

# Provisional Independent Status / Dependency Override Form 2025-2026

Financial Aid Administrators have the authority through *Section 480(d)(7) of the Higher Education Act* to review and change a student's status from dependent to independent due to unusual family situations.

## Unusual situations may include:

- in cases of abuse,
- abandonment,
- neglect,
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- incarceration or institutionalization of both parents,
- parents cannot be located
- another unusual situation

If your situation falls under one of these reasons, please complete the form below.

## Unusual situations do not include:

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

## Instructions:

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form for 2024-2025
2. Complete the form below stating your unusual situation
3. Provide documentation that you are unaccompanied and homeless or unaccompanied and self-supporting and at risk of homelessness from one of the following if applicable:
  - Your high school or school district homeless liaison
  - Director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program
  - 2 relevant third-party professional (examples: mental health, social workers, mentors, doctors, clergy, high school guidance counselors or teachers).
4. Documentation and 2 third party letters of any other unusual situation

Third party letters should include the following:

- a signed typed statement on professional letterhead
- indicate the relationship to the student
- Letter should include: an explanation of the student's situation, please indicate if the student is unaccompanied and homeless or unaccompanied and self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness, or another unusual situation

# Provisional Independent Status / Dependency Override Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

## **Explanation of the Unusual Circumstances**

Please provide an explanation regarding your unusual situation below. You may also type a statement and attach it to this form. All information will be confidential.

**I certify that the above information and any attached documents are accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Beginning with the 2023-24 award year, any student who was approved for a dependency override and made independent for financial aid due to unusual circumstances will continue to be independent for each subsequent award year at the unless the student informs us that their circumstances have changed, or we have conflicting information about the student's independence. Students must still submit their FAFSA each year, but should not need to take additional action to be considered an independent student each year.