



2026-2027 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE APPEAL

Name _____ Student ID _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The U.S. Congress designed the Federal Student Aid programs around the basic premise that families have the primary responsibility to pay for higher education as they are able. Many students feel they are independent because they are currently living on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. The Financial Aid Office is required by federal law to consider parent information unless the student meets specific criteria as defined on the FAFSA.

We may be able to override your dependent status if **unusual family circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to have contact with your parents.**

Please note that federal guidelines regarding dependency overrides clearly indicate that the following situations DO NOT QUALIFY as extenuating circumstances and therefore would not result in a dependency override:

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) refuse to provide information for the FAFSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) are unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
<input type="checkbox"/> Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Student reluctant to request income information from parent(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Student does not wish to communicate with parent(s)

Before the Financial Aid Department considers any changes regarding dependency status, you must complete this form and provide supporting documentation. We may request additional information for consideration of your review.

Documentation:

Select from the options below, attach the required documents to this form.

I was granted a Dependency Override and received financial aid as an independent student in 2025-26:

1. Provide an updated statement below describing your current situation and relationship with your parent(s):

OR

I believe my family situation warrants Dependency Override consideration:

1. A letter of explanation, written by the you, the student, detailing:
 - What family circumstances led to you leaving your parents' household? (Be sure to explain situation for both parents)
 - When is the last time you had contact with your parents?
 - How you have been supporting yourself?
 - Where and with whom you have been living.
2. Letters from **two professionals** (on their **official business letterhead** stationery), verifying the family circumstances described by the student. *Professionals include guidance counselors, clergy members, teachers, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, and law enforcement personnel. Contact information should be included.
3. Court documents or other supporting documentation relevant to the student's situation.

Student's Hand Signature

Date

CSM Student ID

Please allow two weeks for processing after we have received all requested documents.