



## Unusual Circumstance Appeal (Dependency Override) 2026-2027

**Financial Aid Office**  
 Phone: (208) 524-3000 Option7  
 Toll Free: 1-800-662-0261  
 Fax: (208) 525-7026  
[financial.aid@cei.edu](mailto:financial.aid@cei.edu)

1600 S. 25<sup>th</sup> E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404

First Name	Last Name	Student ID	Last 4 SSN	Phone Number
			XXX-XX-	

The US Department of Education states the family has the primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and consent to be considered for financial aid. Regulations allow financial aid administrators to use professional judgments in cases where unusual circumstances prevent a student from being able to provide parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), commonly referred to as a dependency override or appeal.

We provide an appeal process for dependent students with unusual circumstances, which may result in being considered for independent status. Dependency overrides are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, all documentation will be kept confidential. All decisions made by the College of Eastern Idaho Financial Aid Office are FINAL.

**Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing.** We reserve the right to delay review of any appeal where reasonable projections cannot be made.

The following are <b>examples</b> of some unusual circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You left home due to an abusive or threatening environment</li> <li>➤ Parental abandonment or estrangement</li> <li>➤ You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted)</li> <li>➤ Your parents are deceased; or incarcerated</li> <li>➤ Human trafficking, refugee or asylum status</li> </ul>	The following <b>DO NOT</b> qualify as unusual circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Parents refusing to contribute to your education</li> <li>➤ Parents will not provide information for the FAFSA or verification</li> <li>➤ Parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes</li> <li>➤ Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency</li> <li>➤ You do not live with your parents and/or you and your parents are having a disagreement.</li> </ul>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### Section 1: Provide the following information and documents to support your appeal:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Provide a statement of explanation:</b> Complete Section 2a and 2b; <i>or</i> attach a signed letter of explanation. Describe your unusual circumstance and why you believe you should be considered for independent status.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify the location of both of your parents and when you last had contact with them (when, where and nature of contact). Describe why you cannot obtain information and/or support from your parents. Describe how you have been self-supporting with applicable dates.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Provide supporting documentation:</b> Attach documentation to support your circumstance. Documents may include, but are not limited to: Document confirming a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated. Court order, official federal or state documents, police reports, other related documentation. Provide any relevant documentation that explains or supports your circumstance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unable to provide documentation:</b> Third-party documentation is acceptable. Provide <b>two signed statements</b> from two responsible adults who have knowledge of your situation and who can verify your circumstances. <i>Statements can be from "officials" or community leaders who are in a position to know about your circumstance (e.g. clergy, counselors, teachers, landlords, employer, social workers, doctors, supervisor, employer, lawyers, law enforcement, etc.)</i> <b>Statements must include:</b> name, address, phone number, job title, relationship to you, and how they are aware of your situation. <b>Statements must be signed and written on agency/business letterhead or be notarized.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	You are required to file a <b>2026-2027 FAFSA</b> (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) before submitting this form to the Financial Aid Office. <b>Please complete the FAFSA at: <a href="https://studentaid.gov/">https://studentaid.gov/</a>.</b>

<b>Financial Aid Office Use Only</b>		Received By:	Date Received:	Documents Received: <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	Current SAI:      New SAI:      Processed By:      Date:
CPS Correction: <input type="checkbox"/>			Awarded <input type="checkbox"/>	Date:      Email notification <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				

