



Skidmore College Health Services

REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION

This document is intended for use as a reference when applying for religious exemption to Public Health Law immunization requirements for attendance at Skidmore College. Its purpose is to assist in establishing the religious basis for your request since the State permits exemptions on the basis of sincere religious belief. Philosophical, political, scientific, or sociological objections to immunization *do not* justify an exemption under Department of Health regulation 10 NYCRR, Section 66-1.3 (d) which requires submission of:

A written and signed statement from the student (or parent[s] or guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age), stating that the student (or parent or guardian) objects to immunization due to sincere and genuine religious beliefs which prohibit immunization, in which case supporting documents may be required.

The statement **must** address **all** of the following elements:

- Explain in your own words why you are requesting this religious exemption.
- Describe the religious principles that guide your objection to immunization.
- Indicate whether you are opposed to all immunizations, and if not, the religious basis that prohibits particular immunizations.

You may attach additional written pages or other supporting materials if you so choose. Examples of such materials include:

- A letter from an authorized representative of the church, temple, religious institution, etc. that you attend, or literature from the church, temple, religious institution, etc. explaining doctrine/beliefs that prohibit immunization (Note: you need not necessarily be a member of an organized religion or religious institution to obtain a religious exemption);
- Other writings or sources upon which you rely in formulating religious beliefs that prohibit immunization;
- A copy of your prior statements to healthcare providers or school district officials explaining the religious basis for refusing immunization;
- Any documents or other information you may be willing to provide that reflect a sincerely held religious objection to immunization.

Health Services will notify you as to the approval or denial of your request. Please be aware that if your request is granted, in the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease you may be asked to leave the Skidmore Campus to protect you from exposure. If the request is denied, the notification will include specific reasons for denial. Please note that if your request for an exemption is denied, you may appeal the denial to the NYS Department of Health Immunization Program within 30 days of the decision.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Skidmore College Health Services office, (518) 580-5550, email: health@skidmore.edu.

Health Services Staff