

Date Received

Date Scanned

Name: _____ ID#: _____ DOB: _____

**Pierpont Community & Technical College
2025-2026 Unusual Circumstances Request and
Instructions for Third Party Documentation**

In extraordinary and documented cases, the financial aid office has the authority to use professional judgment to override a student's dependency status in order to make a student independent for the purpose of applying for financial aid. A student must be unable to obtain his/her parents' information because of extenuating circumstances.

Unusual circumstances do include:

- Human trafficking, as described in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status.
- Parental abandonment or estrangement; or
- Student or parental incarceration.

Unusual circumstances do not include:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
- Parents will not provide information for the FAFSA or verification.
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

The information stated in the Unusual Circumstances Request must be verified by a third party who is aware of your home situation and can verify the information you have provided. Examples of such persons include, but are not limited to: employer, clergy, social worker, attorney, court official, teacher, counselor, psychiatrist, psychologist, medical professional, law enforcement agent, immediate family member, etc.

Instructions for third party references:

Third party references must submit separate signed and dated statements, preferably on letterheads. Please include any information of which you have firsthand knowledge and that you feel best describes the student's situation. The following is a list of information that **MUST** be included in your letter:

1. How long have you known the student?
2. Your relationship to the student.
3. When was the last time the student lived with and/or received financial support from his/her parents?
4. Any knowledge of his/her relationship with his/her parents, and parents' whereabouts.
5. The steps that the student has taken to establish their independence from his/her parents.

Please make sure to include your professional title, name and type of business, business address, telephone number and where to contact you should any additional information be required. Please see examples of acceptable supporting documentation listed below:

- **Death of Parent**
 - Copy of death certificate or obituary
 - If student and parent have different last names, provide a copy of student's birth certificate
- **Parent is in Jail**
 - Statement from facility or courthouse indicating jail sentence and expected release date
- **Parent(s) Whereabouts are Unknown.**
 - Third party references must specify that parents' whereabouts are not known

2025-2026 Unusual Circumstances Request

Three (3) Third Party References must be attached to this form

***MUST COMPLETE ALL ITEMS – DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEM BLANK**

Student Demographics:

Name: _____

DOB: _____ SSN: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Student's Income Information: Current Year Total Income: \$_____ 2023 Total Income: \$_____

Attach: Your 2023 Federal Income Tax Return or IRS Tax Return Transcript and your W-2's.

(Include all sources of income: wages, untaxed income, interest income, etc.)

Student's Present Living Arrangements:

Whom do you live with? Name: _____ Relationship: _____

If you live with another family, please indicate money received for living expenses:
\$ _____/month

Monthly rent and utilities: Number of years/months at current residence:
\$ _____ Years _____ Months

How do you support yourself and meet expenses? If your income is insufficient, explain how you support yourself (roommates, someone else is supporting you, etc.).

Parent(s) Information: (If deceased or unknown, please on name line.)

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Dependency History:

When did you last live with your parents(s)? _____

When did your parents(s) last provide any monetary support for you? _____

When was the last time you had contact with your parents(s)? _____

COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THE FORM AND SUBMIT IT TO THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS WITH THE THIRD-PARTY DOCUMENTATION LETTERS

Explain the circumstances and history behind your home situation, why you no longer live with your parents, and why they no longer support you. Circumstances for **both** parents must be mentioned unless you have only lived with and been supported by one parent. (If parent(s) is deceased, a Death Certificate/Obituary Notice must be attached.)

STUDENT CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct. I also understand that it will be used to override federal regulations regarding my dependency status.

I fully understand that to falsify any information on this form in order to receive Federal Title IV funds is a federal offense and is punishable by law with a \$20,000 fine and/or imprisonment or both.

I understand that if my situation changes in any way, if I move back with my parents or receive any kind of support from them, that I must report this information to the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office.

I understand that by signing this form, I authorize the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office of Pierpont C&TC to contact my third-party reference and verify any of the information supplied on this form.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved/Denied: _____ New EFC: _____ Date Corrected: _____

Comments: _____

FAA Signature: _____ Date: _____