Request for Religious Exemption to Immunization Form

Name of Student____________________________________________________________

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) (If student is under 18) ____________________________________________

This form is for your use in applying for a religious exemption to Public Health Law immunization requirements.

Its purpose is to establish the religious basis for your request since the State permits exemptions on the basis of a 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 the submission of:

- A written and signed statement from the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) if student is under 18 years of age, stating that the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) object to immunization due to sincere and genuine religious beliefs which prohibit immunization in which case the principal or person in charge may require supporting documents.

In the area provided below, please write your statement. 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 to this form additional written pages or other supporting materials if you so choose. Examples of such materials are listed on page 3.

________________________________________________________________________

Please continue your statement on page 2
Please sign in the space provided below.

I hereby affirm the truthfulness of the forgoing statement.

__________________________________________  ________________________
Signature of Student  Date
(Signature of parent(s)/guardian(s) if student is under 18)

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of this request. Please note that if your request for an exemption is denied, you may appeal the denial to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the decision, pursuant to Education Law, Section 310.
If, after review of the parental statement, questions remain about the existence of a sincerely held religious belief, Department of Health regulation [10 NYCRR, Section 66-1.3(d)] permits the principal to request supporting documents. Some examples include:

- A letter from an authorized representative of the church, temple, religious institution, etc. attended by the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s), literature from the church, temple, religious institution, etc. explaining doctrine/beliefs that prohibit immunization (Note: Student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) need not necessarily be a member of an organized religion or religious institution to obtain a religious exemption);
- Other writings or sources upon which the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) relied in formulating religious beliefs that prohibit immunization;
- A copy of any student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) statements to healthcare providers or school district officials in a district of prior residence explaining the religious basis for refusing immunization;
- Any documents or other information the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) may be willing to provide that reflect a sincerely held religious objection to immunization (for example: disclosure of whether student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) or other students have been immunized, student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s)’s current position on allowing the student to receive or refuse other kinds of medical treatment.)

Reviewer Name:
________________________________________________

Indicate Result of Request Review:

APPROVED: Date of Approval_______________

DENIED: Date of Denial _________________
State Specifically Reason(s) for Denial:
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
Reviewer Signature: ____________________________________________

● Student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) must be notified in writing of the approval or denial of the request. If the request is denied, the notification letter must include the specific reason(s) for denial.

● If a religious exemption request is denied, the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal the denial to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the decision, pursuant to Education Law, Section 310.