ALMA COLLEGE
614 West Superior Street
Alma, Michigan 48801-1599
Phone (989) 463-7347
Email finaid@alma.edu

2027 – 2028 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE REQUEST

A Dependency Override occurs when a financial aid counselor exercises professional judgment to override the standard dependency criteria based on extenuating family circumstances. A Dependency Override can only be done in cases in which the student can provide a compelling reason for excluding parental information on the FAFSA and can provide supporting documentation that demonstrates the nature of the student/parent relationship.

What situation could warrant a Dependency Override?

- A student's voluntary or involuntary removal from their parent's home due to an extreme situation that threatened the student's health or safety.
- Incapacity of parent(s) such as incarceration, mental/physical illness or the inability of the applicant to locate the parent(s).
- Death of custodial parent and no contact with other biological/legal parent.
- Other extenuating circumstances that can be sufficiently documented.

The following circumstances DO NOT warrant a dependency override:

- Parent(s) do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes or they don't file taxes even though they are legally required to.
- Parent(s) are unable or unwilling to contribute to your education.
- Parent(s) refuse to provide their information on the FAFSA, or, if needed, to complete the verification process.
- You're unwilling to ask your parent(s) to complete the FAFSA.
- You're completely self-sufficient (have a job, live on your own, pay your own bills, etc.).
- Supporting a boyfriend or girlfriend financially.
- Supporting a child of which you do not have legal custody.

To be considered for a Dependency Override, you must submit the following documentation:

- A signed personal statement from you, the student, explaining in detail the history of your relationship with your parents. Please include step-parents if they are relevant to the issue with your parent(s). Whenever, possible, please provide specific examples that led to the estrangement from your parents.
  - Include the last contact you had with each parent and the frequency of contact over the last year.
  - Explain why you cannot provide parental financial information on the FAFSA.

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  - Describe your living arrangements for the past 3 years, minimum, including with whom you resided and who provided you with support.
- Two letters of support from outside third parties who can attest to your situation.
  - Each letter must include the individual's name, how they know you, their phone number and signature.
  - The first letter must be from an individual not related to you, such as high school guidance counselor, clergy, teacher, coach, police officer, or agency official on letterhead.
  - The second letter may be from a friend, relative, neighbor or anyone with knowledge of your family situation.

If you have questions about the Dependency Override process, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@alma.edu or (989) 463-7347.

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THE ALMA COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
614 West Superior Street, Alma, Michigan 48801-1599
Telephone (989) 463-7347

→ UPLOAD YOUR DOCUMENTS TO ALMA COLLEGE: alma.edu/fadocupload

For Financial Aid Office Use Only:

Outcome: ☐Eligible for Dependency Override Corrections Entered CPS On-line _____
☐Not eligible for Dependency Override

Comments:

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_____

Financial Aid Authorization: _____ Date: _____