

# Claiming A Religious Exemption to School/Child Care Immunization Requirements In Oregon

## *What Parents Need to Know*

(Parts of this form are directly reproduced from DHS form 8051 rev. 04/07)

All of us have a stake in making sure that children stay healthy and avoid illness. In Oregon, all children attending school or childcare are required to have certain immunizations or to have an appropriate medical or religious exemption.

Oregon Revised Statute 433.267 allows parents to sign a statement that their child is “being reared as an adherent to a religion the teachings of which are opposed to such immunization.”

### **Definition Of Religion**

Oregon Administrative Rule 333-050-0010 defines “religion” for the purpose of immunization requirements to be “any system of beliefs, practices or ethical values.”

Some people *cannot* be vaccinated because of medical conditions- and exposure to any vaccine-preventable disease could be **fatal** to them. If you child has been exposed to a disease, intentionally or not, keep them home at the first sign of illness.

### **Responsibilities**

Actively choosing not to immunize your children is a parents’ right, however it carries with it a significant responsibility: not exposing others to communicable disease.

### **Rights**

No one can deny a parent the right to sign a religious exemption. If you are told that you cannot sign a religious exemption or that you need additional documentation of your beliefs, please report it to the **Oregon Immunization Program at 971-673-0300**.

A religious exemption can be signed for selected vaccines or for all vaccines, however you must indicate on the Certificate of Immunization Status which vaccines are included.

Listing a vaccination history for your child does not affect your right to a religious exemption. We encourage you to document any vaccinations your child has received so that their medical history is as complete as possible.

### **Disease Control**

In case of a disease occurrence, the local public health authority has the right to exclude inadequately vaccinated children from school and child care. Children who have been excluded need to be cared for in their homes until such time as they are readmitted to school or child care.

*This exclusion is to prevent a disease outbreak and for the protection of the community. It also protects the inadequately vaccinated child. No exceptions are made to this requirement, regardless of circumstances.*

### **Additional Information**

This brochure was developed to answer general questions parents may have about religious exemptions. If you need additional information, or need to discuss your specific situation, please contact your local health department or the Oregon Immunization Program at 971-673-0300.



### **State Public Health Immunization Program**

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 370  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
Phone (971) 673-0300  
Fax (971) 673-0278

If you have a disability and need this document in an alternate format, call (971)673-0300 or fax (971) 673-0278 and TDD (971) 673-0372.

If you know of others who will need this accommodation, please let them know it is available.