2026-2027 Request For Dependency Override

Based on your 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you are considered a dependent student, meaning your application will be considered incomplete without parental demographic and financial information. However, recognizing that certain unusual circumstances may exist, the Financial Aid Office has the ability to make a documented determination of independence based upon "other unusual circumstances" (a dependency override). Dependency overrides are permitted on truly exceptional circumstances and must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. **All decisions are final and may not be appealed.**

Circumstances that do not merit a dependency override include:

1. Parent(s) refusing to contribute to the student's education
2. Parent(s) unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
3. Parent(s) not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
4. A choice made by the student to move out of parent(s)' home and be financially independent

Circumstances that **may** be considered for dependency override evaluation include:

1. Severe estrangement/abandonment from parent(s)
2. Abusive family environment that threatens student's health or safety
3. Inability to locate or contact parent(s)

For the Financial Aid Office to consider your request for dependency override, you must provide **all** of the following items:

1. This completed Request for Dependency Override Form
2. A thorough explanation detailing your unusual circumstance(s) and how you are financially supported (you may use the space provided on the following page or attach a separate document)
3. A signed second-party statement from another individual (this can be a friend or family member) summarizing their knowledge of your unusual circumstances and how you are financially supported. This statement must include: **a)** the relationship of the individual writing the statement to you, **b)** the date the individual met you, **c)** the date the individual learned of your circumstances, **d)** an explanation of your individual circumstances regarding why you are unable to provide parental information, and **e)** the written signature of the individual writing the statement
4. A signed statement on official agency letterhead from an objective third party (this cannot be a friend or family member; school officials, clergy members, social workers, healthcare providers, etc. are considered objective third parties) summarizing their knowledge of your unusual circumstances and how you are financially supported. This statement must include: **a)** the relationship of the individual writing the statement to you, **b)** the date the individual met you, **c)** the date the individual learned of your circumstances, **d)** an explanation of your individual circumstances regarding why you are unable to provide parental information, and **e)** the written signature of the individual writing the statement
5. Any additional supporting documentation you wish (court documents, police reports, etc.)

Requests submitted without all requested information (signed and completed form, written statement, letters of support, additional supporting documentation) will not be accepted.

You may be asked to provide verification documents if your request for a dependency override is approved.

If you are unable to provide any of the documents listed above, you must contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss your circumstance(s). You may visit the Financial Aid Office in person, email finaid@mccc.edu (include your name and MCCC student ID number in your email and include "Dependency Override Request" in the subject line), or call 609-570-3210.

MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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A. Student Information

Last Name *First Name* *M.I.* *MCCC Student ID Number*

B. Student Explanation of Unusual Circumstances

Explain why it is impossible or unreasonable for you to obtain your parent(s)'information and signature(s) on your FAFSA. If you need additional space or would prefer to type your response separately, attach another page or electronic document. If you have any other supporting documentation explaining why you cannot provide parental information (from a court, social service agency, etc.), attach that as well.

Explain how you are financially supported and how you pay for expenses such as housing, food, transportation, etc. If you need additional space or would prefer to type your response separately, attach another page or electronic document.

C. Certification

By signing this form, I certify that all information reported on it and in all accompanying supporting documents is complete and correct. I understand that this form will be used to evaluate my application as an independent student and may be released to the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA).

Student Signature *Date*

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.