



2025-2026 UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES:
APPEAL FOR DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE



INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

If you feel you should be considered independent after answering "no" to all questions regarding your dependency status on the FAFSA, you may request a review of your circumstances. Complete this form and submit it to the Financial Aid Office along with all requested supporting documentation. Circumstances are reviewed per award year. We must have a complete, valid FAFSA on file before we can review unusual circumstances and re-evaluate your student financial aid package.

Important: Unaccompanied Homeless (or Self-Supporting and at Risk of Being Homeless) Youth Determination

- If you are 21 years of age or younger, please review the dependency status questions on the FAFSA regarding an unaccompanied homeless (or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless) youth determination. If appropriate, make a correction to one of them.
- If you are: 1) 21 years of age or younger and do not have and cannot get documentation showing the determination, or 2) 22 or 23 years of age, and 3) feel you meet the qualifications of an unaccompanied homeless (or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless) youth determination, please complete the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination form.

Student Identification

_____ M.I. _____
First Name Last Name () -

_____ OR _____
Student ID Last 4 Digits of SSN Phone Number

Valid Circumstances: Indiana Wesleyan University considers the following as valid reasons for granting a dependency override. Please check the box next to the reason and basis for this appeal.

- You fled an abusive (physical or emotional) or threatening family environment, were abandoned by or estranged from your parents, or otherwise are unable to contact or locate your parents
- You are a victim of human trafficking, you have a refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country
- You are incarcerated, or your parents are incarcerated or mentally incapacitated and contact with your parents would pose a risk to you

Please note that the following are **NOT** valid reasons for granting an override.

- Your parents refuse to contribute to your education or are unwilling to provide information for FAFSA or verification
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- You demonstrate total self-sufficiency and/or are unwilling to seek financial assistance from your parents

Requested Documentation: Please submit three (3) letters detailing your circumstances. These letters should provide enough detailed information for our office to make an informed determination of your circumstance. If possible, please include contact information for the individuals writing the letters.

- o A letter from you, the student, detailing your situation
- o A letter from a professional adult (pastor, guidance counselor, social worker, etc.)
- o A letter from another adult (family member or friend) that knows and understands the situation

Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you cannot provide the requested documentation. We understand that your situation is personal. We hold your information in the highest confidentiality. Only authorized financial aid personnel or others deemed necessary by law have access to your information.

Certification and Signature: I certify the information provided is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that changes made to my student financial aid eligibility based upon the information provided may affect only the student financial aid received at Indiana Wesleyan University for the 2025-2026 award year.

Student Signature* Date

* Must be an actual "wet" signature. A digital signature or typed font signature is not acceptable. This form may be completed and "wet" signed via a tablet or smartphone with PDF signing capability using a stylus pen. You may need to download an app to access this feature.

IMPORTANT: *Indiana Wesleyan University's Financial Aid Office will honor unusual circumstances documentation submissions made no later than two weeks prior to when the student ceases attendance for the applicable award year. We cannot guarantee a review of submissions made after this date and no consideration will be given to submissions made after the student ceases to attend.*

Mail, fax, email, or deliver the completed worksheet to the Financial Aid Office using the contact information listed below.

EMAILED FORMS MUST BE SENT FROM THE IWU STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNT