Unusual Circumstances Worksheet

2027-2028 Academic Year

Financial Aid Office

Per the Department of Education, **"Unusual Circumstances** refer to the conditions that justify an aid administrator making an adjustment to a student's dependency status based on a unique situation (e.g., human trafficking, refugee or asylee status, parental abandonment, incarceration), more commonly referred to as a dependency override. "

Student Name _____ Student ID Number _____

Address _____ Daytime Phone Number _____

Unusual circumstances are situations that may allow a student to submit the FAFSA form without parent information despite being considered a dependent student.

Please describe your unusual circumstances below. After reviewing your request, the Financial Aid Office will determine the type of documentation needed to move forward with your request. *If you need more space, please use a separate page with your student ID and signature.*

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Student Signature _____ Date _____

* **Note**: Be aware that requesting Professional Judgement will delay the completion of your Financial Aid file.

What should I do if I have an unusual circumstance and can't provide parent information?

In situations such as the ones below, you (the student) may be able to submit your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form without parent information despite being considered a dependent student:

- You or your parent are incarcerated.
- You have left home due to an abusive or threatening environment.
- You have been abandoned by or estranged from your parents and have not been adopted.
- You were granted refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country.
- You are a victim of human trafficking.
- You are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents and have not been adopted.

If your circumstances resulted in you not having a safe, stable place to live, you may be considered a homeless youth.

If you have an unusual circumstance that prevents you from contacting your parents or obtaining their information, you will:

- Be eligible to skip any questions about your parents
- Submit your FAFSA form as an independent student, and
- Receive an interim Student Aid Index (SAI)

Your interim SAI is subject to final review by your college or career school and may change your eligibility for federal student aid. After submitting your FAFSA form, you must contact the financial aid office at the college or career school you plan to attend to receive information about next steps—including policies and timelines—to complete your application.

If none of the above unusual circumstances apply and you don't meet the other criteria for an independent student, you must provide parent information on your FAFSA form. This is true even if

- You don't live with your parent;
- Your parent isn't paying for your college expenses; or
- Your parent doesn't claim you as a dependent on their taxes

Provide all student information and skip any questions about your parent if

- Your parents are unwilling to provide their information, and
- You don't have an unusual circumstance that prevents you from contacting them or obtaining their information

You'll only be considered for a limited amount of Direct Unsubsidized Loan only and your SAI won't be calculated without your parents' information.

Note the following:

- Under federal law, only your college's or career school's financial aid administrator has the authority to make adjustments to your dependency status (in the case of unusual circumstances) and to offer you as a dependent student a Direct Unsubsidized Loan without requiring your parents to provide their information on your FAFSA form
- The financial aid administrator may ask you to provide documentation to verify your situation
- After reviewing your circumstances, the financial aid administrator will decide if your FAFSA form may be processed as an independent student or if you must provide parent information