

Frank L. O'Bannon  
Governor

Richard D. Feldman, M.D.  
State Health Commissioner



# Indiana State Department of Health

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

## POLICY ON RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO IMMUNIZATION AS APPLIED TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

Indiana Code 20-8.1-7-2 as amended by the 1993 Indiana General Assembly states:

“Except as otherwise provided, a school child may not be required to undergo any testing, examination, immunization, or treatment required under this chapter when the child’s parent objects on religious grounds. A religious exemption does not exempt a child from any testing, examination, immunization, or treatment required under this chapter unless the objection is:

- (1) made in writing;
- (2) signed by the parent;
- (3) delivered to the child’s teacher or to the individual who might order a test, an exam, an immunization, or treatment absent the objection.”

The written document, signed by the parent, must state that the objection to immunization is based on religious grounds. There is no requirement that the statement must be from the pastor of a church, appear on church letterhead, or provide proof that they are members of a religious organization. The Indiana State Department of Health policy requires that the written statement be verified by the parent each year.