

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

WHIPPLE BARN, 2ND FLOOR • HAMPTON, VA 23668 • TELEPHONE: 800-624-3341 (757) 727-5635.

2025–2026 Professional Judgment/Unusual Circumstances Petition (Dependency Override)

The *FAFSA Simplification Act* provides a clear directive for Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) to assist applicants with unusual circumstances to adjust dependency status on the FAFSA form to reflect students' situations more accurately (dependency overrides). An FAA may conduct dependency overrides on a **case-by-case** basis for students with unusual circumstances, and must thoroughly document their decision.

By submitting a Professional Judgment/Unusual Circumstances Petition, you are requesting that the FAA adjust your dependency status for FAFSA purposes to independent of your parents, based on your documented unusual circumstances.

Relevant unusual circumstances include, but are not limited to, abuse, neglect, abandonment, and incarceration. Parents that refuse to participate in the financial aid process, or the student being self-supporting are situations that **do not** merit a dependency override.

A. Student Information

HU Student ID# _____

Print Student Last Name

Print Student First Name

Print Student M.I.

Student Email Address

Student Primary Phone Number

Student Date of Birth

B. Requirements to Submit this Petition

1. Use Section C of this form to write your appeal, clearly stating the unusual circumstance(s) and/or condition(s) surrounding your situation in relation to your parent(s). Your statement must also explain your last living arrangements, and any known contacts with your parent(s). Please include significant events and dates.
2. Attach **at least** one piece of correspondence from an independent third party with knowledge of your situation (e.g. guidance counselor, community leader, social service agency, legal court documents) confirming your situation. This third party should not be a relative.
3. Submit your completed appeal packet and **all supporting documents** as soon as possible. **Failure to submit a complete packet will result in a delay in processing.**

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It is important that you continue to submit any other required documents for financial aid processing and meet all registration, financial clearance and check-in deadlines while waiting for the outcome of your Dependency Override Petition. This will help to avoid any late fees or dropping of classes, housing, or other related aid eligibility.

Please allow a minimum of 20 business days for processing your petition. Upon completion of the review process, you will be notified of the outcome via HU email by the Financial Aid Office. Failure to submit a complete Dependency Override petition or any requested item(s) will result in a delay in processing. During the periods of registration, appeals **will not** be processed until after Add/Drop period has ended.

The decision of the FAA is FINAL and cannot be appealed further.

D. Certification and Signature

My signature on this petition certifies that all of the information reported on it is complete and correct.

Student Signature

Date