



Scholarships and
Financial Aid

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Knight Hall, Room 174

1000 E University Ave, Dept 3335, Laramie, WY 82071

Fax: (307) 766-3800 • **Phone:** (307) 766-2116

Email: finaid@uwyo.edu • **Website:** www.uwyo.edu/sfa

[OSFA's Secure File Upload website](#) • [UW's website](#)

2025-2026 Unusual Circumstance Appeal Form

Section 1: Student Information

Student Name:		W#:	
Email Address:		Phone:	

Section 2: Circumstance for Appeal and Applicable Documentation

Circumstance	Required Documentation - Check all you are providing
Family Structure Breakdown: Includes physical/emotional abuse, substance abuse, abandonment, or neglect.	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter from you explaining the situation <input type="checkbox"/> Court documents <input type="checkbox"/> Letter (on official letterhead) from a clergy member, social worker, psychologist, high school counselor, teacher, doctor, or other professional agency <input type="checkbox"/> Police report, if applicable
Custodial Parent Deceased with No Contact with Living Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter from you explaining the situation <input type="checkbox"/> Death certificate of the deceased custodial parent <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of custodial relationships (e.g., court documents, divorce decree, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter (on official letterhead) supporting the claim of no contact with, or financial support from, the living parent
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth or At Risk of Homelessness (read details on next page)	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter from you explaining your situation <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting documentation, such as a McKinney/Vento letter or a letter (on official letterhead) from a professional agency (e.g., homeless shelter, social worker, or school counselor)
Other Circumstances Not Listed Above	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter from you explaining your situation and requesting a change from dependent to independent status <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting documentation detailing your situation

Section 3: Signature and Certification

Each person signing below certifies that all information reported is complete and accurate. The student, and their FAFSA contributor(s) (if applicable) whose information was reported on the FAFSA, must sign and date. Typed signatures are not accepted.

Warning: If you purposefully give false or misleading information on this form, you may be fined, sent to prison, or both.

Student's Signature	Date (mm/dd/yy)
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Please return completed form via Secure File Upload: www.uwyo.edu/sfa/forms/upload.html



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Unusual Circumstance Appeal Information

The Unusual Circumstance Appeal allows students to request a review of their dependency status on the FAFSA when they face specific, extraordinary situations that prevent them from providing parental information. This appeal is designed for cases where a student's relationship with their parents has been disrupted due to circumstances such as:

- **Abuse:** Physical, emotional, or substance abuse that makes it unsafe for the student to rely on parental support.
- **Parental Absence:** A parent's death or abandonment, where there has been no contact or financial support from the remaining parent.
- **Homelessness:** Students who are unaccompanied and homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.*
- **Other Special Circumstances:** Situations not listed above but that provide significant barriers to the student obtaining parental support or information.

**Before submitting an appeal, you are strongly encouraged to meet with Christina Millemon, the TRIO liaison for the University of Wyoming, to discuss your situation and determine if you qualify for an official designation. If you receive documentation from Christina, you may need to submit this appeal. You can schedule a meeting by emailing cirion@uwyo.edu.*

Students must provide a detailed explanation of their situation and submit supporting documentation. The appeal is reviewed by the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid, but approval is not guaranteed. Situations such as proving self-sufficiency or living independently alone do not qualify for a dependency override.

If your parent(s) refuse to provide financial information or consent to include their information on your FAFSA, you may still be eligible for unsubsidized federal loans. To be considered, you must submit the **2025-2026 FAFSA Submitted Without Parent Information/Parent Refusal** form, which requires a parent to certify the reason for refusal. Please note this process is separate from an **Unusual Circumstance Appeal**, which applies to students experiencing extraordinary situations such as abuse, abandonment, or homelessness. Carefully review your options to determine which best applies to your situation.

Your appeal will be reviewed based on the documentation submitted, and the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid will notify you of the results. Please note that proving self-sufficiency or living independently are not sufficient reasons for changing your dependency status and cannot be considered as appealable circumstances. Completing this form and providing documentation does not guarantee that a change will be made.

Important Notice on Mandatory Reporting

The University of Wyoming is committed to maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all students, employees, and visitors. As mandatory reporters, we are required to report any disclosures of sexual misconduct, discrimination, or other harmful acts to the Title VI, VII, and IX Coordinator. If your explanation discloses such behavior, it will be appropriately reported and addressed in accordance with university policies. The University strictly prohibits discrimination, sexual harassment, and workplace violence, as outlined in UW Regulations 4-2 (Discrimination and Harassment) and 4-3 (Title IX and Sexual Misconduct). Individuals experiencing or aware of such behavior are encouraged to contact Equal Opportunity Report and Response (EORR) at report-it@uwyo.edu or (307) 766-5200. Your concerns will be handled with care and appropriate attention.