

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
AND  
SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO IMMUNIZATION FORM  
*STUDENT STATEMENT*

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Student SCCC Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (If Student is younger than 18 years of age): \_\_\_\_\_

This form is for your use in applying for a religious exemption to Public Health Laws immunization requirements. Its purpose is to establish the religious basis for your request since the State permits exemptions on the basis of a sincere religious belief. Philosophical, political, scientific, or sociological objections to immunization do not justify an exemption under Department of Health regulation 10 NYCRR, Section 66-1.3(d), which requires the submission of:

A written and signed statement from the student stating objection to immunization due to sincere and genuine religious beliefs which prohibit the immunization in which case the College may require supporting documentation.

In the area provided below, please write your statement. The statement **must** address **all** of the following elements:

- Explain in your own words why you are requesting this religious exemption.
- Describe the religious principles that guide your objection to immunization.
- Indicate whether you are opposed to all immunizations, and if no, the religious basis that prohibits particular immunizations.

You may attach to this form additional written pages or other supporting materials if you so choose. Examples of such materials are listed on page 3.

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**Request for Religious Exemption to Immunization Form – Parent/Guardian statement (continued)**

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**REQUIRED:** Please sign in the space provided below and have the document notarized by a notary public where indicated.

I hereby affirm the truthfulness of the forgoing statement and have received **and** reviewed the informational immunization materials provided to me by the College.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian (if student is under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public Seal Required:

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of this request. Please note that if your request for an exemption is denied, you may appeal the denial to the College President within thirty (30) days of the decision, pursuant to Education Law, Section 310.  
*July 2007*

## COLLEGE’S RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO IMMUNIZATION

-----SECTION BELOW FOR COLLEGE USE ONLY -----

If, after review of the student statement, questions remain about the existence of a sincerely held religious belief, Department of Health regulation [10 NYCRR, Section 66-1.3(d)] permits the College to request supporting documents. Some examples include:

- A letter from an authorized representative of the church, temple, religious institution, etc. attended by the parent/guardian, literature from the church, temple, religious institution, etc. explaining doctrine/beliefs that prohibit immunization (Note: one need not necessarily be a member of an organized religion or religious institution to obtain a religious exemption);
- Other writings or sources upon which is relied in formulating religious beliefs that prohibit immunization;
- A copy of any previous statements to healthcare providers or school district officials in a district of prior residence explaining the religious basis for refusing immunization;
- Any documents or other information the student may be willing to provide that reflect a sincerely held religious objection to immunization.

Reviewer Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Result of Request Review:

**APPROVED**            **Date of Approval** \_\_\_\_\_

**DENIED**            **Date of Denial** \_\_\_\_\_

*State Specifically Reason(s) for Denial:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Student/Parent/Guardian **must be notified in writing** of the approval or denial of the request. **If the request is denied, the notification letter must include the specific reason(s) for denial.**
- If a religious exemption request is denied, the student/parent/guardian may appeal the denial to the College President within thirty (30) days of the decision, pursuant to Education Law, Section 310.