



Appeal for Independent Status

Parents bear the primary responsibility for funding their daughter's or son's undergraduate education. The parents' unwillingness to contribute towards their daughter's or son's education is not a basis for an appeal. The parents' inability to contribute is also not an acceptable basis for an appeal for independent status; it may, however, be the basis to appeal the amount of the Expected Family Contribution.

Please print.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Social Security Number _____

Permanent Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Permanent Phone Number _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Address _____

Parent's City, State & Zip Code _____

Parent's Phone Number _____

Provide a description of your relationship with your parents and your special circumstances.

- Court documents regarding the situation
- OR
- Letters from three individuals documenting the situation. These individuals must not be family members or personal friends. The letters should be from counselors, social workers, ministers, or other professionals that are familiar with your family situation. Letters must be on letterhead and state occupation or profession.

I certify that all the information provided is true and correct.

Dependency Override

A financial aid administrator may do dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. However, none of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override:

1. Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
2. Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
3. Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
4. Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

Unusual circumstances do include (and may cause any of the above conditions) abandonment by parents, an abusive family environment that threatens the student's health or safety, or the student being unable to locate his or her parents.

Documentation is critical to the dependency override process. The documentation must support, and include the reason for, the decision and should in almost all cases originate from a third party with knowledge of the unusual circumstances of the student.

A third party that knows the student's situation—such as a teacher, counselor, medical authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency, or court—should establish the unusual circumstances. Evidence can be a signed letter on letterhead or official document, such as a court order or police report.

Dependency Override when granted is for one year only. Documentation should be forwarded to the Quincy University Financial Aid Office.