

California State University Bakersfield

Dependency Override Appeal

A financial aid administrator has the discretion to use professional judgement on a case-by-case basis to determine that unusual circumstances warrant making a dependent student an independent student.

Unusual circumstances do include:

- Human trafficking, as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status;
- Parental abandonment or estrangement;
- Abuse;
- Student or parental incarceration; or
- Homeless Youth

Please be aware that the following circumstances **DO NOT QUALIFY** for a dependency override.

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education or unwilling to provide information;
- Parents will not provide information for the FAFSA or verification;
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency;
- Parents live in another country.

Student Forms student view:

Needs Action

You're all caught up right now.

Manage Requests

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Click Blue
"Manage
Requests" Button

Manage Requests

You can request to open an appeal or upload a specific document or close the request if you no longer wish to proceed. If you are unsure which award year to choose for a request, please confirm with your school.

Request Type	2024-2025	2025-2026
Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal	<div>+</div>	<div>+</div>
Professional Judgment: Special Circumstance - EFC/SAI Appeal	<div>+</div>	<div>+</div>
Professional Judgment: Special Circumstance - COA Appeal	<div>+</div>	<div>+</div>

Close

Click the blue +

You're all caught up right now

Add Request

Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal -- 2024-2025

You indicated on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that you have unusual circumstances that prevent you from providing parental information. This Web Form allows you to request a **dependency status change from dependent to independent** due to unusual circumstances. The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships shall review your case upon successful completion and submission of the Web Form.

Please explain your reason for this request.

Enter your comments...

Characters left: 255/255

Submit

Go Back

Provide a very brief reason for the request. Example- I was in an abusive environment.

Click "Submit"

Needs Action

Manage Requests

1
Task Left

2024-2025 Professional Judgment: ...

Status: Collecting Documents

Needs Action

1

Submitted

0

Click on the
Needs Action box

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Needs Student Action > 2024 - 2025 Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal

2024 - 2025 Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal

Below is the list of items the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships needs you to complete for the professional judgment appeal process. Click on any section to view the detailed list of requirements.

▼

PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal

To continue with your Professional Judgment (PJ) Unusual Circumstance appeal you must complete the PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal web form.

🗨️

This is a test, please decline

Appeal Status: Open

○

PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal Web Form ⓘ

📄

Fill Out

Click the "Fill
Out" button

Instructions

> Demographics

Special Circumstances

Statement

Review & Sign

↩️

Return to Student Tasks

Demographics

Please correct the following information if needed.

* First Name:

Error: * Required

* Last Name:

Error: * Required

* Phone:

Error: * Required

← Back

Continue →

Fill out demographic
information then
click "Continue"

[Instructions](#)
[Demographics](#)
[Unusual Circumstances](#)
[Statement](#)
[Review & Sign](#)

Unusual Circumstances

Below are the unusual circumstance(s) that have been chosen by your institution. Please only modify if you are absolutely certain of your changes.

- ☐ Your parents are incarcerated
- ☐ You left home due to an abusive family environment
- ☐ You do not know where your parents are and you are unable to contact them
- ☐ You are older than 21 but not 24 and unaccompanied and either homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless
- ☐ Human trafficking; as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
- ☐ Legally granted refugee or asylum status

[Return to Student Tasks](#)

Continue →

Choose which circumstance fits then click "Continue"

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[Instructions](#)
[Demographics](#)
[Unusual Circumstances](#)
[Statement](#)
[Review & Sign](#)

Signed Statement Request Instructions

Instructions

A) If you are appealing for the first time, you **must** complete the following steps:

- Provide an explanation outlining your extraordinary family circumstances that support your petition for Independent status.
- In addition, please check the box below indicating that you "will provide supporting documentation."

- Upload a signed and dated letter from a counselor or teacher, community group or clergyman, government agency, law enforcement officer, medical personnel, court or prison administrator who has direct personal knowledge of your situation; or
- Upload any other supporting documentation, such as a signed and dated letter from relatives or friends, a police report and/or medical report.

B) If you were **approved for a Dependency Override in a prior academic year**, complete the following steps.

- In the text box below, certify that your circumstances, which prevented you from providing parental information on the FAFSA, have not changed since the original documents were submitted. (If there is a change, please attach supporting documentation detailing the changes).

[Return to Student Tasks](#)

This is a test, please decline

Detailed account of event(s)

☐ I will provide supporting documentation.

[← Back](#)

Continue →

Detailed explanation of your situation

Click "I will provide supporting documentation"

Click "Continue"

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Either E-Sign or
Opt out of E-Sign

* E-Sign PIN

Forgot your E-Sign PIN? ?

Opt out of E-Sign ?

NO

E-Sign

2024 - 2025 Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal

[Notification History](#)

Below is the list of items the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships needs you to complete for the professional judgment appeal process. Click on any section to view the detailed list of requirements.

▼ PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal

To continue with your Professional Judgment (PJ) Unusual Circumstance appeal you must complete the PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal web form.

 This is a test, please decline

Appeal Status: Open

✓ PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal Web Form ?

 Fill Out

Download

Date Filled Out

[PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal Form.pdf](#)

03/13/2025

○ Upload Supporting Documentation ?

Click "Upload" to
upload documentation

↑ Upload

Submit

2024 - 2025 Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal

[Notification History](#)

Below is the list of items the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships needs you to complete for the professional judgment appeal process. Click on any section to view the detailed list of requirements.

▼

PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal

To continue with your Professional Judgment (PJ) Unusual Circumstance appeal you must complete the PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal web form.

This is a test, please decline

Appeal Status: Open

✓

PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal Web Form

Download

PJ Unusual Circumstance Appeal Form.pdf

Date Filled Out

03/13/2025

✓

Upload Supporting Documentation

Filename

3rd party support.pdf

Date Uploaded

03/13/2025

Fill Out

+ Add Page(s)

click "Submit"

Submit

Needs Action

Completed Actions

My Docs

Activity

Contact Us

Completed Actions

Workflow: All

✓

2024-2025 Professional Judgment: Special Circumstance...

Status: In Review

Professional Judgment: Special Circumstance - COA App...

✓

2024-2025 Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstan...

Status: In Review

Professional Judgment: Unusual Circumstance Appeal

✓

2024-2025 Verification

Status: Completed

Verification

check status, click "Completed Actions"

You can see it is being reviewed, processing, or accepted/declined

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Accessibility Statement

Please allow up to 2 weeks for your appeal to be reviewed