Under very limited circumstances, an otherwise dependent student may be able to submit the FAFSA without parental information due to having special circumstances.

**WHEN PARENTAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED**

The following are situations that would **NOT** be considered a special circumstance:

- Student is self-supporting and living on their own;
- Your parents are unwilling to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
- Student files their own taxes.

**WHEN PARENTAL INFORMATION IS NOT REQUIRED**

Examples of special circumstances where you may be able to submit your FAFSA without providing parental information:

- Your parents are incarcerated;
- One of your biological parents is deceased and you don’t have any contact with other biological parent;
- Your biological parent has died and you are living with step-parent who has not adopted you;
- You had to leave home due to physical, verbal, parental drug or alcohol abuse;
- Your parent(s) abandon you with someone other than parent and you do not know their whereabouts;
- You do not know where your parents are and you are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

If you strongly feel that you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information, you should complete the FAFSA with your information only and skip parents section. To submit your FAFSA without parental information, follow the steps below.

1. File your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

2. In the FAFSA, under Dependency Status Results section, select “I am unable to provide parental information.” Click on “Next.” Carefully read Special Circumstances. If you are eligible, select “I have a special circumstance and I am unable to provide parental information;” then, click on “Next” and confirm that you are unable to provide parental information. Although you will be allowed to submit, **PLEASE** be aware that your FAFSA will be **considered incomplete** and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) cannot yet be calculated. The Butte College Financial Aid Office will receive your FAFSA as “Rejected,” and will require you to submit documentation.

3. **Documentation:** Once the Butte College Financial Aid Office receives your FAFSA, you will receive a “FAFSA Received” confirmation email. The email will inform you that your FAFSA has been rejected by the federal processor. It is very important that you call the Financial Aid Office at 895-2311 to set up an appointment. For your scheduled appointment it is required that you bring a completed **Dependency Status Appeal** with ALL required documentation including a **Personal Statement** and two third-party letters of support. This form is available on the Butte College Financial Aid Office webpage at [www.butte.edu/financialaid/](http://www.butte.edu/financialaid/) under the **Forms & Links** Tab.