Religious Exemption Laws

No update needed since March 28, 2021

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.

Alabama

- State has **broad** constitutional religious exemption law. See [AL Const. Art I, §3.01](https://www.alconst.org/article_i/3) (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](https://legislature.state.al.us/) (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 [HB24](https://legislature.state.al.us/) (2017).

Alaska

- State has no religious exemption law

Arizona


Arkansas

- State has **broad** statutory religious exemption law. See [AR Code Title 16, Ch 123, Sec 401](https://revisor.legis.state.ar.us/) (2015).
- State has **targeted** religious exemption that permits medical professionals to decline to serve LGBTQ people and others. See [SB289](https://www.fencelink.com/) (2021).

California

- State has no religious exemption law
Colorado
- State has no religious exemption law

Connecticut

Delaware
- State has no religious exemption law

District of Columbia
- State has no religious exemption law

Florida

Georgia
- State has no religious exemption law

Hawaii
- State has no religious exemption law

Idaho

Illinois
- 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 (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 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

Maine
• State has no religious exemption law

Maryland
• State has no religious exemption law

Massachusetts
• State has no religious exemption law

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.
  o This exemption is only permitted for agencies that do not receive government funding.

Minnesota
• State has no religious exemption law

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 state and local officials to decline to marry couples of whose marriage they disapprove. 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).

Missouri

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

New York
   • State has no religious exemption law

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 (2015).

North Dakota
   • 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 no religious exemption law

Oklahoma
   • 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 no religious exemption law

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island
South Carolina
- 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).

South Dakota
- State has broad statutory religious exemption law. See SB124 (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).

Tennessee
- 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).

Texas
- 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 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 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 (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

American Samoa
  • State has no religious exemption law

Guam
  • State has no religious exemption law

Northern Mariana Islands
  • State has no religious exemption law

Puerto Rico
  • State has no religious exemption law

U.S. Virgin Islands
  • State has no religious exemption law