



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

SEP 24 1985

Rabbi Yitzchock Kleiman  
Rosh Yeshiva  
St. Louis Rabbinical College  
7400 Olive Street Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Dear Rabbi Kleiman:

The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education (OCR/ED) has reviewed your response to OCR's letter of August 9, 1985, which requested additional information regarding St. Louis Rabbinical College's request for a religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

In your response, which supplements the original request filed by Rabbi Reuben Axelrod, Associate Rosh Yeshiva, you describe 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 the institution 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 St. Louis Rabbinical College an exemption to those sections of the Title IX regulation specified in your September 8, 1985, letter. The exemption is limited to the extent that compliance with the Title IX regulation conflicts with the religious tenets followed by the institution. The St. Louis 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 the original request, Rabbi Axelrod stated that the College is "controlled, conducted and operated by the Orthodox Jewish religion." This relationship between Orthodox Judaism and the College adequately establishes that the St. Louis Rabbinical College is controlled by a religious organization as is required for consideration for exemption under § 106.12 of the Title IX regulation.


In your letter of September 8, 1985, you specified that religious tenets "require us to admit only male students and to hire only male faculty." Based on these practices, the 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 the College's request. I regret the inordinate delay in responding to the original request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Kansas City Regional Office for Civil Rights. The address is:

Jesse L. High  
Regional Civil Rights Director  
Office for Civil Rights  
Department of Education, Region VII  
324 East 11th Street, 24th Floor  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Sincerely,

  
Harry M. Singleton  
Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc: Jesse L. High, Regional Civil Rights Director, Region VII