

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 third-party Financial Aid Services 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 third-party Financial Aid Services 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.