

Dependency Status Appeal Information

Office of Student Financial Aid
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
620 East John Street – MC 303
Champaign, IL 61820-5712
Fax 217-265-5516 Phone 217-333-0100

Dependency status is determined by the responses to a series of questions on the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) and schools may update the dependency status in limited situations. The University of Illinois will only use this authority in highly extraordinary circumstances where there is a serious family problem beyond the control of the student (potential situations include abusive and/or unsafe family environment, abandonment, inability to locate parents, etc.).

Students must be able to document their situation. Please be aware that appeals *will not* be approved for any of the following reasons:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
- 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 total self-sufficiency.

If you believe you have a situation that warrants additional review, please use these guidelines to submit an appeal to determine whether a dependency override is justifiable and can be processed for you. *Please contact our office if you have any questions about the dependency appeal process.*

1. For our office to consider your **initial request**, provide the following information to our office:

- A. A signed personal letter of appeal explaining the reason for your request for a dependency override. The letter should provide as much detail as possible describing your separation from your parents.
- B. Letters from at least two adult professionals who can attest to your situation. Each letter should provide as much detail as possible describing your separation from your parents. Adult professionals include:
 - clergy members
 - family counselors
 - social workers
 - therapists
 - law enforcement officers
 - guidance counselors

If you were raised by a family member or another person who is not your parent, additional statements may be provided from that person. Each letter must include the individual's name, title/position, address, phone number, email address, signature and date.

2. For our office to consider your **renewal request**, complete your FAFSA without parent information.

You will be able to indicate that you are not providing parent information due to a special/unusual circumstance, and your FAFSA will be sent to the school for review. You do not need to provide any additional documents for a Dependency Appeal if one was approved in the previous year. However, if your situation has changed and you are in contact with or live with parents, you must notify OSFA and include parent information on your FAFSA.

A FAFSA submission without parent information will not initially result in a calculated EFC. If your appeal is approved, our office will make updates to your FAFSA, allowing a financial aid notification to be provided.

Completed documents should be uploaded directly to UI-Integrate Self-Service. For instructions on how to access and upload documents please visit <https://osfa.illinois.edu/DocumentUpload>. Be sure to include your name and UIN on all documents uploaded. After you have uploaded your documents, you may confirm receipt within 3 business days at <https://osfa.illinois.edu/process/checking-your-status>. If you have any questions, please visit our website www.osfa.illinois.edu, contact a member of our counseling staff at (217) 333-0100 or email finaid@illinois.edu. **Please do not email documents to this email address.**

Dependency Status Appeal Form

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Last Name	First Name	M.I.	UIN
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Initial Request

- Required: one (1) Personal statement - provide a **signed and dated** letter explaining your situation, including a description of your relationship with your biological and/or adoptive parents. Provide details regarding events that led to the estrangement.
- Required: two (2) Supporting statements from third-party professionals who are aware of your situation and can corroborate the information provided in your personal statement. Each letter must include the individual's name, title/position, address, phone number, email address, signature and date.
- Optional: relevant supporting documentation including but not limited to death certificates, police reports, restraining orders, court orders/records of court proceedings, etc.

Renewal Request

- If your situation *has not changed*, you should complete a FAFSA without parent information due to a "special/unusual circumstance." A Dependency Appeal that has been approved in the previous academic year will carry forward. OSFA will complete the necessary overrides to process your FAFSA as independent for financial aid purposes. You do not need to provide any additional documents for a Dependency Appeal if one was approved in the previous year.

Personal Statement (may attach additional pages as necessary)

I certify that the information given on this form and on any attached pages is true and accurate.

Student's Signature (please provide a physical/actual signature)

Date

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