



Religious Exemption Laws

Religious Exemption Laws: State religious exemption laws permit people, churches, non-profit organizations, and sometimes corporations to seek exemptions from state laws that burden their religious beliefs.

Services: Targeted state religious exemption laws permit people, churches, non-profit organizations, and sometimes corporations to seek exemptions from providing services that burden their religious beliefs, including child welfare agencies and medical providers.

Marriage Solemnization: Targeted state religious exemption laws permit state and local officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove.

Child Welfare: Targeted state religious exemption laws permit child placing agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs.

No update needed since March 22, 2019

Alabama

- State has broad constitutional religious exemption law
 - See [Ala. Const. art I, § 3.01](#) (1999)
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. This exemption is only permitted for agencies that do not receive government funding.
 - See [Ala. HB 24](#) (2017)
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBT clients
 - See [Ala. HB 95](#) (2017)

Alaska

- State has no religious exemption law

Arizona

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Ariz. Rev. Stat. §41-1493.01](#) (1999)



Arkansas

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Arkansas Code, Titl 16, Ch 123, Sec 401](#) (2015)

California

- State has no religious exemption law

Colorado

- State has no religious exemption law

Connecticut

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann § 52-571b](#) (1993)

Delaware

- State has no religious exemption law

District of Columbia

- State has no religious exemption law

Florida

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Fla. Stat. Ann. §§761.01-05](#) (1998)

Georgia

- State has no religious exemption law

Hawaii

- State has no religious exemption law

Idaho

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Idaho Code Ann §§ 73-401-404](#) (2000)

Illinois

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [775 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 35/1-99](#) (1998)
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBT clients
 - See [745 ILCS 70/1](#) (2016)



Indiana

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Indiana Code Sec. 1.IC 34-13-9](#) (2015)

Iowa

- State has no religious exemption law

Kansas

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [K.S.A. 60-5301-05](#) (2013)
- State has targeted religious exemption that that permits private businesses to deny services to married same-sex couples
 - See [Kansas Executive Order 15-05](#) (2015)
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs
 - See [SB 284](#) (2018)

Kentucky

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Ky. Rev. Stat. §446.350](#) (2013)

Louisiana

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [La. Rev. Stat. §§ 13:5231-5242](#) (2010)

Maine

- State has no religious exemption law

Maryland

- State has no religious exemption law

Massachusetts

- State has no religious exemption law



Michigan

- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. This exemption is only permitted for agencies that do not receive government funding.
 - See [HB 4188](#) (2015), [HB 4189](#) (2015), and [HB 4190](#) (2015)
 - See [Dumont settlement](#) (2019)

Minnesota

- State has no religious exemption law

Mississippi

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [SB 2681](#) (2014).
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious belief; permits state officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove; permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBT clients.
 - See [HB 1523](#) (2016)

Missouri

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Mo. Ann. Stat. §§ 1.302-.307](#) (2004)

Montana

- State has no religious exemption law

Nebraska

- State has no religious exemption law

Nevada

- State has no religious exemption law

New Hampshire

- State has no religious exemption law

New Jersey

- State has no religious exemption law



New Mexico

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [N.M. Stat. §§28-22-1, et seq.](#) (2000)

New York

- State has no religious exemption law

North Carolina

- State has targeted religious exemption law that permits state and local officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove.
 - See [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 51-5.5](#) (2015)

North Dakota

- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs
 - See [ND Century Code §50-12-07.1](#) (2003)

Ohio

- State has no religious exemption law

Oklahoma

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 51, §§251-258](#) (2000)
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs
 - See [SB 1140](#) (2018).

Oregon

- State has no religious exemption law

Pennsylvania

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [71 Pa. Stat. tit. 71, 2401-2407](#) (2002)

Rhode Island

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-80.1](#) (1993)



South Carolina

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [S.C. Code §1-32-10 et seq.](#) (1999)
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs
 - See [HB 4950, §38.29](#) (2018)

South Dakota

- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs
 - See [SB 149](#) (2017).

Tennessee

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-1-407](#) (2009)
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBT clients
 - See [Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-22-302](#) (2016)

Texas

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code §110.001-.012](#) (1999)
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious belief
 - See [Tex. HB 3859](#) (2017)

Utah

- State has targeted religious exemption law that permits religious official to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove; law only applies to religious officials, not government employees
 - See [Utah Code 63G-20-101](#) (2015)

Vermont

- State has no religious exemption law



Virginia

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law
 - See [Va. Code Ann. §57-1 to -2.1](#) (2007)
- State permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBT people and same-sex couples, if doing so conflicts with their religious belief
 - See [Va. Code Ann § 63.2-1709.3](#) (2012)

Washington

- State has no religious exemption law

West Virginia

- State has no religious exemption law

Wisconsin

- State has no religious exemption law

Wyoming

- State has no religious exemption law