

2022-2023 Dependency Status Appeal Form and Guidelines

Student Name: _____ NSHE: _____

Instructions and Guidelines:

Recognizing that there are instances in which a student may have extenuating circumstances that are not identified when completing the 2022-2023 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Financial Aid and Scholarships may grant a change of dependency status documented in this appeal form.

Please be aware that the following instances are deemed by the U.S. Education Department to not justify a change in dependency status, either alone or in combination:

- Parents refuse to or are unable to support the student financially;
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification;
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- Student demonstrates financial self-sufficiency.

Situations in which the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships will consider special circumstances are:

- Abusive family environment (e.g., sexual, physical, or mental abuse or other forms of domestic violence);
- Abandonment by parents;
- Incarceration or institutionalization of parents;
- Parents lacking the physical or mental capacity to provide support;
- Parents whereabouts unknown or parents cannot be contacted;
- Parents hospitalized for an extended period.

Please check one of the following boxes and explain in detail the extenuating circumstances that you believe warrant review of your dependency status appeal.

- My Dependency Status Appeal was approved at UNLV in a prior academic year. I will provide a detailed statement of my current situation in the space below.
- I am submitting a Dependency Status Appeal for initial consideration during the 2022-2023 academic year. I will provide a detailed statement of my current situation and provide the required documentation.

Explanation of Circumstances: In the space below please explain the circumstances that prevent you from providing parent(s) information on the 2022-2023 FAFSA. Please provide any relevant dates in your explanation. If you need additional space, please attach a separate page.

Appeals are reviewed once all required documentation is received and complete.

Reason for Appeal and Required Documentation:

Provide the following:

1. If you have not already filed a FAFSA, complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA providing only your information and selecting the option to submit your FAFSA without parent information or signature.
2. A written statement from a third-party professional (such as a counselor, minister, attorney, educator, doctor, or social worker) which confirms or supports the claim of estrangement, abuse, abandonment, or the specific circumstances surrounding the current relationship with your parents.
3. A written statement from a relative or friend which confirms or supports the claim of estrangement, abuse, abandonment, or the specific circumstances surrounding the current relationship with your parents.
4. Any relevant supporting documentation corresponding with your specific circumstances:
 - a. Death certificate, obituary or funeral program;
 - b. Documentation that verifies the parent is incarcerated and lists the parent's anticipated release date.

I certify that all the information reported on this form is true, complete and correct. I understand that any false statements could be cause for denial, reduction, withdrawal or repayment of financial aid.

Please sign before submitting. We **can** accept digital signatures if drawn in electronic form.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____