



2025-2026 Unusual Circumstance for Dependency Override

Financial aid regulations assume that the parents and the student have the primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of the student. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide biological or adoptive parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid. The Higher Education Act allows an aid administrator to make dependency overrides on a **case-by-case** basis for students with unusual circumstances. If the administrator judges that an override is appropriate, he/she must document the unusual circumstances.

Student Name

Student CWID/SID

Unusual circumstances include an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents. In all cases a signed statement from the student explaining the circumstances and documentation is required. Some forms of acceptable documentation for these circumstances are listed below.

Please select the most appropriate response and provide the necessary documentation.

Abuse:

- a. Social worker reports
- b. Police reports showing domestic disturbance calls, complaints of noise by neighbors, etc.
- c. Signed statement by the high school guidance counselor
- d. Conversation with social services regarding the individual. Must include the name of the employee, the date of the conversation, if the individual has a valid case in the statewide system
- e. Signed statements by other adults (the parents of a friend with whom the student is staying.)
- f. Court documents (protection from abuse orders)
- g. Signed statements by a physician documenting signs of abuse (bruising, broken bones or other trauma)
- h. Signed statement by a **women's or family shelter** (this documentation may not always be attainable)

Abandonment:

- a. A statement from the student, minister, and/or people that student lived with
- b. Birth certificate of student
- c. Documentation of person responsible for student (who signed for report cards, health/vehicle insurance coverage, etc.)
- d. Death certificate of parents or other responsible adults of student (if applicable)
- e. Past years tax documents of person who claimed student as an exemption

Dependency Override from Prior Academic Award Year:

I was approved for the dependency override process for unusual circumstances at Northwestern State University or at another postsecondary institution for a prior academic award year. I attest that my unusual circumstances regarding my inability to provide parental information have not changed.

Certification: I certify that the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide proof of the information that I have given on this form if asked by the Office of Student Financial Aid. I also realize that if I do not provide proof when asked, I the student will not receive special circumstances consideration. **I also understand that any adjustments made may, may or may not result in additional aid depending on the effect of the change.**

Signature: _____

Date: _____