

EXEMPTIONS 101



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What is a religious exemption?

Religious exemptions are used when a parent has a sincerely held belief that prohibits their child/children from receiving vaccinations.

How Do I Get an exemption?

Because each state sets their own laws, every process is different for each state.

It can also depend on the school. Your school may have their own form for you to complete.

New Jersey Requirements

Exemption Template

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to notify you that (Child's name) does not receive any vaccinations since it interferes with the exercise of our religious beliefs. This is in accordance with NJ Law (N.J.S.A. 26:1A - 9.1)

Please enter this document into my child's confidential medical files.

Sincerely,

Parent Signatures

N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1 provides an exemption from mandatory immunization “if the parent or guardian of the pupil objects thereto in a written statement signed by the parent or guardian upon the grounds that the proposed immunization interferes with the free exercise of the pupil’s religious rights.”

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.4 provides an exemption from mandatory immunization for a child in school, preschool, or child care center if the child's parent or guardian submits to the school, preschool, or child care center a written, signed statement requesting a religious exemption from the immunization, pursuant

to N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1. Religious exemptions extend to private, parochial, and public institutions.

When a parent or guardian submits a written, signed request for exemption from mandatory immunization(s) due to religious beliefs, the statement should be accepted and the religious exemption granted. The request does not need to identify membership in a recognized church or religious denomination or describe how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student’s religious beliefs in order for the request to be granted. Religious affiliated schools or child care centers shall have the authority to withhold or grant a religious exemption from the required immunization for pupils entering or attending their institutions without challenge by any secular health authority.