



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

SEP 30 1985

00 000

Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik
Rosh HaYeshiva
Yeshivas Brisk
Brisk Rabbinical College
2965 West Peterson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60659

Dear Rabbi Soloveichik:

The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education (OCR/ED) recently requested additional information regarding Brisk Rabbinical College's (College) request for a religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

In his response, which supplements the original exemption request, Rabbi Erwin Giffin, Dean of Administration, describes certain policies practiced at the College as consistent with the tenets of the religious organization that controls the institution. These policies would violate certain sections of the regulation implementing Title IX (copy enclosed) absent a religious exemption. The College has supplied information that establishes that Brisk Rabbinical College is controlled by a religious organization and that practices based on tenets followed by this organization conflict with specific sections of the Title IX regulation. Therefore, I am granting the College an exemption to those sections of the Title IX regulation specified in Rabbi Giffin's September 11, 1985, letter. The exemption is limited to the extent that compliance with the Title IX regulation conflicts with the religious tenets followed by the College. Brisk Rabbinical College is hereby exempted from the requirements of the following sections of the Title IX regulation: 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.21, 106.22, 106.23, 106.51, 106.52, 106.53, 106.55 and 106.59. The basis for our decision to grant this exemption is discussed in further detail below.

In your original request letter, you stated that the College is "controlled, conducted and operated by the Orthodox Jewish religion." This relationship between the College and Orthodox Judaism adequately establishes that Brisk Rabbinical College is controlled by a religious organization as is required for consideration for exemption under § 106.12 of the Title IX regulation.

Rabbi Giffin stated in his September 11 letter that religious tenets "require us to admit only male students and to hire only male faculty." Based on these practices, Brisk Rabbinical College has requested and is granted by this letter exemption to: 34 C.F.R. § 106.21 (admission), § 106.22 (preference in admission), § 106.23 (recruitment of students), § 106.51 (employment), § 106.52 (employment criteria), § 106.53 (recruitment of employees), § 106.55 (job classification and structure) and § 106.59 (advertising).

This letter should not be construed to grant exemption from any section of the Title IX regulation not specifically mentioned. In the event that OCR receives a complaint against your institution, we are obligated to determine initially whether the allegations fall within the exemption herein granted. Also, in the unlikely event that a complainant alleges that the practices followed by the institution are not based on the religious tenets of the controlling organization, OCR is obligated to contact the controlling organization to verify those tenets. If the organization provides an interpretation of tenets that has a different practical impact than that described by the institution, or if the organization denies that it controls the institution, this exemption will be rescinded.

I hope this letter responds fully to your request. I regret the inordinate delay in responding to your original request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chicago Regional Office for Civil Rights. The address is:

Linda A. McGovern
Acting Regional Civil Rights Director
Office for Civil Rights, Region V
Department of Education
300 South Wacker Drive, 8th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Sincerely,



Harry M. Singleton
Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc: Linda A. McGovern, Acting Regional Civil Rights Director, Region V