

Contact Financial Aid Next Steps

On your FAFSA application you indicated that you have a special situation that is preventing you from providing your parents information that would otherwise be required. We have outlined the potential next steps for your FAFSA application based on these different situations below:

No Parent Information Only Requesting Unsubsidized Aid

If on your FAFSA you indicated that you do not have a special circumstance but also will not be providing your parents information then the only federal financial aid that you are eligible for are unsubsidized student loans. If this is incorrect and you would like to be considered for other types of federal financial aid then you will need to log back onto your FAFSA at fafsa.gov and provide your parents information. If you would like to move forward with requesting your unsubsidized student aid you will need to contact our office for your next steps.

Unusual Circumstances

Some situations that would qualify you to receive federal student aid without providing parent information include the following:

- You have left home due to an abusive or threatening family environment.
- Your parent(s) would pose a risk to you if you contact them.
- You are unable to contact your parent(s) (and you have not been adopted) because they cannot or refuse to communicate with you, or you do not know where they are.
- You are estranged from, or have been abandoned by, your parent(s) and they refuse to provide information on the FAFSA form.
- You or your parent(s) are incarcerated.
- You have been legally granted refugee or asylum status, or your parent(s) have been internally displaced in a foreign country and you are unable to contact them.
- You are a victim of human trafficking.

However, not all situations are considered a special circumstance. For example, the following situations would **not** be considered as a special circumstance on their own without other factors:

- You do not live with your parent(s).
- Your parent(s) does not want to provide you with financial support.
- Your parent(s) doesn't want to contribute to your college expenses.
- Your parent(s) doesn't claim you as a dependent on their income tax return.
- Your parent(s) does not want to provide their information on your FAFSA® form.

If you feel that you meet one of the above eligible circumstances then you may be eligible to complete a Dependency Override Appeal. To start the appeal process, please reach out to our office. Once we have received your completed appeal form and documentation we will notify you of the appeal decision within 2 weeks of submission.

If you think that you do not meet one of the special circumstances and would need to provide parental information then you can do so by logging back onto your FAFSA application and clicking make FAFSA corrections.

Homeless Youth Determination

If on your FAFSA application you indicated that you are homeless or at risk of being homeless and answered none of the above when presented with the specific homelessness questions then additional steps are required. To resolve this issue, you will need to meet with one of our financial aid administrators to determine if you meet both of the following conditions:

- **You are homeless**, or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. Homeless means you are lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would otherwise provide a place to live.
- **You are unaccompanied**, which means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent(s) or guardian(s).

Contact Information

If you would like to move forward with any of these situations please call us at either 269-783-2143 or email us at finaid@swmich.edu.