
2026-2027 UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES APPEAL

An unusual circumstances appeal may be available when unusual family circumstances prevent you from providing parent information on the FAFSA. In these situations, the Student Financial Services team will review your circumstances and use professional judgment to determine whether the standard dependency requirements can be adjusted. To be considered, you must explain your situation and provide documentation that helps us understand your relationship with your parent(s).

Situations That May Qualify for a Dependency Override

- You were removed from your parent's home, either voluntarily or involuntarily, due to an extreme situation that threatened your health or safety.
- Your parent(s) are unable to provide information because of circumstances such as incarceration, mental or physical illness, or because you cannot locate them.
- Your custodial parent has passed away, and you have no contact with your other biological or legal parent.
- You have another serious circumstance that can be clearly documented.

Situations That Do Not Qualify on Their Own

- Your parent(s) does not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes or does not file taxes even when legally required to do so.
- Your parent(s) are unable or unwilling to help pay for your education.
- Your parent(s) will not provide information for the FAFSA or complete verification, if required.
- You prefer not to ask your parent(s) to complete the FAFSA.
- You support yourself financially, including working, living on your own, or paying your own bills.

Required Documentation

- Please provide a signed personal statement explaining your relationship with your parent(s), including any step-parents, if applicable, and explain why you are unable to provide parental financial information on the FAFSA.

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- Examples, when available, of the events or circumstances that led to your separation or lack of contact with your parent(s).
- The date you last had contact with each parent and how often you have had contact with each parent during the past year.
- Two letters of support from individuals outside your family who are familiar with your situation. Each letter should include the writer's name, relationship to you, phone number, and signature.

If you have questions or are unsure what to submit, please contact the Student Financial Services Office at finaid@principia.edu or (618) 374-5187. We are available to help.

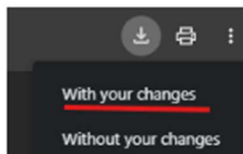
SUBMIT THIS FORM TO PRINCIPIA COLLEGE'S STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE.

Upload Instructions

Follow these steps after opening the form:

1. Fill out all sections
2. Save **with your changes** by using the **top right icon** (don't right-click)

You will see the below option when you select the download/save button in the top right hand corner.



3. Save with changes
4. Save the file on your personal computer
5. Name the file using this format: FIRST_LAST_FAFSA_VERIFICATION.pdf

Additional steps are available [online](#).