



2025-2026
Dependency Override Appeal

9

Student's Name

Student's MSU Net ID

MSU ID (9 digit)

Under Federal law your family is primarily responsible for paying for your college expenses. In **very** limited situations Federal law may allow us to consider a dependent student as independent (for financial aid purposes) when unusual conditions exist. Please note: ****Appeals CANNOT be processed until we receive ALL requested documents.**

Examples of unusual conditions where you may be unable to provide parental data include:

- Your parents are incarcerated; or
- You have left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- You do not know your parents' location, are unable to contact them, and you are not adopted.

Not all situations are considered unusual. The following would not be considered valid situations:

- You do not live with your parents, or you are self-sufficient; or
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- Your parents are unwilling to provide information on your FAFSA (or for verification purposes); or
- Your parents do not claim you (the student) as an exemption on their income taxes.

****Verification of your FAFSA information must be completed before adjustments can be made. Regularly check your Eligibility Requirements on your MSU myState and your MSU email address to see documents requested and/or if you need to submit additional documentation. Your appeal will be DELAYED if ALL documents requested are not submitted to our office.**

For NEW Appeals, provide documentation as listed in Section A and Section B, and sign this form.

For PRIOR Appeals, provide documentation as listed in Section A and Section C, and sign this form.

Section A – REQUIRED for NEW and PRIOR Dependency Override Appeals:

1. 2025-26 MSU Dependency Override Form	Download and complete requested 2025-26 forms at https://www.sfa.msstate.edu/forms/ Forms must be <u>completed and SIGNED</u> .
2. 2025-26 MSU Family Size Verification Form	
3. Student <u>SIGNED</u> statement	Detail your appeal reason. Include specific details and dates situation occurred. Must address both parents.
4. 2023 <u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u> provide as listed below (Tax Filers 4a; Nontax Filers 4b):	
4a. <u>Tax Filers:</u> You DID or WILL File <u>2023</u> federal taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of all Schedules filed (1, 2, 3, A, C, D, K-1) <u>AND</u> • <u>Signed</u> 2023 IRS Federal 1040 Tax Return: OR • Request 2023 Federal Tax Return Transcript online at: https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript OR call 1-800-908-9946
4b. <u>Nontax Filers:</u> You did <u>NOT</u> file 2023 federal taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Signed</u> 2025-26 MSU Independent Student Nontax Filer Form; <u>AND</u> • Copies of all 2023 W-2 Forms and/or 1099 Forms

Section B – Also REQUIRED for <u>NEW</u> appeals:	
A. Professional References	<p>Minimum of two detailed letters (professional and/or personal):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed, dated, and listed on agency letterhead. • Law enforcement, guidance counselor, social worker, clergy, teacher, etc.
B. Personal References (cannot be a family member):	<p>Minimum of two detailed letters (professional and/or personal):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed, dated, and NOTARIZED by a Notary Public. • MUST explain how they know you. • MUST explain how long they have known you. • MUST explain how they know about your situation.
C. <u>Death</u> of one parent or custodial parent, and no contact with non-custodial parent.	<p>If appeal is due to death – Also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of student’s birth certificate. • Copy of parent’s death certificate or full obituary.
D. You no longer live with your parent(s) due to an <u>unsafe home environment</u> (i.e. physical abuse, emotional abuse, alcohol or drug abuse).	<p>If appeal is due to unsafe home environment – Also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of any court record(s). • Copy of any police report(s). • Copy of any documentation pertaining to situation listed.
E. You no longer live with your parent(s) due to <u>abandonment, incarceration, estrangement</u> or <u>mental incapacity</u>	<p>If appeal is due to abandonment, etc. in E. – Also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of any court record(s). • Copy of any police report(s). • Copy of any incarceration record. • Copy of any documentation pertaining to situation listed.

Section C – Also REQUIRED for PRIOR Appeals (to update):

- 5.** Student **signed** statement **updating** us on the nature of your situation for which we approved the appeal
- a. Indicate the **current status as of today** – (situation is unchanged, reconciliation has occurred, etc.)
 - b. You cannot use a previous student statement.

Certification Statement: (SIGNATURE MUST BE HANDWRITTEN; electronic signature or initials are not acceptable).

By signing this form, I certify that I have provided complete and accurate information to the best of my knowledge.

Warning: Purposely giving false or misleading information may result in a fine, imprisonment, or both.

Student’s Signature _____

Date _____