The basic premise of federal financial aid is that students and parents have the primary obligation to finance postsecondary education to the extent they are able. The University of Cincinnati Student Financial Aid Office supports this premise and the current federal dependency definition. It is our policy to override the federal determination of dependency with extreme caution and only when it is clearly demonstrated, and supported with third-party documents, that an otherwise dependent student’s parent(s) is no longer available to participate with the student in applying for federal assistance.

STEP 1: UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES
Explain, in detail on this form, the reasons why your parents are unavailable to apply for aid with you for the 2019-2020 academic year. Provide relevant dates when appropriate.

STEP 2: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT
Sign the certification statement at the bottom of your unusual circumstances.

STEP 3: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
All first-time appeals and some subsequent year appeals will require third-party documentation that supports the conditions of your appeal.

Professional third-party documentation is preferred from a counselor, physician, lawyer, clergy, or persons in a professional capacity who can submit a letter that clearly explains and supports your appeal circumstances. Third party documentation should be on letterhead and must include a daytime contact phone number.

Upon review of this appeal, staff will assign appropriate documentation to support your appeal that will be collected via the UC Financial Aid Portal.

This appeal will be reviewed by the Student Financial Aid Office. You will be notified via email of the decisions following appeal review. The appeal submission is not complete until needed supporting documentation is collected via the UC Financial Aid Portal following initial review. Please print and complete this form with your signature. Scan or photograph the completed form to email it to financeaid@uc.edu or otherwise submit it as noted below.
UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Explain, in detail, why you should be considered independent for the 2019-2020 academic year. Note why your parents are unavailable to participate with you in the financial aid application process. Include all pertinent facts and associated dates that clearly reveal your unusual circumstance.

CERIFICATION STATEMENT: I certify that all information I have provided and documentation requested pertaining to this appeal is true and complete.

Student’s Signature______________________________________  Date___________________