

## 2023-2024 Unusual Circumstances - Dependency Override Appeal Form and Guidelines

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NSHE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions and Guidelines:

Recognizing that there are instances in which a student may have unusual circumstances that are not identified when completing the 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships may grant a dependency override documented in this appeal form. Please upload this completed form and all supporting documentation to the [Self-Service Help Center](#) at [unlv.today/service](http://unlv.today/service).

Students who were granted a dependency override in the current or previous academic year from the UNLV Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, will not need to re-appeal for the following academic year. However, students do need to complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA in order to be considered for federal and institutional aid. You will be notified of the review/decision by email to your Rebel email account and your [MyUNLV Communication Center](#). Please allow up to 15 business days from receipt of your completed appeal for our office to carefully review your appeal.

**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 unusual 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.

**Reason for Appeal and Required Documentation:**

**Provide the following:**

1. If you have not already filed a FAFSA, complete the 2023-2024 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;

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- b. Documentation that verifies the parent is incarcerated and lists the parent's anticipated release date.

**Explanation of Circumstances:** In the space below please explain the circumstances that prevent you from providing parent(s) information on the 2023-2024 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.**

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**Signature:** By signing this form, I certify that all information is complete and accurate. Please sign before submitting. We **can** accept digital signatures if drawn in electronic form.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_