



## Dependency Override 2026-2027

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student's SFSC ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously had an approved Dependency Override at SFSC? ☐ No ☐ Yes

### Written Explanation and Documentation

Attach a typed letter with your signature following the requirements stated below. Your letter should be specific to your situation and the documentation you submit must be relevant and should support your circumstance.

Personal Letter	Supporting Documentation
<p><b>Statement</b> Why are you writing this letter?</p> <p><b>Parental Information</b> Why you cannot provide parental financial information on the 2026-2027 FAFSA?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is the location of each biological/legal parent including their current living arrangements?</li><li>2. What was the last contact you had with each biological/legal parent?</li><li>3. What is the frequency of contact with each biological/legal parent over the past five (5) years?</li></ol> <p><b>Living Arrangements</b> What were your living arrangements over the past five (5) years?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How have you been supported?</li><li>2. Where and with whom have you lived?</li></ol> <p><b>Signature</b> Without an original signature, this cannot be processed.</p>	<p><b>Notarized Letters</b> Have two individuals provide as much detail as possible describing what they know of your separation from your parents due to their involvement in your circumstances. They cannot be related to each other AND must reside at separate addresses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The first letter should be from a professional individual (counselor, social worker, clergy, police, etc.)</li><li>2. The second letter can be from either a professional or nonprofessional individual. (Friend, family member)</li><li>3. Each letter must include the individual's name, title or position, phone number, and address and <b>must be notarized</b>.</li></ol> <p><b>Documentation</b> Must be a third party and relevant to your letter. Examples include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Death/Birth certificate</li><li>2. Medical records or bills</li><li>3. Police Records</li><li>4. Court Documents</li></ol>

### Student Certification

The person signing below certifies that all of the information reported is complete and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Dependency Override Information

The Department of Education determines a student's status as dependent or independent by the answers the student provides on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The following information covers the procedure that is applied to determine a student's eligibility for a "Dependency Override". A Financial Aid Administrator will review the student's appeal by examining the supporting documentation provided by the student, and based on their professional judgment, will either approve or deny the student's request. The student will be notified in writing of the decision.

## Criteria for Independence

If a student does not meet the criteria below, a Dependency Override must be approved to be considered an independent student.

1. Is 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year
2. Is an orphan or ward of the court or was a ward of the court until the individual reached the age of 18
3. Is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States
4. Is a graduate or professional student
5. Is a married individual
6. Has legal dependents other than a spouse

## Considered Circumstances

The following are some examples of conditions that could warrant a Dependency Override:

1. Homelessness or at Risk of Homelessness
2. Parental drug use
3. Parental medical incapacity
4. Physical or emotional abuse
5. Severe estrangement from parents
6. Parental incarceration

## Circumstances NOT Considered

By federal law, the following conditions DO NOT warrant a Dependency Override:

1. Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification
2. Parents do not claim the student as dependent for income tax purposes
3. Parents unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
4. Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
5. Students reluctant to request income information from parents
6. Student does not wish to communicate with parents

## Notes

- Students submitting a Dependency Override must have a 2026-2027 FAFSA on file.
- Dependency Override decisions made by the SFSC Financial Aid Office are final and are not appealable.
- SFSC does not accept Dependency Overrides from other institutions.

**Please submit all documents to SFSC Financial Aid Office**  
600 West College Drive, Building B, Avon Park, FL 33825  
**OR** E-mail: [FinaAid@southflorida.edu](mailto:FinaAid@southflorida.edu)