



## 2026-2027 PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT REQUEST DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE/SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE

In order to be classified as an independent student, you must meet specific requirements that are outlined in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The U.S. Department of Education realizes that students experience extenuating circumstances that require the re-evaluation of their dependency status. In order to request re-evaluation of your status, you must provide supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. The documents you submit will be evaluated by your financial aid counselor and/or the Professional Judgment Committee. Please note that self-sufficiency is not in itself an acceptable reason for a “Dependency Override”. The U.S. Department of Education has directed schools under section 480(d)(7) of the HEA to use Professional Judgment for “Dependency Override” only if a student meets one of the following unusual circumstances:

### **Abandonment by Parents OR Danger of Abuse (Mental or Physical)**

The required documents to support a “Dependency Override” and instructions are as follows:

- Complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if the application has not been filed.
- Dependency Override Requirement Form (this sheet).
- A signed detailed letter from you (the student) outlining your unusual circumstances, including how you plan to support yourself and your educational efforts without the support of your parents.
- At least two detailed letters (on letterhead) **from a professional** such as a teacher, guidance counselor, doctor, lawyer, or minister explaining and supporting your claim. The letter must supply first-hand detailed information concerning your situation. The letter must provide a signature and contact telephone number.
- At least one letter from another adult such as a relative: Grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling or person who can supply first-hand detailed information about your situation. The letters must provide their signature and a contact telephone numbers.
- Copies of legal documents that support your unusual circumstances.
- Verification Documents/Forms: Verification Worksheet (*you can access this form from the Financial Aid home page*), your 2024 Federal Tax Transcript and your 2024 W-2 forms.
- Copies of your Lease and Utility Bills. **ALSO**, other documents you feel are pertinent to your case.

All documents must be submitted with this form in a single packet.

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*☞ The Counseling staff reserves the right to request additional documentation.*

*☞ Request for "Dependency Overrides" must be resubmitted each academic year you wish to be considered.*

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE PRINT) ATTEST THAT I HAVE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE(S) WHICH MEETS THE CRITERION FOR A DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE. I GIVE PERMISSION FOR A DILLARD UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTACT THE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT MY "DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE".

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT'S ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE