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## Religious Exemption Laws

No updates needed since February 22, 2024

**Broad Religious Exemption Laws (“RFRAs”):** Broad state religious exemption laws, sometimes called “Religious Freedom Restoration Acts” or RFRAs, permit people, churches, non-profit organizations, and sometimes corporations to seek exemptions from state laws that burden their religious beliefs. The individual person or organization must seek out an exemption, such as through court proceedings.

**Targeted Religious Exemptions:** Targeted exemptions provide a blanket exemption, or license to discriminate, to anyone operating in a specific area such as child welfare services, medical care, businesses serving the public, or government officials/employees solemnizing marriages.

- **Child Welfare Services:** Permits child-placing agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs.
- **Medical Providers:** Permits medical providers to refuse to serve LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with the provider’s (or provider’s employer’s) religious beliefs.
- **Business Services:** Permits businesses to deny services (such as wedding-related services) to LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs.
- **State Officials/Marriage Solemnization:** Permits state and local government employees and officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove.

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### Alabama

- State has broad constitutional religious exemption law. See [AL Const. Art I, §3.01](#) (1999).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [HB24](#) (2017).
  - This exemption is only permitted for agencies that do not receive government funding.
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [HB95](#) (2017).

### Alaska

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

### Arizona

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [Ariz. Rev. Stat. §41-1493.01](#) (1999).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [SB1399](#) (2022).



#### Arkansas

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [SB975](#) (2015).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [SB289](#) (2021). See also [SB199](#) (2023) that specifically says “State law shall not require, or be construed to require, a healthcare professional to perform a gender transition procedure.”

#### California

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Colorado

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Connecticut

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

#### Delaware

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### District of Columbia

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Florida

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [FL Stat. Ann. §§761.01-05](#) (1998).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [S1580](#) (2023).

#### Georgia

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Hawai‘i

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Idaho

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [ID 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 LGBTQ people and others. See [745 ILCS 70/1](#) (2016).

#### Indiana

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [IN Code Sec. 1.IC 34-13-9](#) or [SB101](#) (2015).



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#### Iowa

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### 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 has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, 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 none of these religious exemption laws

#### Maryland

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Massachusetts

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Michigan

- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, 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), [HB 4190](#) (2015), and [Dumont settlement](#) (2019).

#### Minnesota

- State has none of these religious exemption laws



#### Mississippi

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

#### Missouri

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

#### Montana

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [SB 215](#) (2021).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [HB303](#) (2023).

#### Nebraska

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Nevada

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### New Hampshire

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### New Jersey

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### New Mexico

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

#### New York

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### North Carolina

- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state and local officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove. See [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 51-5.5](#) or [SB2](#) (2015).



#### North Dakota

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [HB1136](#) (2023).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [ND Century Code §50-12-07.1](#) (2003).

#### Ohio

- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [HB110](#) (2021; amendment in state budget, see [pages 1453-1455](#)).

#### Oklahoma

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 51, §§251-258](#) (2000) and [SB 404](#) (2023).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [SB 1140](#) (2018).

#### Oregon

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### 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 has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [HB 4950, §38.29](#) (2018).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [H4776](#) (2022).

#### South Dakota

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [SB 124](#) (2021).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [SB 149](#) (2017).



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#### 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 LGBTQ people and others. See [TN Code Ann. § 63-22-302](#) (2016).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [HB 836](#) (2020).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state and local officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove. See [HB878/SB596](#) (2024).

#### Texas

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

#### Utah

- State has targeted religious exemption that applies only to private individuals or agencies (i.e., not state-licensed agencies), and while it allows those private agencies to refuse to serve individuals according to the agencies' religious beliefs, it also requires the agency to refer those individuals to other agencies. See [SB 154](#) (2023).
- State has targeted law that permits religious officials 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 none of these religious exemption laws

#### Virginia

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [Va. Code Ann. §57-1 to -2.1](#) (2007).
- State has targeted religious exemption that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place and provide services to children and families, including LGBTQ people and others, if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. See [Va. Code Ann § 63.2-1709.3](#) or [S349/H189](#) (2012).

#### Washington

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

#### West Virginia

- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See [HB3042](#) (2023).

#### Wisconsin

- State has none of these religious exemption laws



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#### Wyoming

- State has none of these religious exemption laws

### **U.S. Territories**

#### American Samoa

- Territory has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Guam

- Territory has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Northern Mariana Islands

- Territory has none of these religious exemption laws

#### Puerto Rico

- Territory has none of these religious exemption laws

#### U.S. Virgin Islands

- Territory has none of these religious exemption laws