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2026-27 Unusual Circumstances Appeal Form

Student Name: _____ NSHE: _____

Section 1: Background and Instructions

Background: The U.S. Department of Education recognizes that there are instances in which a student may have unusual circumstances. A student may indicate they have an unusual circumstance by selecting “Yes” to Question 7 on the FAFSA form. Unusual circumstances refer to the conditions that justify an aid administrator adjusting a student’s dependency status based on a unique situation more commonly known as a dependency override.

Students who were granted a dependency override in 2026-27 or the current academic year by the UNLV Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will not need to re-appeal the following academic year unless the student indicates their situation has changed or our office has encountered conflicting information. However, students must complete the 2026-27 FAFSA form to be considered for federal and institutional aid to have their unusual circumstance appeal renewed.

Instructions: Please upload the completed form, provide a detailed explanation of the circumstances, and all supporting documentation to the [Rebel Success Hub](http://unlv.today/Rebel-Success) at unlv.today/Rebel-Success. You will be notified of the review/decision through your case in the Rebel Success Hub. Please allow up to 15 business days from receipt of your completed appeal for our office to carefully review your appeal.

The following instances are deemed by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to not justify a change in dependency status either alone or in combination:

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

Unusual circumstances that may be considered include (but are not limited to):

- Human Trafficking, as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status;
- Parental abandonment or estrangement;
- Parental Incarceration;

Section 2: Reason for Appeal and Required Documentation:

If you have not already filed a FAFSA, you must complete the 2026-27 FAFSA providing only your information and selecting the option to submit your FAFSA without parent information or signature

Provide the following:

Required Documentation may include one or a combination of the following:

- A. Submission of a court order or official federal or state documentation that the parents or legal guardians are incarcerated
- B. A documented phone call or written statement, which confirms the unusual circumstances with
 - a. a state, county, or tribal welfare agency;
 - b. an independent living case worker who supports current and former foster youth with the transition to adulthood; or
 - c. a public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence
- C. A documented phone call or written statement from an attorney, guardian ad litem, a court-appointed special advocate (or similar), or a representative of a TRIO or GEAR UP program which confirms the circumstances and the person's relationship to the student; or
- D. Utility bills, health insurance, or other documents that demonstrate a separation from parents or legal guardians.
- E. A written statement from a third-party professional (such as a counselor, minister, attorney, educator, doctor, or social worker) that confirms or supports the claim of estrangement, abuse, abandonment, or the specific circumstances surrounding the current relationship with your parents.
- F. A written statement from a relative or friend that confirms or supports the claim of estrangement, abuse, abandonment, or the specific circumstances surrounding the current relationship with your parents.
- G. Any relevant supporting documentation corresponding with your specific circumstances:
- H. Death certificate, obituary, or funeral program;
- I. Documentation that verifies the parent is incarcerated and lists the parent's anticipated release date.

Explanation of Circumstances: Please explain in an attached document the circumstances that prevent you from providing parent contributor(s) information on the 2024-25 FAFSA. Please provide any relevant dates in your explanation.

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

Student 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:** _____