



2023-2024 Unusual Circumstances

Name: _____ ctcLink ID: _____

The FAFSA or WASFA will determine your dependency status based on a number of questions. If you answer 'no' to all of the dependency questions, you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes and must provide your parent information. We understand that this may not reflect your current dependency status. Use this form if there are unusual circumstances where you cannot provide your parent information on the FAFSA or WASFA. See Section 1 below for a list of possible unusual circumstances. In some cases, our office may be able to perform a dependency override.

Unusual circumstances **do not** include: parent(s) refusal to contribute to the student's education, parent(s) will not provide information for the FAFSA or verification, parent(s) do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes, or if you are self-sufficient.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED.

In accordance with federal regulations, all appeal decisions are at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office and are final. Allow up to 4-6 weeks for processing. If additional supporting documentation is requested and not submitted within 60-days your appeal may be denied.

Section 1: Select your unusual circumstance

- Human trafficking
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status
- Parental abandonment or estrangement
- Parental incarceration
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Unaccompanied youth, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness

Section 2: Required documentation

**Note: If requesting unusual circumstances based on unaccompanied homeless youth or unaccompanied youth at risk of homelessness, please skip this section and refer to the required documentation in section 3 of this form.*

- Personal statement: explain your unusual circumstance and why you are unable to provide your parent(s) information on the FAFSA. Include: what the unusual circumstances are, the timeline of the relationship with your parent(s), and what type of contact you have with your parent(s) now.
- Supporting documentation must be submitted along with this form. This may include:
 - Court order or official Federal or State documentation that the student's parent(s) are incarcerated
 - Written statement confirming unusual circumstance from a state/county/tribal welfare agency, an independent living case worker who supports current/former foster youth with the transition to adulthood, or an agency servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence
 - Written statement from an attorney, guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocate, TRIO/GEAR UP program representative confirming the circumstances and the person's relationship to the student
 - Written statement from homeless shelter, college or high school counselor, mental health professional, social worker, mentor, doctor, or clergy confirming the circumstances and the person's relationship to the student
 - Documented determination of independence made by a financial aid administrator at another institution in the same or a prior award year
 - Documented interview between you (the student) and a Bates' financial aid administrator

**Please contact our office to request an interview*

- Any additional document(s) that are relevant to your situation

Section 3: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth or At Risk of being Homeless

A student is independent if at any time on or after July 1, 2022, the student is determined to be an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. A student is considered *homeless* if he or she lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing. This includes but is not limited to: youth sharing housing with other people temporarily because they had nowhere else to go and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters, motels, campgrounds, cars, parks, or any public or private place not designed for humans to live in. *At risk of being homeless* is when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

To request a dependency change based on being either an unaccompanied homeless youth or a youth who is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless submit a personal statement and supporting documentation.

Personal statement: explain your unusual circumstance and why you are unable to provide your parent(s) information on the FAFSA. Include: what the unusual circumstances are, the timeline of the relationship with your parent(s), and what type of contact you have with your parent(s) now.

Supporting documentation must be submitted along with this form. This may include:

- Written statement or letter from a local educational agency homeless liason (ie: McKinney-Vento letter).
- Written statement from the director of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
- Written statement from a director of a Federal TRIO or GEAR UP program.
- Written statement from a financial aid administrator at another institution who documented the student's circumstance in the same or a prior award year.
- Documented interview between you (the student) and a Bates' financial aid administrator

**Please contact our office to request an interview*

Section 4: Student Certification

By signing this form, I certify that the information provided in this application and other financial aid documents is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I agree to provide documentation to support the information I have provided on this form. I understand that my unusual circumstances appeal may be denied if I don't provide requested documentation within 60 days. I understand that purposely giving false or misleading information may result in fines, imprisonment, or both.

This form must be signed with a pen or electronic signature. Typed signatures will not be accepted.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

*******Section Below is for Office Use Only*******

The student's unusual circumstance does not justify a dependency override.

The student meets the definition of an independent student based on an unusual circumstance

Dependency Override: _____ Homeless Youth Determination: _____

FA Staff Signature: _____ **Date:** _____