



Student ID #: _____

Date received: _____

2025-2026 Unusual Circumstance Petition/ Dependency Override

Financial Aid & Scholarships Office | 231 W Sixth St Bldg. 1, Powell, WY 82435 | (800) 560-4692 or (307) 754-6158
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The Higher Education Act defines the conditions by which students may be considered independent when filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and exclude parental information. These rules are explained in the FAFSA in Step Three. Students who do not meet any of the criteria for independence are required to include parental information.

If you do not meet any of the definitions to qualify as an independent student under the Department of Education regulations but have valid and confirmable extenuating circumstances to justify exclusion of parental information, the Northwest College Financial Aid & Scholarships office may consider, under its Professional Judgment allowance, reclassifying you as an “independent” student for purposes of federal financial aid. The financial aid administrator may allow an override of dependency status on the FAFSA, if warranted, based upon confirmable circumstances that meet definition of valid extenuating circumstances.

VALID extenuating circumstances sufficient for consideration of dependency override include, but are not limited to:

- Severe circumstances such as an abusive home situation, history of parental alcohol or drug abuse, or parental abandonment or incarceration and that the student is unable to contact their parent(s) or that contact with parents would pose a risk to the student.
- Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions listed above
- Student is an unaccompanied youth, at least 22 years of age but not yet 24 years of age, who is/was homeless on or after July 1, 2024, in accordance with Federal Student Aid definitions and regulations.

INVALID extenuating circumstances insufficient for consideration of dependency override include, but are not limited to:

- Parental unwillingness to provide support or contribute their information to the student’s FAFSA
- Student refusal to accept financial support or to have contact with parents
- Parents no longer claiming the student as a dependent on their federal tax return
- Student maintaining a separate residence from parents
- Student financial self-sufficiency

Dependency Override petitions based upon invalid circumstances will be automatically denied and the student will be required to provide parental information on their FAFSA in order to remain eligible for federal student aid programs. You must provide sufficient documentation to the satisfaction of the financial aid administrator that you have valid and confirmable extenuating circumstances in order to obtain a dependency override. Student circumstances are unique and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

IMPORTANT:

1. The Financial Aid Office must presume that any student who has obtained a dependency override to be independent for each subsequent award year at the same institution unless the student informs the school that their circumstances have changed, or the school has conflicting information about the student's independence. The student may be asked during the submission of the subsequent award year’s FAFSA to reaffirm the unusual circumstances that lead to dependency override approval by the Financial Aid Office.
2. Any decision made by the NWC Financial Aid Office applies only to Northwest College and may not extend/transfer to other Title IV institutions of higher education. Additionally, the College does not accept professional judgment decisions made by other post-secondary institutions.

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2025 – 2026 Dependency Override Petition

Student Name

Last 4 digits of Social Security Number

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) **Attach to this form a written narrative of your valid extenuating circumstances to justify excluding parental information from your FAFSA. You must sign & date your narrative.**
- 2) **Attach to this form a complete history, for the last year, of where you have lived and document sources of income and support.**
- 3) **Attach to this form third party written documentation from at least two (2) separate sources to confirm your valid extenuating circumstances. Sources may include social-workers, clergy, law enforcement or child protective services officials, the court system, counselors, etc. Each narrative must be signed & dated by its author.**
- 4) **List the names and titles/relationships of the people providing affidavits below:**

Name

Title / Relationship

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

- *I understand that I do not meet any of the criteria for independent status as stated in Step Three of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but I believe I have valid and confirmable extenuating circumstances to exclude parental information as defined on the previous page.*
- *I understand that my parents' unwillingness to provide support or my choice not to accept support are unacceptable reasons to make this request. I acknowledge that neither my desire to be considered independent nor my reliance on someone other than my parents for support constitute grounds for a dependency override. (See the reverse of this form for more information on valid vs. invalid extenuating circumstance).*
- *I understand this is a petition request and that it is subject to the professional judgment decision of the NWC Financial Aid Office. This request may be subject to requests for additional documentation or explanation, and all decisions are final. Any decision made by the NWC Financial Aid Office may only apply to Northwest College.*
- *My signature below certifies that all the information provided is correct and true.*

Student Signature

Date