

2026-2027 CWRU Financial Aid Unusual Circumstances Appeal Form

At Case Western Reserve University, we understand that family situations can be complex. While federal law generally requires dependent students to provide parental information, we can perform a reevaluation for students facing unusual circumstances. Since the FAFSA and CSS Profile use slightly different evaluation methods, you may be considered "dependent" on one form and "independent" on the other. While each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, submission does not guarantee approval or a change in your financial aid offer.

Unusual Circumstance Examples and Exclusions

The following are examples of unusual circumstances:

1. Abandonment by your parents
2. An abusive family environment that threatens your health or safety
3. An inability to locate your parents

Per federal regulations, we cannot grant an appeal based solely on the following circumstances:

1. Parents refusal to contribute to your education or to provide the requested financial aid information
2. Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
3. Parents live in a different country, or you demonstrate total self-sufficiency.

Undergraduate Student Submission Process

To begin, you will need your CWRU network ID and passphrase to upload documents to our secure portal: <https://go.case.edu/register/FA-Eval-Unusual>. You must provide the following for your appeal to be reviewed.

1. Your Personal Statement

- a. Share your story with us. This statement explains the reasons for your request and can be provided in the following ways:
 - i. Written
 - ii. Verbally in person
 - iii. Video meeting

2. Supporting Documentation

- a. A statement from a professional who knows your situation (e.g., a teacher, counselor, medical professional, clergy member, or court official). It can be written or, in some cases, via phone.
- b. If a professional statement is unavailable, we can accept a signed statement from another family member as a last resort, along with documents such as paid bills or health insurance showing your separation from your parents.

Timeline and Next Steps

We aim to review your request as quickly as possible. Please keep the following timing in mind:

1. Ensure you have also submitted any outstanding verification documents requested in your My Financial Aid portal: <https://case.edu/financialaid/myfinancialaid>.
2. Reviews for recently admitted students begin in March. Reviews for current students begin in July.
3. Once all documents are in, a review usually takes about 2 weeks. We will email you if we need any further clarification.

If you have any questions or are unsure if your situation qualifies, please reach out. We are happy to talk you through the process. You can reach us at financialaid@case.edu or 216.368.4530.

2026-2027 CWRU Financial Aid Special Circumstances Appeal Form

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	SIS/PeopleSoft Student ID	Date of Birth
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A. Explanation of your unusual circumstance

Please use the space below to explain your circumstances and attach a separate page if needed. Upload your statement and supporting documents to our secure portal: <https://go.case.edu/register/FA-Eval-Unusual>. If you have any questions or are unsure if your situation qualifies, please reach out. We are happy to talk you through the process. You can reach us at financialaid@case.edu or 216.368.4530.

I affirm that the information provided on, and submitted with, this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Upon request, I will provide additional documentation to verify the information provided.

Student's Signature	Date
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