

## How to Obtain a Vaccination Exemption

The following information is taken from the Iowa Department of Public Health. It is typical of most states.

### Religious Exemption

If immunizations conflict with a religious belief and is not based on scientific, medical or personal opinion, an Iowa Department of Public Health, Certificate of Immunization Exemption may be completed. To be valid, the religious exemption must be signed by the individual or the child's parent/guardian, and notarized. The Certificate of Immunization Exemption should be given to the licensed child care center or school. The Iowa Department of Public Health rules do not apply to immunization requirements for colleges and universities. Contact the college or university for their specific immunization requirements.

### IMMUNIZATION records

It is important to maintain immunization records in a safe place. Proof of immunizations may be necessary throughout life.

**Pertussis** before September 15, 2000. One of these doses must be received on or after four years of age.

**Polio** 3 doses with 1 dose <sup>3</sup> 4 years of age

**Measles** 2 doses. First dose <sup>3</sup> 12 months of

**Rubella** age, second dose no less than 28 days after the first dose

**Hepatitis B** 3 doses if born on or after July 1, 1994

**Varicella** 1 dose <sup>3</sup> 12 months of age if born

### What You Need To Do

Check with your school administrator regarding their specific requirements for a religious exemption to vaccination. Be prepared for them to give you attitude. Be polite but firm. If you cannot get satisfactory information, ask to speak to their boss.

A general purpose statement of religious belief is given below. Please note that it must be dated and signed in the presence of a notary public. Keep a copy for your own records.

It is against my religious belief to receive a vaccination of any type.

My blood, which is the home of my immortal soul, must not be injected deliberately with a foreign substance.

I have read that my right to religious freedom is guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. I have also read the following quote:

If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that NO official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein, If there are ANY circumstances which permit an exception, they do not now occur to us.

-United States Supreme Court (1943) West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, 319 US 624.

Sincerely,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_