

Unusual Circumstances Definition

On the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you selected that you have unusual circumstances preventing you from contacting your parents or that contacting your parents would pose a risk to you.

You may be experiencing unusual circumstances if you:

- left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- were abandoned by or estranged from your parents
- have refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- are a victim of human trafficking;
- are incarcerated, or your parents are incarcerated and contact with them would pose a risk to you;
- are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents.

Return form by— using the [Secure Document Upload Portal](#)

In person or by mail to:
Financial Aid Office
Inlow Hall STE 104
One University Blvd
La Grande, OR 97850-2807

To ensure privacy online, open in [Adobe Reader \(free at Adobe.com\)](#).

PART A. Student information		
Legal name (required, last, first, middle initial)	Preferred name (optional)	University ID
Current mailing address (street, apartment or PO Box number, city, state, ZIP code, country)		Phone (include area code)
PART B. Student Confirmation		
Please confirm you situation:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have read and understand the federal definition of unusual circumstances and wish to continue with this appeal		
Appeal procedures for unusual circumstances Exceptions to the federal dependency definition may be made on a case-by-case basis. If you believe you have unusual circumstances that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, please follow these steps: Step 1: Submit a signed personal letter describing your unusual circumstances. Include any support you received from your parents in the last two years. Step 2: Submit signed third-party documentation supporting the unusual circumstances you described. Examples include court documents or an official letter from a mental health professional, high school counselor, case worker, clergy, or other professional who confirms that your situation warrants independent status.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have attached a signed personal letter from Step 1 <input type="checkbox"/> I have attached supporting documentation from Step 2		
Student Signature		Date

All submitted documents become part of your official record and therefore cannot be returned. Documents that become part of your Educational Record are protected for privacy under federal law ([FERPA](#)).