

2026-2027 Unusual Circumstance

Student Name: _____ SCC SID: _____

The **Unusual Circumstance Appeal** is a provision under FAFSA regulations for students who are estranged from their parents due to severe circumstances such as abuse, neglect, or abandonment; and student and parent are no longer in contact or communication as a result of these conditions. To qualify under federal guidelines, the situation must fall within an authorized FAFSA circumstance, supported with official documentation, and be verified by an independent third-party professional.

The following situations are recognized under FAFSA regulations as possible appeal circumstances:

- You or your parent are incarcerated.
- You have left home due to an abusive or threatening environment.
- You have been abandoned by or estranged from your parents and have not been adopted.
- You were granted refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or parents are displaced in a foreign country.
- You are a victim of human trafficking.

If none of the above unusual circumstances apply and you don't meet the other criteria for an independent student, you must provide parent information on your FAFSA form. This is true even if you don't live with your parent; your parent isn't paying your college expenses; or your parent doesn't claim you as a dependent on their taxes as grounds.

Requirements for submitting an Unusual Circumstance appeal for consideration: All items required.

- 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 official documentation of situation (court orders, death certificates, police reports, agency records, etc.).
- Submit a signed letter(s) from a professional third-party who can attest and verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. The letter **must** be signed and dated, be on letterhead, and **must** include their contact information. Professional third-parties include, but are not limited to: school administrators and counselors, doctors or other medical professional, therapist or counselor, job supervisors, law enforcement officers, clergy or church official.
Statements cannot be accepted from family members, friends, or acquaintances.

Requests that do not include all proper documentation and a third-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. Contact the Financial Aid Office to request review of eligibility for reapproval.
3. Respond timely to any requests for additional information.

All documentation should be submitted as one full complete application. Students will be contacted by an Associate Director of Financial Aid with a **final determination**.

STUDENT CERTIFICATION:

I certify that all of the information reported to qualify for Federal/State student aid is complete and correct. If asked by a Financial Aid Administrator, I agree to provide any additional information requested. I understand providing inaccurate or false information is a violation of FAFSA terms and conditions, and subject to reporting for investigation.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

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