Unusual Circumstance Appeal

Student Name: _____

Last 3 Digits of Student ID: _____

Students may file this appeal to be classified as independent based on unusual circumstances which make obtaining your parent's information for the FAFSA impossible.

Circumstances that <u>do not</u> qualify for an unusual circumstance: parents refuse to contribute financially to your education, parents are unwilling to provide their information, you are financially independent from your parents, or your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their taxes.

Circumstances that may be considered for an appeal: incarcerated parents, abandonment, abuse, or neglect. Keep in mind that your parent(s) unwillingness and/or inability to support you financially, or you living on your own and paying your own bills, are NOT valid reasons that represent adverse family conditions.

STEP 1: PARENT INFORMATION

	Parent 1	Parent 2
When did you last have contact with this parent?		
When did you last live with this parent?		
What is the address of this parent?		

STEP 2: SOURCES OF INCOME

List your current source(s) of income, which could include support you received from family or friends during the previous calendar year. Support may include cash, housing, food, gifts, loans, college expenses, etc.

Source	Amount

STEP 3: PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT YOUR SITUATION

Attach the following documentation to this form:

1. A personal statement explaining your relationship with both biological and/or legally adoptive parents. Include:
    - Specific dates of events that caused your separation from your parents
    - Where you have lived since separating from your parents
2. Any other supporting documentation that relates to your situation, such as police reports, court reports, or documentation from a social agency.
3. Two letters of support:
    - One from a person in a position of authority who is familiar with your situation (i.e. therapists, school counselors, police officers, employers).
    - One from a personal source who is familiar with your situation.

STEP 4: CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided on this appeal and the additional documentation is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I swear or affirm that I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false or fraudulent documentation.

Student Signature:_____ Date: _____

STEP 5: EMAIL, MAIL, FAX, OR DROP-OFF FORM TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Email Form to finaid@mountunion.edu or
Mail Form to the Office of Student Financial Aid, 1972 Clark Ave, Alliance, OH 44601
Fax documents to (330) 829-2814

Please do not send any personally identifiable information via email (e.g. Social Security Numbers, dates of birth, etc.)

Once we review your FAFSA and the provided documents, we will then determine your dependency status. If approved, a correction will be made to your FAFSA to make you independent. Once the updated FAFSA reaches our office we will review it and send an updated offer letter. This process will take no longer than 60 days after receiving your complete documentation. Any student who is approved for an unusual circumstance will continue to be independent for each subsequent award year unless the student informs us that their circumstances have changed, or we have conflicting information about the student's independence. Students must still submit their FAFSA each year but should not need to take additional action to be considered an independent student in subsequent years.

Questions? Contact the Office of Student Financial Aid
(330) 823-2674 finaid@mountunion.edu