

2025-2026 Unusual Circumstance

Student Name: _____ SCC SID: _____

This form is for dependent students who do not meet the federal criteria for “independent” status, but wish to have their unusual circumstance reviewed in order to be considered an independent student.

This process is for students who are **estranged from their parents due to extreme circumstances** that can be documented and verified by an independent third-party (e.g., social service agency, court order, law enforcement, clergy member, counselor, high school administration, etc.) which may qualify for special consideration. An example of extreme circumstances is a student’s voluntary or involuntary removal from their parents’ home due to a situation related to abuse, neglect, abandonment that threatened the student’s health and/or safety; or where biological parents are deceased.

Federal Regulations do not consider self-sufficiency of the student, or the parental unwillingness to complete the FAFSA, or financially contribute to a student’s education as reason for a dependency override. Appeals submitted reporting these reasons would be denied according to federal regulation requirements.

To be considered for an Unusual Circumstance determination, a student **must submit** each of the following:

- Submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at <https://studentaid.gov>.
- Submit a signed, dated detailed letter explaining why you should be considered independent for financial aid purposes. You **must** describe the circumstances of the separation from your parent(s) and the current status of your relationship with them. Your relationship with each parent **must** be detailed. The information you provide will be kept confidential.
- Submit official documentation of situation (court orders, death certificates, police reports, agency records, etc.).
- Submit a signed letter from a professional third-party who can attest and verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. The letter **must** be signed and dated, be on letterhead, and **must** include his/her contact information. Professional third-parties include, but are not limited to: guidance counselors, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, job supervisors, or law enforcement officers. Statements cannot be accepted from family members, friends, or acquaintances.

Requests that do not include all proper documentation and a third-party professional statement will be considered incomplete. All information must be submitted to The Office of Financial Aid within 30 days of this official request or it will be considered incomplete. *Incomplete requests will be denied. *

Students with a prior year Dependency Override approval at Southeast Community College must:

1. Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at <https://studentaid.gov>.
2. Submit a signed and dated statement verifying current status of the circumstances of the separation from your parent(s).

STUDENT CERTIFICATION:

I understand that this information will be reviewed, and I may be asked to provide additional documentation or clarification pertaining to my situation stated above.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

This form must be printed and signed by hand, electronic signatures are not authorized.

Once a request has been submitted, along with required supporting information, students will be contacted by an Associate Director of Financial Aid with a **final determination**.