

## Dependency Override Appeal

Students under the age of 24 are generally considered dependent students for financial aid purposes and are required to provide parental data on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, an exception may be made on an annual basis when circumstances exist that prevent the student from providing parental information on the FAFSA. This exception is known as a Dependency Override and allows a dependent student to be considered independent for financial aid purposes and therefore, exempt from providing parental data on the FAFSA.

You may qualify for a dependency override if you are estranged from your parents due to:

- Parental incarceration
- Parental abandonment
- An abusive family environment that threatens your health or safety
- Other unusual circumstances beyond your control

There are certain conditions which do NOT qualify as unusual circumstances. We are unable to approve a dependency override due to:

- Parent's refusal to contribute to your education
- Parent's unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification purposes
- Parent(s) do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- You demonstrate self-sufficiency (i.e. live separate from your parents and support yourself)

If you believe your circumstances warrant a dependency override, please complete and submit the appeal form with the required documentation attached. An appeal must be submitted and reviewed annually even if a prior year's appeal was approved.

Dependency override appeals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The submission of an appeal does not guarantee approval. All of the information submitted is strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone without your written consent.

If your circumstances do not allow for a dependency override, you must provide parental information on your FAFSA. If you have already submitted your FAFSA, you will need to return to the FAFSA website and correct your application to include parental information including submission of the requisite signatures for student and parent. If your circumstances do not allow for a dependency override, you must provide parental information on your FAFSA. If you have already submitted your FAFSA, you will need to return to the FAFSA website and correct your application to include parental information including submission of the requisite signatures for student and parent.

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**Student Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PSU ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select a Financial Aid Year**

- 2020-2021 (Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, Summer 2021)
- 2021-2022 (Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Summer 2022)

**General Information (Please answer all questions)**

Where or with whom do you live now?

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

When did your parent(s) last provide monetary support for you?

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

Have you previously had a Dependency Override Appeal approved by PSU?

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## Required Documentation

- Personal Statement by Student – On a separate page, tell us in your own words about your situation and describe your relationship with your parent(s), even if it is non-existent. Please provide details regarding the events that led to your estrangement from them. Attach the dated and signed statement to this form.
- Supporting Statement from a Third-Party Professional - The statement should speak to the individual's knowledge of your relationship your parent(s) as well as summarize your unusual circumstances. It must be signed, dated and should be on official letterhead. If letterhead is not obtainable, the person's name, title, phone number, business/organization name and address must be included. Examples of third party professionals include social workers, mental or medical health professionals, and members of clergy, school guidance counselors, coaches or teachers.
- Supporting Statement from an Objective Party- This dated and signed statement in support of your appeal should be from someone who has first-hand knowledge of your situation and the nature of your relationship with your parent(s). Examples of an objective party include an adult relative or neighbor, parent of a friend, employer or supervisor.

## Student Signature

By signing this form, you are certifying the information to be true and agree to submit additional documentation if requested.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## How To Submit This Form

The fastest way is the document uploader <https://www.pdx.edu/student-finance/forms>

Mailing Address: Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, Portland State University, PO Box 851, Portland, Oregon 97207-0851

Physical location: Fariborz Maseeh Hall (FMH), Portland State University, 1855 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97207-3295

Phone: (503) 725-3461 Toll-Free: (800) 547-8887 Fax: (503) 725-5965

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