



California Student Exemption Project

“Representing Parents’ Values in Public Schools”



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2004

All-New California Student Exemption Form Protects Parents’ Wishes for Children in Public Schools

Sacramento – Parents are fighting back and standing up for their rights to raise their own children. In the wake of recent anti-family laws imposed upon schools by the California Legislature, parents can use the Student Exemption Form to take advantage of existing state and federal laws to “opt-out” their children from objectionable classes and activities that promote abortion, condoms, homosexuality and transsexuality.

The new Student Exemption Form has been updated for 2004 in the aftermath of SB 71, which last year passed the Democrat-controlled California Legislature and was signed by former Gov. Gray Davis. SB 71 allows schools to give sex surveys to students behind their parents’ backs, permits sex education for children as young as kindergarten, and teaches children to appreciate homosexual behavior, among other things.

Written by pro-family attorneys and organizations, the Student Exemption Form helps parents “opt-out” their children from instruction that conflicts with their family’s personal moral convictions. The form is available on the web sites of Campaign for California Families (www.savecalifornia.com), Life Legal Defense Foundation (www.lldf.org), The Pro-Family Law Center (www.defendthefamily.com), United States Justice Foundation (www.usjf.net), and other California-based pro-family organizations that will distribute it to parents.

Randy Thomasson, Executive Director, Campaign for California Families (CCF), a statewide pro-family leadership organization: “Children belong to their parents, not to the State. With disturbing sexual information being thrust upon schoolchildren, it is essential that parents and grandparents take immediate action to protect their children’s eyes, ears and hearts. Our goal is to get the Student Exemption Form into the hands of every California parent who is concerned about protecting their child from indecent and gross activities at their local school. Public schools aren’t what they used to be, and vulnerable children can be exposed to all kinds of sexual indoctrination unless parents intervene. The Student Exemption Form gives moms and dads the opportunity to declare their rights to raise and educate the children that God gave them.”

Dana Cody, Executive Director, Life Legal Defense Foundation (LLDF), a leading pro-life legal organization: “Parents deserve to know that the California Legislature has changed the notice and exemption provisions regarding probing into students’ personal beliefs and practices in sex, family life, morality and religion. This is the same legislature that has made it possible for students to leave campus for confidential medical services, such as abortion, in the name of the so-called ‘right to privacy.’ The Student Exemption Form will help parents prevent districts from invading their values and the real privacy that families hold dear.”

Scott Lively, Attorney and President of the Pro-Family Law Center: “Parents have important rights under state and federal law regarding the education of their children. The Student Exemption Form puts schools on legal notice that these rights must be respected, and gives parents a much stronger case if they are forced to sue.”

Gary Kreep, Education Attorney and Executive Director of the United States Justice Foundation (USJF), a conservative legal organization: “Given the ever-increasing attempts by educrats who believe ‘we’re the experts, you’re just parents, and we know what is best for your child,’ to impose their political agenda and views on students in public schools, it is vital that parents take an active part in the education of their children. The Student Exemption Form is an important document for every parent of children in California public schools.”

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STUDENT EXEMPTION

**To the School Board Members, Superintendent, Principal, teachers and agents of the
_____ School District.**

This letter will serve as legal notice pursuant to 20 U.S.C. Section 1232(h) and the California Education Code, including, but not limited to, Sections 221.5, 51100, 51101, 51501, 51513, and 51937-51939, that you are not to teach, instruct, advise, counsel, discuss, test, question, examine, survey or in any way provide information, data or images to my child(ren) concerning:

- sex education, family life education, health, human sexuality,
- pupil's personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, and religion,
- pupil's parents' or guardians' beliefs and practices in sex, family life, morality, and religion,
- sexually transmitted diseases, venereal diseases, HIV/AIDS,
- gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual preference,
- homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender or transsexual issues,
- or any alternatives to monogamous heterosexual marriage,

without my express written permission on an incident-by-incident basis.

This restriction shall extend to:

- teachers and teacher aides,
- administrators, school counselors,
- school health personnel, special guests, or presenters,
- California Department of Education or other state departments or their agents,
- or anyone speaking or acting on behalf of the school or school district,

and shall be in force whether said child or children are on school grounds, or are off-campus.

This shall pertain to all writings as defined by California Evidence Code Section 250, including, but not limited to:

- classroom instruction, presentations, school-approved displays on campus,
- reading assignments, class discussions, homework assignments,
- books, magazines, newspapers, or other printed or written material,
- photographs, movies, films, slides, filmstrips, projector images, DVDs, CDs, video tapes, audio tapes, MP3 files,
- CD-ROMs, computer and Internet programs and activities,
- field trips, assemblies, theatrical or musical performances,
- individual or group-assigned activities, extracurricular activities,
- or any other context in which the school or its agents interact with my child(ren).

I respectfully request that I be notified in writing at least 15 days in advance of all future instruction, events, or activities, etc. from which my child(ren) may need to be exempted, so that I may work with you in making alternate accommodations for his/her continuing education. This request is made as a direct result of my sincerely-held religious beliefs and personal moral convictions, as well as the individual, emotional, and developmental needs of my child(ren), and the laws cited above. I thank you in advance for respecting my rights as a parent in dealing with these matters. This notice has been prepared with the advice of legal counsel and supersedes any prior authorization you may have on file.

My child(ren) and/or ward(s) to whom this notice applies is (are): (name and grade)

Thank you for respecting my family's personal moral convictions regarding these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____

Daytime/Evening Phone _____

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please retain a signed, dated copy of this letter for your personal records.