - The statement must include how the person knows you, how long they have known you and how they have been involved and/or have firsthand knowledge of the situation. Please have them include contact information.
- Court orders, police orders, or official federal or state documentation related to your circumstance
- Documentation which confirms the unusual circumstances with:
  - State, county or tribal welfare agency;
  - An independent living case worker who supports current and former foster youth with the transition to adulthood;
  - Public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence.
- Utility bills, health insurance, lease agreement/proof of mortgage or other documents that demonstrate a separation from parents or legal guardians
- Pay statements or tax returns/transcripts showing a financial separation from parents/legal guardians

## Housing Information

Is your current permanent residence with your parent(s)? If No, please explain your current housing situation within your Personal Statement.

☐ Yes

☐ No

## Expenses

Does your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) currently provide your health insurance?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Does your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) currently provide your auto insurance?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Does your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) currently provide your cell phone?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you would like to elaborate further on your expenses, please do so within your Personal Statement.

Please submit this form and all supporting documents to the Office of Student Financial Services via mail or e-mail.

Marietta College  
ATTN: Student Financial Services  
215 Fifth St  
Marietta, OH 45750  
[finaid@marietta.edu](mailto:finaid@marietta.edu)

#### **CERTIFICATION**

By signing this worksheet, I certify all the information reported on this worksheet is complete and correct. I understand that the Marietta College Office of Student Financial Services reserves the right to request additional information as needed. Furthermore, I understand that completing this appeal does not guarantee a change in my dependency status. If my appeal is NOT approved, then in order to receive financial aid I MUST resubmit my FAFSA providing parental information. If approved, this will carry over to future years provided circumstances remain unchanged.

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*Student Signature*

*Date*