

Unusual Circumstances/Dependency Override Appeal

As outlined on the FAFSA, federal regulations define the criteria you must meet to be considered an independent student. If you do not meet any of those criteria, you may ask your school's financial aid office to re-evaluate your status. The law governing the Federal Student Aid programs is based on the premise that the family is the first source of the student's support, and the law provides several criteria that decide if the student is considered independent of their parents for aid eligibility. Note that a student reaching the age of 18 or 21 or living apart from their parents does not affect their dependency status.

The Dependency Appeal is the process that SCC uses to review your situation and determine if you are eligible to be considered an independent student. Note: this review is on a case-by-case basis.

Reason for Unusual Circumstances/Dependency Appeal	Required Documentation
Documented Abandonment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal/Court documents indicating abandonment • A letter (on letterhead) from a professional (ex: High School Counselor, Social Worker, Therapist/Mental Health Counselor, or Clergy Member) indicating abandonment
Abusive/dangerous home/family environment (physical, emotional and or sexual abuse).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal/Court documents indicating abuse • A letter (on letterhead) from a professional (ex: High School Counselor, Social Worker, Therapist/Mental Health Counselor or Clergy Member) indicating abuse
Parents are incarcerated.	Documentation indicating start and end dates of incarceration as well as a copy of the student's birth certificate

Note: additional documentation may be requested beyond what is listed above.

Conditions, singly or in combination, which do not qualify for a dependency override include:

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

If a student would like to request consideration of dependency appeal, please submit a Dependency Appeal form.

Eligibility for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans for dependent students without parental support.

SCC does not provide Direct Unsubsidized Loans for dependent students without parent support being included on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).