

# MINNESOTA CONSCIENTIOUS EXEMPTIONS

MN law requires parents submit up to date vaccine records, a medical exemption signed by a doctor or a notarized conscientious exemption for EVERY child upon enrollment in daycare, public school, charter school, private school or homeschool. Conscientious exemptions encompass a family's religious or conscientious beliefs and are utilized when their beliefs prevent them from accepting one or more vaccine doses. It allows space for public health recommendations while respecting the diverse population and individual autonomy of our citizens.

Both state and federal law uphold these rights.

The 2024 Legislature passed a bill allowing daycares to decline exemptions.  
Contact us if you have case of discrimination and are interested in representation.

## STATE LEVEL

### THE MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION | ARTICLE 1 BILL OF RIGHTS, SECTIONS 16 FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

"No preference to be given to any religious establishment or mode of worship; The enumeration of the rights in this constitution shall not deny or impair others retained by and inherent in the people. The right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience shall never be infringed; nor shall any man be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or maintain any religious or ecclesiastical ministry, against his consent nor shall any control of or interference with the rights of conscience be permitted." [www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/?fbclid=IwAR02rnA8RgRIHx1vdeDBwW6aazugjKvFvArXpMstXaTCw3D4lzsNKUZnI6U](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/?fbclid=IwAR02rnA8RgRIHx1vdeDBwW6aazugjKvFvArXpMstXaTCw3D4lzsNKUZnI6U)

### THE MINNESOTA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Prohibits from discriminating based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability, or to fail to ensure physical and program access for disabled persons. [www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/363A.13](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/363A.13)

### MN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 9502

"No caregiver shall discriminate in relation to admissions on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, or sex." [www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=9502.0405](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=9502.0405)

### DFL 2023 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, today we understand that religious freedom is a fundamental American and human right. We declare that religious freedom is a cornerstone of democracy. We declare that religious freedom is not a privilege for the few, but a right for all. We embrace this fundamental right as one that applies to people of all religious affiliations or beliefs and people of no religious affiliations or beliefs." [www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF85&version=latest&session=ls93&session\\_year=2023&session\\_number=0](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF85&version=latest&session=ls93&session_year=2023&session_number=0)

## FEDERAL LEVEL

### FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of a religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." [www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript](http://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript)

### IS CONSCIENCE PROTECTED TOO? UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Clay v. United States (1971) rejected the denial of conscientious objector status to Cassius Clay stating "the matter of conscience is protected by the First Amendment." [www.supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/403/698/](http://www.supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/403/698/)

## ADDITIONAL FACTS

### **IN 80% OF MINNESOTA FAMILIES, ALL PARENTS IN THE HOME, WORK.**

[www.ruralmn.org/child-care-in-rural-minnesota-after2020/#:~:text=As%20we%20noted%20in%20our,of%20absenteeism%20among%20American%20workers.](http://www.ruralmn.org/child-care-in-rural-minnesota-after2020/#:~:text=As%20we%20noted%20in%20our,of%20absenteeism%20among%20American%20workers.)

### **BETWEEN 2000 AND 2019 MINNESOTA HAD LOST ALMOST HALF (71,088 SPACES) OF ITS FAMILY CHILDCARE CAPACITY.**

[www.spmcf.org/blog/childcare-access-center-for-rural-policy-and-development#:~:text=Things%20have%20changed%20in%20that,That's%2071%2C088%20spaces%20statewide](http://www.spmcf.org/blog/childcare-access-center-for-rural-policy-and-development#:~:text=Things%20have%20changed%20in%20that,That's%2071%2C088%20spaces%20statewide)

### **THE ENTIRE CDC CHILDHOOD SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED VACCINES CONSISTED OF 70+ VACCINES - BEFORE THEY ADDED COVID**

Compare historical schedules here: [www.mnrightrights.org/schedule](http://www.mnrightrights.org/schedule)

### **THERE ARE 609 VACCINES IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT**

"There are 327 anti-infective vaccines in preclinical testing and 282 more in phase 1 through preregistration, according to business intelligence provider, Informa" [www.biopharmadive.com/news/spotlight-vaccine-manufacturing-business-developmentdecisions/526150/?fbclid=IwAR28ICp0YFLHqJnTKtJ7eFm9TnpNnDctvJfAKXRwKboqLna3BQ0-SBoZq7k](http://www.biopharmadive.com/news/spotlight-vaccine-manufacturing-business-developmentdecisions/526150/?fbclid=IwAR28ICp0YFLHqJnTKtJ7eFm9TnpNnDctvJfAKXRwKboqLna3BQ0-SBoZq7k)

### **THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CAN ADD VACCINES TO THE SCHOOL SCHEDULE WITHOUT LEGISLATION OR ANY KIND OF VOTE USING RULE MAKING AUTHORITY**

[www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/immrule/rulebasics.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/immrule/rulebasics.html)

TO DELAY OR DECLINE EVEN ONE DOSE REQUIRES THE USE OF AN EXEMPTION. MANY EXEMPTIONS ON RECORD ARE FOR FULLY OR PARTIALLY VACCINATED CHILDREN WHO MAY USE ALTERNATE SCHEDULES FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

WHETHER WE AGREE WITH THE FULL SCHEDULE AT THIS TIME OR NOT, THERE ARE CONSTANTLY NEW VACCINES AND NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SCHEDULE THAT MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY FAMILY.

THE ABILITY TO DENY EXEMPTIONS ACTIVELY REMOVES THE ABILITY FOR FAMILIES TO PERSONALIZE OUR MEDICAL DECISIONS WITH OUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IN ANY WAY.

## CONCLUSION

In a state where diversity is celebrated, religious freedom stands as a cornerstone of individual liberties. It is a fundamental human right that allows citizens to practice their beliefs without fear of discrimination or persecution. However, this freedom is not guaranteed and must be actively protected and preserved by all of us.

As we navigate through this challenging session, it is crucial for us to come together and advocate for the preservation of religious freedom for all. We must stand against any form of intolerance or infringement on the rights of individuals to express their faith freely. By raising awareness, engaging in dialogue, and supporting initiatives that promote religious tolerance and acceptance, we can create a more inclusive Minnesota for everyone.