

2026-2027 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 unless unusual circumstances are present.

Unusual Circumstances refer to the conditions that justify making adjustment to a student's dependency status based on a unique situation, more commonly referred to as a dependency override.

A Dependency Override Request is considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the situation and the supporting documentation provided. An unusual circumstance must belong in one of the following categories:

- Abandonment and no ongoing contact with biological parents
- Both parents are incarcerated
- Abusive Household (physical, emotional, and/or sexual)
- Victims of human trafficking
- Refugee or Asylee status

Unusual Circumstances do not include:

- 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.

Documentation submitted to support your case must be as specific as possible.

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 and include personal or professional details
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: Purposely providing false or misleading information will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education and may be fined, sent to prison, or both.

OFFICE USE ONLY

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