

A Unusual Circumstance occurs when a Financial Aid administrator overrides the requirement for parent information due to extreme circumstances, such as documented abuse or abandonment by the parent. A Unusual Circumstance at GTCC is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the situation, the supporting documentation provided, and whether the situation is reason enough for a student to be considered independent rather than dependent. Unusual Circumstance applications must be approved each academic year.

Your biological/adoptive parents are considered your parents. Grandparents, foster parents, and legal guardians are not considered parents unless they have legally adopted you. If a person has adopted you, they are your legal parent. Questions about parents then refer to the adoptive parent(s).

None of the conditions below, separately or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances or merit a Unusual Circumstance:

- Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA or during the Verification process.
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Parents refuse to contribute to a student's education (i.e. pay tuition/fees, room/board, or books and supplies).
- A dependent student who demonstrates self-sufficiency (i.e. has a job, does not live at home, etc.).
- A student who does not wish to communicate with parents.
- A student previously considered independent for financial aid purposes, but who is not meeting the 2024-2025 FAFSA definition.



Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Dependency Override Reason and Document Requirements

<input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment at an early age and no ongoing contact with biological or adoptive parents → Submit legal and/or court documents that support claims of abandonment	1. A copy of your birth certificate. 2. A detailed explanation of your situation and how you supported yourself during the past year (page 3). 3. A statement from an adult relative or family friend who has first-hand knowledge of the history and current status of your situation. They must be able to verify your circumstances. Use the included (page 4) or submit a separate notarized statement. 4. A supporting statement on letterhead, notarized, or on the included _____ from a high school counselor, social worker, clergy, psychologist, psychiatrist, or other third party. 5. A copy of your W2(s) from 2022, if you worked (even if you didn't file taxes).
<input type="checkbox"/> Abusive home environment (physical and/or emotional abuse) → Submit legal and/or court documents that support claims of abuse	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents reside outside the United States and can't be contacted by normal communications (i.e. mail, phone, e-mail. Other electronic communications, etc.) → Submit documentation from the governmental source that communication within the area of parental location is unavailable, or... → Submit other documents showing your parents can't provide information	

Please answer the following questions:

Yes No Years: _____

A. Lived with: Mother ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ Father ____ / ____ to ____ / ____
Month Year Month Year Month Year Month Year

B. Had contact with: Mother ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ Father ____ / ____ to ____ / ____
Month Year Month Year Month Year Month Year

Mother: _____

Father: _____

4. Name: _____ Relationship: _____

