



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

*letter sent 1-17-80*

Reverend David J. Sharrock  
President  
St. Alphonsus College  
Redemptorist Fathers  
Suffield, Connecticut 06078

Dear President Sharrock:

The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education (OCR/ED) is in the process of clearing a backlog of requests for religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Our records indicate that St. Alphonsus College filed such a request (copy enclosed), but we have no record that OCR adequately acknowledged this request. We have recently reviewed your request and have determined that your institution need not have applied for a religious exemption. The reasons for our determination are discussed below.

Subpart C of the Title IX regulation (copy enclosed) prohibits discrimination in the admission and recruitment of students. Section 106.15(e) of the Title IX regulation specifically exempts private undergraduate institutions from compliance with Subpart C. Based on the information provided in your letter (copy enclosed), you sought a religious exemption because your undergraduate education programs are limited to one sex. Under §106.15(e), the exemption for limiting admissions is already provided.

The statutory exemption from the admission and recruitment provisions of Subpart C does not relieve the institution of its obligation to comply with the regulation as it relates to graduate or other programs. Should there be conflicts in this regard, it would be necessary to request exemption from specific provisions of the regulation which are deemed to be inconsistent with certain tenets of your religion.

If we do not hear from you within 60 days, we will assume that your institution has no need for a religious exemption and close your original request file. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Boston Regional Office. The address is: Dr. Richard V.E. McCann, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Room 222, John W. McCormack POCH, Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Sincerely,

Harry M. Singleton  
Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights  
Office for Civil Rights

Enclosures