

UNF ID# N

#### Student Name

### **Section I: Instructions**

The Department of Education determines a student's status as dependent or independent by the answers the student provides on the questions listed in Step Three of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students are classified as dependent or independent based on the principle that students (and their parent) are considered the primary source of support for postsecondary education.

Annually, and on a case-by-case basis, the Office of Student Financial Aid may permit a Dependency Override for otherwise dependent students with unusual circumstances.

Conditions *which qualify* for a dependency override include students, under the age of 24, who cannot rely on parental support from either parent because each parent meets one of the following criteria:

- Parent is deceased.
- Parent is incarcerated.
- Unusual parental circumstances (e.g., parent's whereabouts are unknown, abusive family environment, abandonment by parent, etc.).

Conditions that *do not qualify* for a dependency override include:

- Parent(s) who refuse to contribute to the student's education
- Parent(s) who are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
- Parent(s) who do(es) not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- A student who lives on their own / demonstrates total self-sufficiency

A student must complete and submit this appeal to be considered for a Dependency Override. A committee from UNF's Office of Student Financial Aid will then review this appeal to determine whether or not a Dependency Override is warranted. If **approved** for a Dependency Override, you will be notified via your UNF email. Your FAFSA will be updated to independent and financial aid eligibility will be based only on your income information.

#### A complete Dependency Override Appeal will include:

- A signed and dated student statement of circumstances, which completely and explicitly details the basis of your request. Your statement of circumstances will be used only to determine if a Dependency Override should be approved and the information you provide will remain confidential to the extent possible. (Please note: Certain information brought to the attention of the Office of Student Financial Aid may be reported in accordance with laws and regulations, e.g., Title IX, VAWA, Vulnerable Persons, etc.)
- Documentation that corroborates the information described in the statement of circumstances. Documentation is acceptable if it is signed and dated and submitted on official letterhead. Documentation should come from third-party individuals such as adult professionals, clergy, school guidance counselors, medical doctors, mental health professionals, employment managers or supervisors, teachers or professors, attorneys, law enforcement officers, social workers or officers of the court.

## Section II: Required Signature

By signing below, you certify that all the information reported on this form and any attached documents is accurate and true. You acknowledge that it is your responsibility to monitor your financial aid for any updates or additional requests for documentation or clarification and respond in a timely manner. You acknowledge that this appeal must be submitted by the last day of the term in which you are applying for aid. Warning: If you purposefully give false or misleading information, you may be fined, sentenced to jail or both.

Student Signature

Date Signed



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# Section III: Committee Decision (For Office Use Only)

Is this appeal a renewal request for the current academic year? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Approve/Deny:	Signatures:	Date:
Comments:		