

**PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT APPEAL - MARITAL STATUS
2024-2025**

Listed below are examples of circumstances involving differences in marital status and tax filing status for which a professional judgment may be considered at Tennessee Tech University. Other circumstances may be considered, if warranted, on a case-by-case basis. Each example below lists documentation that MAY BE required. **The 2024-2025 Professional Judgment Appeal Form requesting a re-evaluation due to a change in marital status should be completed and submitted for review to determine documentation needed.**

1. A parent or student who filed a 2022 tax return as Married filing joint, but is now divorced/separated.

- SIGNED copy of parents', student's and ex-spouse's 2022 Tax Return with schedules and copies of all W2 forms, 1099s, etc. *(or a complete 2022 Tax Return Transcript from the IRS)*
- A copy of the student's or parent's Divorced/Separation statement with the month and year of the divorce or separation listed.
- Completed and signed 2024-2025 Verification Worksheet

2. The death of a spouse during calendar year 2022, 2023 or after student has filed the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Copy of death certificate or obituary listing student's name and relationship.
- A SIGNED copy of the 2022 and /or 2023 Tax Return including the deceased's information with schedules and copies of all W2s, 1099s, etc. *(or a complete 2023 Tax Return Transcript from the IRS)*
- Completed and signed 2024-2025 Verification Worksheet

3. A parent who filed a 2022 tax return as Single or Head of Household, but is now married/remarried.

- Copy of marriage certificate.
- A SIGNED copy of the parent's and spouse's 2022 Tax Return including schedules and copies of all W2s, 1099s, etc. *(or a complete 2022 Tax Return Transcript from the IRS)*
- Completed and signed 2024-2025 Verification Worksheet

CIRCUMSTANCE NOT GIVEN CONSIDERATION

The Department of Education has identified circumstances that students cannot update information that was correct as of the date the FAFSA application was completed because the FAFSA application serves as a "snapshot" of the family's financial situation as of that date. The following circumstance is one **NOT** given consideration:

- A student whose marital status was single at the time the 2024-2025 FAFSA application was initially completed, but has recently married/remarried. Tennessee Tech University will **NOT** process a professional judgment request to update the student's marital status on the FAFSA application. The student will have to wait until the next FAFSA cycle (October 1st) to list their marital status as "married/remarried".