

Request for Review — Unusual Circumstances

Dependency Override or Statement of No Parental Support — 2026–2027

This form is for two specific situations where your FAFSA doesn't reflect your real family circumstances: (1) an unusual circumstance that makes it unsafe or genuinely impossible to provide parent information at all, or (2) a parent who is unwilling to provide their FAFSA information or any financial support. Each is reviewed differently, and each is explained in its own section below.

If your family's financial situation has simply changed — job loss, divorce, a medical crisis — that's a different, more common process called a special circumstance appeal. Use the Special Circumstance Appeal Form instead; contact our office if you're not sure which applies to you.

- This is a case-by-case, individualized review — approval isn't automatic and isn't guaranteed.
- Federal rules require a decision as quickly as practicable, and no later than 60 days after you enroll. Most complete files are decided within 3–4 weeks.
- We can only evaluate complete submissions — see the documentation options in Section 1.

Before You Begin

Generally DOES qualify as an unusual circumstance:

- An abusive family environment that threatens your health or safety.
- Parental abandonment or estrangement, with no ongoing contact.
- Incarceration or institutionalization of both parents; parents lacking the physical or mental capacity to provide information; or parents who cannot be located.
- Human trafficking, or refugee/asylee status separating you from your parents.
- You are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of homelessness.

Generally does NOT qualify on its own:

- Your parents are unwilling to contribute financially to your education, or won't provide their FAFSA/verification information.
- Your parents don't claim you as a dependent on their taxes, or you're living independently / financially self-sufficient.

If this describes you, see Section 2 below — it may make you eligible for an unsubsidized loan.

Student Information

Student Legal Name

Witt ID or SSN

Section 1 – Unusual Circumstances

(Dependency Override)

Select the option that matches your situation:

☐ Option A — I already have an approved override and my situation hasn't changed.

You don't need to resubmit documentation — federal rules presume your independent status continues unless you tell us your circumstances changed, or we have conflicting information. Just complete Student Information above, sign below, and submit.

☐ Option B — I have an unusual circumstance making it unsafe or impossible to provide my parent(s)' information.

Documentation — provide ONE of the following:

- (a) A typed, signed personal statement, plus two letters from qualifying third parties (a counselor, teacher, physician, clergy member, attorney, social worker, or similar), each on official letterhead or notarized.
- (b) A typed, signed personal statement, plus official documentation such as a police report, court record, or a statement from a state, county, or tribal welfare agency.
- (c) A typed, signed personal statement alone, if third-party documentation genuinely isn't available — contact our office to schedule a documented interview with a financial aid administrator instead.

Your personal statement should describe what happened, when, and why contacting your parent(s) isn't possible or safe. Be as specific as you're comfortable being — we're not looking for extensive detail, just enough for us to understand your situation.

By signing below, I certify that the information and documentation provided are true and complete. Electronic signatures are not accepted for this section — please print and sign by hand.

Student Signature

Date

Section 2 – Statement of No Parental Support

Complete this section only if none of the unusual circumstances in Section 1 apply to you, but your parent(s) are unwilling to provide their FAFSA information or any financial support. This may make you eligible for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. You will remain a dependent student for all other financial aid purposes.

"Financial support" includes payment of educational expenses, cash and non-cash support, or any living expenses.

This is a significant decision. Please read and check each statement below:

- ☐ I understand that by declining to provide my information, my child will not be eligible for federal or state grants, institutional need-based aid, work-study, or a Direct Subsidized Loan — only a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, which may not cover all educational costs.
- ☐ I understand that I can still make a correction to add my FAFSA information later, and doing so does not obligate me to borrow on my child's behalf or to pay their tuition or other charges.
- ☐ I certify that I have ended all financial support for my child, including tuition payments, cash support, and non-cash support such as housing or health insurance.

Electronic signatures are not accepted for this section — please print and sign by hand.

Parent Signature

Date

Also see our Special Circumstance Review page at wittenberg.edu, where this process is described publicly alongside the financial special circumstance appeal.

How to Submit

Current Wittenberg students

Submit this form and your documentation through the SelfService Portal (selfservice.wittenberg.edu).

New and incoming students

Submit this form and your documentation through the Wittenberg Application Portal (apply.wittenberg.edu).

Not sure which portal applies to you? Email studentfinancialservices@wittenberg.edu and we'll point you to the right place.

Federal rules require a decision as quickly as practicable, and no later than 60 days after you enroll. Most complete files are decided within 3–4 weeks — incomplete submissions will take longer, since we can only review what's actually been provided.

Questions before you submit — or unsure which section applies to you? Contact Student Financial Services at studentfinancialservices@wittenberg.edu or 937.327.7321. We're glad to talk it through, including scheduling a documented interview if third-party documentation isn't available to you.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Reviewed		Staff Member	
Documentation Path (a/b/c)			