

Professional Judgment and Dependency Override Policy

Professional Judgments are made on an individual case-by-case basis for students who demonstrate special circumstances. Special circumstances are conditions that differentiate an individual student from a class of students rather than conditions that exist across a class of students. Students requesting professional judgment must provide documentation of special circumstances. Documentation can be submitted through forms found on RBC's Virtual Financial Aid Office website. No student or parent shall be charged a fee for collecting, processing or delivering such supplementary information.

A Dependency Override is used to make a dependent student an independent student. Students requesting dependency override must provide documentation. Documentation can be submitted through forms found on RBC's Virtual Financial Aid Office website. No student shall be charged a fee for collecting, processing or delivering such supplementary information.

A dependency override may be made in the following situations:

1. Unusual Circumstances exist within your family that prevent you from obtaining your parent's financial information, such as:
 - Incarceration of the custodial parent
 - Abandonment by both parents
 - Unable to locate parents
 - History of parental alcohol or drug abuse
 - Abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being
 - Students who are refugees from war-torn or turbulent countries

NOTE: Parental refusal to provide information on the FAFSA does not warrant a Dependency Override.

2. Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and severe circumstances exist with the surviving parent.
3. You, the student, are divorced and during the time you were married, maintained a separate residence from your parents and your former spouse's parents. Also, you now maintain a separate residence from your parents and pay all expenses from your own income and assets.