



## 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 January 24, 2020

### 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 beliefs.
  - See [HB 1523](#) (2016)
- State permits state officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove
  - See [HB 1523](#) (2016)
- State 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)
- 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 836](#) (2020)

#### 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

#### U.S. Territories

No religious exemptions laws were identified in the U.S. territories.