

2023-24 Dependency Override Form

Please Print:

Student Name: _____
Last Name First Name

USC ID or VIP ID: _____

Student's Permanent Address: _____
Street

City State Zip

USC Aiken Email: _____@usca.edu Current Phone #: _____

The Federal government defines dependency status for financial aid applicants. This form is to be used by students who is classified as dependent student based on his/her answers in Step Three of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but believes that (s)he should be considered independent.

Federal regulations permit financial aid administrators to make dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for any student with unusual circumstances. However, federal regulations prohibit the following circumstances:

- Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification.
- Parents do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Parents unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education.
- Student demonstrates self-sufficiency.
- Student reluctant to request the income information from parents.
- Student does not wish to communicate with parents.

Unusual circumstances where an override may be considered (must be documented):

- Parental abandonment
- Parental drug/alcohol abuse
- Parental mental incapacity
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Parental incarceration

If you can document unusual circumstances, complete this form to request your dependency status be changed to independent. The outcome of your appeal depends on the information you provide to the Office of Financial Aid. Please be complete and concise. All information will be held strictly confidential.

To be considered for Dependency Override, the following documentation MUST be attached to this form.

1. Student's Statement of Independence - a typed personal statement in which you explain the following:
 - Reason(s) for requesting a dependency override
 - History of parental relationship including timeline of events
 - Current living arrangements including names and contact information of household members
 - How you support yourself (provide supporting documentation)
2. Third Party Affirmation (statements) from the following:
 - Professional adult who is familiar with and can verify your circumstances. Examples of professional adult includes: law enforcement officer, clergy member, school counselor or social worker. These statements must be on business letterhead, signed and dated.
 - Relative or friend who is familiar with and can verify your circumstances. Must include contact information.
3. Copy of student's 2021 IRS Federal Tax Transcript or 2021 IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter
4. Copy of student's birth certificate indicating names of biological mother and father
5. Additional documentation that supports your claim – court documentation, death certificate, incarceration notice, police report, etc.

***The above documentation is waived in cases of legal custody as a minor child being granted to someone other than a parent. In such cases, please contact our office for further instructions.**

Certification Statement:

I certify that the information listed on this form and all supporting documents concerning my request for a dependency override are correct and complete. I also understand that all decisions are final and if the dependency override is denied that parental information will be required to process my FAFSA.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

NOTICE: For your personal protection, DO NOT EMAIL sensitive documents (including tax documents and W-2s). You must submit documents by mail, fax (803-643-6840) or in person.