

**Indian River State College
Office of Student Financial Aid Office
Dependency Override Request
2024 - 2025**

Requesting a Dependency Override Due to Unusual Circumstances

Your FAFSA Application was completed without your parent's information.

Normally students under the age of 24 must provide their parents information; however, if you would like the IRSC Financial Aid Office Aid to review your unusual circumstances to see if a dependency override would be appropriate, please ensure to do the following:

- Provide 4 letters to the IRSC Financial Aid Office.
 - **Student Letter** – You must provide a personal statement that explains your unusual circumstances and why you are unable to provide your parent information on the FAFSA. At minimum include what the unusual circumstances are, the timeline of the relationship with your parents, and what type of contact you have with your parents now. A sample letter is provided for you to follow that format.
 - **Letter from a Friend or Family Member** – Have a friend or family member that can attest to your circumstances also write a letter. They should use the same format as in the sample letter.
 - **Letters from Professionals that can attest to your situation – (Two letters are required)**
 - We need two letters from persons in a professional capacity who are familiar with your situation (therapist, school counselors, teachers, clergy, coaches, etc.). Their letters must be on letterhead from the organization they represent.
 - Any additional documents that are relevant to your situation -

It is important that you understand, the we cannot provide a dependency override for the following reasons:

- *Parents refuse to contribute financially to your education*
- *Unwillingness of parents to provide tax information*
- *Students being financially independent*
- *Parents not claiming a student as a dependent on their taxes.*

Once all documents have been completed, one of our Financial Aid Administrators will review the documents and determine your dependency status. A review can typically take up to 2 weeks, and during peak periods up to 4 weeks.

Subsequent Years

Beginning with the 2023-24 award year, any student who was approved for a dependency override and made independent for financial aid due to unusual circumstances will continue to be independent for each subsequent award year at the IRSC unless the student informs us that their circumstances have changed, or we have conflicting information about the student's independence. Students must still submit their FAFSA each year, but should not need to take additional action to be considered an independent student each year.

Sample Letter Template

Date

Financial Aid Administrator
Indian River State College
3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Re: Student Name, Student ID

Dear Sir or Madam,

In the body of this letter is where you, your friend, or your family member would write about the circumstances that happened in your life.

It can be two or three paragraphs.

Sincerely,

Signature

Your Name