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**Contact Us:**

**P: (434) 544-8228**

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[www.lynchburg.edu](http://www.lynchburg.edu)

**1501 Lakeside Drive**

**Lynchburg Va 24501**

**2022-23 Student Request for Independent Status (Dependency Override)**

Student’s Name Date of Birth

If you were unable to answer “Yes” to any of the dependency questions in Step Three on the FAFSA, in most cases your financial aid eligibility must be determined using parent income and asset information. In extraordinary and documented cases, the Office of Financial Aid has the authority to override a student’s dependency status to make a student independent for the purpose of applying for federal financial aid.

Federal law allows a student to be reclassified to independent status ONLY in cases with unusual circumstances such as the ***involuntary***dissolution of the family due an abusive home environment that threatens the student’s health or safety, death, imprisonment, abandonment, or the student being unable to locate his/her parents. Neither a parent’s unwillingness to provide the information or inability to help support the student are acceptable reasons for an appeal. Students whose parents permanently live outside of the US who are *unable to* provide FAFSA information because of civil unrest or lack of communication by normal means may be, at the discretion of the Office of Financial Aid and with proper documentation, be considered for a dependency override.

Even if you were eligible for a dependency override in a previous academic year, you may not qualify for an override in the future. Students must affirm each year that the unusual circumstances persist, and an override is still justified.

If you feel you should be considered as an independent student for financial aid purposes at Lynchburg University because of unusual or extenuating circumstances, you must:

1. Give a detailed explanation of your situation on the lines below:

When did you last live with your parents? Month Year

When did you last receive financial support from your parents? Month Year

1. Provide the Office of Financial Aid with **two** Third-Party Statements (use the forms provided). A third party must be an adult who knows the student’s home situation. Choose a teacher, counselor, medical authority, member of the clergy, attorney, social worker, mental health professional, law enforcement, or an adult with whom you have lived during the past year. If you have evidence, such as a court order, please provide a copy with your Request statement.

**Student Certification**: I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct. I have attached appropriate supporting documents that might help in determining what my dependency status should be as required by the US Department of Education. I understand that by exercising professional judgment, the Office of Financial Aid may deny this request. Decisions made by the Office of Financial Aid are final and cannot be appealed. I understand I will be informed of the decision in writing.

Student Signature Date:

**Return this Statement & Requested Items to the University of Lynchburg Office of Financial Aid**

Use the secure link at <https://www.lynchburg.edu/undergraduate-admission/financial-aid/forms-and-publications/>