

# 2024-25 Unusual Circumstance Appeal

Financial Aid Office  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way | Vancouver, WA 98663-3598  
(360) 992-2153 | FAX (360) 992-2864 | [finaidmail@clark.edu](mailto:finaidmail@clark.edu)

ctcLink	Date of Birth	
Last	First	Middle

Students under the age of 24 are generally considered dependent students for financial aid purposes and are required to provide parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

Dependent students who are unable to provide parental information due to unusual circumstances may submit a Student Status Appeal to the Financial Aid Office at Clark College. If approved, a dependent student would be considered independent for financial aid purposes and therefore, exempt from providing parental information on their aid application. This is known as a “dependency override”.

Students may qualify for a dependency override if they are estranged from their parents due to:
An abusive family environment that threatens the student’s health or safety
Parental incarceration
Parental abandonment
Other unusual circumstances beyond the student’s control

The following conditions do NOT qualify as unusual circumstances and cannot be considered:
Parent refuses to contribute to your education
Parent is unwilling to provide information on aid application
Student lives separate from parents and is self-supporting
Student is not claimed by parent for income tax purposes

If you believe your circumstances warrant a dependency override, submit the Student Status Appeal, along with your personal statement, and supporting documentation for review. If you have already completed an appeal in a prior year, this form is all that is required.

Appeals are considered on a case-by-case basis. The submission of an initial appeal or affirmation does not guarantee approval. All information submitted is strictly confidential.

**\*\*If you have determined that your circumstances do not allow for a dependency override, you must provide parental information on your aid application.**

**If you have submitted your FAFSA, you will need to return to the FAFSA website and correct your application to include parent information including submission of the requisite signatures for student and parent.**

Were you previously approved for a dependency override by the Financial Aid Office at Clark College?

☐ YES Nothing further is required.

☐ NO Attach the Following:

1. A dated and signed personal statement telling us about the nature of your relationship with each of your parents and the details around your estrangement from them.
2. A dated and signed supporting statement from a third-party professional who has knowledge of your relationship with each of your parents. It must be signed and dated and should be on official letterhead. If letterhead is not obtainable, the person's name, title, phone number, business/organization name and address must be included on the statement. Examples of third party professionals include social workers, medical health professionals, members of the clergy, school guidance counselors, coaches, or teachers.
3. A dated and signed statement in support of your appeal from someone who has first-hand knowledge of your situation and your relationship with your parents. Examples include an adult relative or neighbor, parent, or friend, employer, or supervisor.

**ATTACH YOUR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS STUDENT STATUS APPEAL COVER SHEET AND SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTATION TOGETHER.**

- › You will receive official notification of approval or denial via your preferred email account in ctcLink.
- › Failure to submit all required documentation will result in a denial.
- › Decisions are final and cannot be appealed further unless additional supporting documentation is submitted for consideration.

### Certification and Signature:

**STUDENT CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE:** By submitting this form, I certify that all of the information reported on it is true and correct. I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information on this form, I may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both.

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_



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