



2026-2027 Unusual Circumstances Form

On the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a set of questions determines a student's dependency status. Students who are considered dependent are required to report parental information on the FAFSA. Even though a student may be considered dependent on the FAFSA, there may be unusual circumstances that prevent the student from including their parents' information. Unusual Circumstances appeals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and under limited circumstances.

A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they:

- left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- are a victim of human trafficking;
- are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.

Unusual circumstances do not include:

- the parent's refusal to contribute to the student's education.
- the parent's unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification.
- not claiming the student as dependent for income tax purposes.
- the student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

What can I expect?

Once your form and supporting documents are received, the Office of Financial Assistance will review your case. A final decision regarding your dependency status will be made within 60 days of enrollment. If approved, you will receive the decision and an updated financial aid award via your Clark University email.

Unless you report a change in circumstances or conflicting information is identified, you will remain classified as an independent student for future award years at Clark. Each year, our office will reach out to confirm whether there have been any changes to your situation. You must respond to this request in order to complete your financial aid application.

Based on the above information, please check the appropriate box below:

- I have an unusual circumstance that merits a change in dependency status, and I will submit the required documentation outlined in Part A & Part B.
- I do not have an unusual circumstance that would merit a dependency override, and I will update my FAFSA to include parental information.

Part A: Written Statement

STUDENT NAME:

STUDENT ID #: C70

Current students only^

1. What are your current living arrangements? How long has this arrangement taken place?

2. How do you support yourself and meeting your living expenses?

3. When was the last time you lived with your parent(s)?

4. When was the last time you had contact with your parent(s)?

5. When did your parents last provide any form of support?

6. Please explain any unusual circumstance which clearly indicate that you should not be evaluated as a financial dependent of your parents and guardian. *NOTE: Not living with your parents and/or your parent(s) unwillingness to pay for college is not sufficient.*

Part B: Documentation

Please indicate below which documentation you will attach with your submission:

- Supporting documentation (examples: documentation to confirm that a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated, documentation confirming a protection or restraining order is in place); OR
- Two **signed and dated** letters written on official letterhead from **two different** professionals (such as a counselor, minister, attorney, social worker, etc.) that verify the family circumstances you described in your written statement. The letters must address your relationship with both parents and cannot be from family relatives.

By signing this worksheet, I certify that all information reported is true, accurate, and complete.

Student Signature Date

NOTE: Signatures **cannot** be typed.

SUBMISSION:	
Prospective Students	Financial Aid Portal
Current Students	CUWeb