



## Financial Aid Unusual Circumstances

**Unusual circumstances** are conditions that support a change to a student's dependency status based on a unique situation. The [FAFSA will determine your dependency status](#) based on a number of questions. If you answer 'no' to all of the dependency questions on the FAFSA, you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes and must provide your parent information on the FAFSA. If there are unusual circumstances where you cannot provide your parent information on the FAFSA, such as: abuse, neglect, or abandonment, the Financial Aid Office may be able to make you an independent student for financial aid purposes. This would make you eligible for financial aid without parent information or signature.

Note, the examples below *by themselves* **do not** qualify for an unusual circumstance review:

- Your parents refuse to contribute financially to your education.
- Your parents are unwilling to provide their information.
- You are financially independent from your parents.
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes.

### To request an Unusual Circumstances review, complete the following steps:

1. Complete your [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for the appropriate year.
2. Type a personal statement that explains your unusual circumstances and why you are unable to provide parent information on the FAFSA.
3. Attach two letters of support.
  - a. One from a person in a position of authority who is familiar with your situation (i.e. therapists, school counselors, police officers, employers).
  - b. One from a personal source who is familiar with your situation.
4. Attach any additional documents that are relevant to your situation.
5. Submit these documents to the NSU Financial Aid Office.

Once we review your FAFSA and the provided documents, we will then determine your dependency status. If approved, a correction will be made to your FAFSA to make you independent. Once the updated FAFSA reaches our office we will review it and send out an aid offer. This process will take no longer than 60 days after receiving your complete documentation. Any student who is approved for an unusual circumstance will continue to be independent for each subsequent award year unless the student informs us that their circumstances have changed, or we have conflicting information about the student's independence. Students must still submit their FAFSA each year but should not need to take additional action to be considered an independent student in subsequent years.