

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE PETITION TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID AS AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT**

When you completed and submitted your 2025-2026 Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) your answers to the dependency status questions identified you as a dependent student. This means you were required to provide parental information. You indicated that you have an unusual circumstance and were unable to provide parental information.

Federal law specifies that to the extent your family is able, they are primarily responsible for paying for your college expenses. To determine how much your family can afford to pay toward your college expenses, we must collect your financial information and your parents' financial information.

**However, Federal law allows for some exceptions, if you have an unusual circumstance.** The following are examples of some unusual circumstances where you may submit your FAFSA without providing parental information:

- ◆ Your parents are incarcerated; or
- ◆ You have left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- ◆ You have circumstances which have resulted in family estrangement; parental abandonment; or
- ◆ You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted); or
- ◆ You are a victim of human trafficking or legally granted a refugee or asylee status

**But not all situations are considered an unusual circumstance.** The following are situations that would not be considered an unusual circumstance:

- ◆ Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
- ◆ Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- ◆ Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
- ◆ You do not live with your parents.

**If you have an unusual circumstance that would allow you to submit your FAFSA without parental information, please complete and submit the attached form for a decision.**

The decision for you to be considered as an independent student for the purpose of awarding Federal Financial Aid is made on a case by case basis by a committee in the Office of Financial Aid. The decision of the Office of Financial Aid is final and cannot be appealed to Federal Student Aid.

**FORM INDPET - IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY  
PETITION to APPLY for FINANCIAL AID  
as an INDEPENDENT STUDENT**

25-26

**INDPET-26**

Financial Aid regulations state the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signature(s) to be considered for financial aid. Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances which result in family estrangement, students should not be considered as dependent. Return completed for with applicable attachments to:

**Office of Financial Aid, Idaho State University, Museum Building, Third Floor  
921 S 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Stop 8077, Pocatello, ID 83209-8077  
Phone: (208)282-2756 Fax: (208)282-4755 Email: [financialaid@isu.edu](mailto:financialaid@isu.edu)  
Scan and Upload: [isu.edu/financialaid/upload](https://isu.edu/financialaid/upload)**

\*Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Use blue or black ink) Last First M.I.

\*ISU ID: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Last 4 Digits of Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Find on [MyISU](https://myisu.edu))

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Required Street City St Zip

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer the items below and attach documentation as specified. **If you have not already submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA on the web using your information only** available on line at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Submit this completed petition with documentation to the ISU Office of Financial Aid (address above).

**Award year or time frame you are petitioning for:** \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. 2025-2026 Award Year)

Complete the following with as much *detailed* information as possible. **Attach additional pages if needed.**

1. Identify the location of both your parents.
2. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents - when, where and nature of contact.
3. Provide a statement written by you fully describing the unusual circumstances which prevent you from providing parental information.
4. Describe how you have been self-supporting: a) when did you start meeting your expenses without parental support; and b) how have you provided for yourself?
5. Provide written evidence from at least two responsible adults who can verify your situation. This written evidence may include court or law enforcement documents, letters from a clergy member, school counselor or social worker and/or any other relevant data that explains your situation.
6. I have attached hand-signed statements from the following persons (List: name, address, job title and relationship to you):  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION:** The person signing below certifies that all of the information reported is complete and correct.  
**WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined, sent to prison, or both.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Typed signature not accepted*