

2024-2025 Unusual Circumstance

Student Name: _____ SCC SID: _____

This form is for dependent students who do not meet the federal criteria for “independent” status, but wish to have their unusual circumstance reviewed in order to be considered an independent student.

This process is for students who are **estranged from their parents due to extreme circumstances** that can be documented by an objective third party (social service agency, pastor, counselor, etc.) which may qualify for special consideration. An example of extreme circumstances is a student’s voluntary or involuntary removal from their parents’ home due to a situation that threatened the student’s health and/or safety, and due to these conditions, parental support was terminated.

Self-sufficiency of the student, or the parental unwillingness to financially contribute to a student’s education are not sufficient reason under federal regulations for a dependency override and will be denied.

To be considered for an Unusual Circumstance determination, a student must complete each of the following:

- Submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at <https://studentaid.gov>.
- Submit a signed, dated detailed letter explaining why you should be considered independent for financial aid purposes. You **must** describe the circumstances of the separation from your parent(s) and the current status of your relationship with them. Your relationship with each parent **must** be detailed. The information you provide will be kept confidential.
- Submit supporting documentation such as court orders, death certificates, police reports, medical records, etc.
- Submit a signed letter from a professional adult to verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. The letter **must** be signed and dated, be on letterhead, and **must** include his/her contact information. Professional adults include, but are not limited to: guidance counselors, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, job supervisors, or law enforcement officers.

Requests that do not include all proper documentation and a 3rd party professional statement will be considered incomplete. All information must be submitted to The Office of Financial Aid within 30 days of this official request or it will be considered incomplete. *Incomplete requests will be denied. *

Students with a prior year Dependency Override approval at Southeast Community College must:

1. Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at <https://studentaid.gov>.
2. Submit a signed statement describing the circumstances of the separation from your parent(s) and the current status of your relationship with them.

STUDENT CERTIFICATION:

I understand that this information will be reviewed, and I may be asked to provide additional documentation or clarification pertaining to my situation stated above.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

This form must be printed and signed by hand, electronic signatures are not authorized.

Once a request has been submitted, along with required supporting information, students will be contacted by an Associate Director of Financial Aid with a **final determination**.