



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

NOV 19 1985

Dr. Norman J. Woods  
President  
Loma Linda University  
Loma Linda, California 92350

Dear President Woods:

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the Department of Education has reviewed Loma Linda University's request for religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

In your request letter of October 22, 1985, you describe certain policies practiced at Loma Linda University as being 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. You have provided information that establishes that the University is controlled by a religious organization and that tenets followed by this organization conflict with specific sections of the Title IX regulation. Therefore, I am granting the University an exemption to those sections specified in your request letter. This exemption is limited to the extent that compliance with the Title IX regulation conflicts with the religious tenets followed by the institution. Loma Linda University is hereby exempted from the requirements of the following sections of the Title IX regulation: 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.21, 106.40 and 106.57. The basis for our decision to grant this exemption is discussed in further detail below.

Your letter indicates that Loma Linda University is controlled, owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The University is listed in the Church yearbook as a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution, and the University's Board of Directors, faculty and full time staff are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This relationship between the University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church adequately establishes that Loma Linda University is controlled by a religious organization as is required for consideration for exemption under § 106.12 of the Title IX regulation.

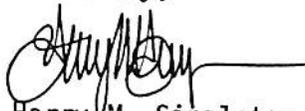
In your letter, you state that Loma Linda University, as an institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is obligated to uphold the Church's religious standards in its relationships with students and employees. The Seventh-day Adventist Church disapproves of all acts of moral indiscretion and "other grievous sins." Based on these principles, Loma Linda University has requested and is granted by this letter exemption to: 34 C.F.R. § 106.21, to the extent that this section addresses the marital or parental status of applicants for admission, § 106.40 (marital or parental status of students), and § 106.57 (marital or parental status of employees).

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. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the San Francisco Regional Office for Civil Rights. The address is:

John E. Palomino  
Acting Regional Civil Rights Director  
Office for Civil Rights, Region IX  
Department of Education  
221 Main Street, 10th Floor  
San Francisco, California 94105

Sincerely, .



Harry M. Singleton  
Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc: John E. Palomino, Acting Regional Civil Rights Director, Region IX