

Unusual Circumstance (Dependency Status) Appeal 2025-2026

Lakeland ID Number (LID)

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Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Under federal guidelines, most undergraduate students are considered dependent on their parents until age 24 and must include parent financial information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate financial aid eligibility. However, a student may have extenuating circumstances that require consideration for independent status.

Extenuating circumstances could include such situations as **estrangement, abuse, abandonment**, or other **irreconcilable differences** within the family. If you feel your situation meets one of these criteria, we encourage you to submit this dependency status appeal form. *Extenuating circumstances do not include any of the following situations: self-sufficiency, parent(s) refusal to complete the FAFSA or provide required documents, student's refusal to request information from parent(s), student is not claimed as an exemption by parent(s) for federal income tax purposes, or parent(s) refusal or inability to provide financial support for college expenses.*

In addition to this form, the following items are required for this appeal:

A. Letters of Explanation/Support.

First-time request for a dependency status appeal:

1. A **signed, detailed** letter from you, the student, explaining the extenuating circumstances, including your relationship with either your **biological** or **adoptive parents**. Please also include an explanation of where you expect to receive your financial support for the 2025-2026 academic year.
2. A **separate** letter from an independent, third-party source (ex. judge, government official, case worker, clergy, medical authority, high school counselor) who can attest first-hand to your circumstances. This letter must include as much detail about the situation as possible.

Request for renewal for previously approved dependency status appeal:

1. A **new, signed** statement indicating your current relationship status with your **biological** or **adoptive parents**.

B. Financial Documentation. All documentation is required before your request can be reviewed.

1. A completed 2025-2026 FAFSA, if applicable.
2. Your 2023 Federal Tax Return (signed 1040 form), Tax Return Transcript (free from the IRS) or successful use of the IRS Direct Data Exchange (via FAFSA application).
3. If you did not file a 2023 Federal Tax Return, **submit copies of your 2023 W-2(s)**. Please note: you may be asked to submit additional verification of your non-tax filing status.
4. If you did not work/are not working, provide a statement about how you are supported and by whom your expenses are paid. Additionally, include a statement that you did/were not required to file a tax return in 2023.

C. Other People

Are you providing/will you provide more than 50% of your support for anyone else from 7/1/25-6/30/26?

If yes, indicate name(s), age(s), and relationship(s) to you: _____

If no, check this box: ☐

D. Statement of Certification

I certify that all the information reported is complete and accurate. Warning: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this form, you may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both. **Electronic signatures will not be accepted.**

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Complete this appeal and return:*

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| By Fax: | 440.525.7704 | | | |
| By Mail: | Lakeland Community College | • | 7700 Clocktower Drive | • Kirtland, OH 44094-5198 |
| By Secure Upload: | Visit lakelandcc.edu/financialaid | • | Under RelatedLINKS (right side of page), select Financial Aid Documents Secure Upload link (myLakeland login credentials required) | |
| In Person: | Lakeland Student Service Center | • | located in Building A-1003 | |

**Please do not send documents through email as it is not secure.*

Revised 04/23/2025