SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Financial Aid

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID
7250 Mesa College Drive, I4-107, San Diego, CA 92111-4998
619.388.2817 | 619.388.2824 [FAX]

2026 – 2027 Unusual Circumstance – Dependency Petition

Financial aid regulations assume that families have the primary responsibility for meeting the educational cost of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are therefore required to provide parental information on their aid application in order to be considered for financial aid. Occasionally a student may not be able to obtain parental information due exceptional circumstances, including abandonment, a history of abuse, parent incarceration, and other unusual circumstances. Submit this petition in order to have the Financial Aid Office review and determine your independent student status.

A. Student's Information

Last Name	**First Name**	**M.I.**	**Student ID Number (10 Digits)**

B. Unusual Circumstance

On a separate piece of paper, please submit a signed statement which addresses each of the following:

- ☐ Identify the name and location of your parents. Include information for both parents, regardless of their marital status.
- ☐ Describe the last time you lived with and/or had contact with your parent(s). Include the date, location and nature of the interaction.
- ☐ Explain the circumstances your family estrangement which prevent you from obtaining parental information.

The following are NOT considered exceptional circumstances: Your parents refuse to contribute to your education; your parents are unwilling to provide information on your financial aid application or for verification; your parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes; you demonstrate self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, petitions citing these circumstances cannot be taken into consideration. If you do have exceptional circumstances, please describe these in detail in your statement and attach all documents that support your circumstances.

C. Supporting Documentation

In addition, please provide the following:

- Include one (1) signed letter from an objective third party and/or professional, such as a high school counselor, case worker, minister, therapist, or other individual who can confirm the unusual or extenuating circumstances. The statements should include the following:
  - ☐ Date of the Letter
  - ☐ Their relationship to you
  - ☐ Their full name, address, phone number and email address
  - ☐ The first-hand knowledge of your circumstance
- Any other supporting documentation (or additional 3rd party letter) such as proof of abandonment or abuse by parent(s) court documents, police reports, etc.

D. Certification and Signature

I certify that all of the information reported on this petition is true and complete. I also agree to provide additional supporting documentation if requested.

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.

_____ _____
Student's Signature Date

Office use only: ☐ Approved PJ based on unusual circumstances ☐ Denied

NOTES: _____

Staff Signature: _____ Date: _____