



Financial aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid.

Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances, students should not be considered as dependent. If you can document why you should be considered independent for some unusual reason, you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. The U. S. Department of Education has identified four conditions that individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as "unusual circumstances" and do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:

- 1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education;
- 2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
- 3. Parents not in contact with the student.



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