

Moments ago, the Administration released its eighth revision to the Health and Human Service (HHS) Mandate.

| Date and Time (Time = Publication of Earliest News Article) | Summary of Changes | Link to Rule | Additional Information |
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| Aug 1, 2011 Monday 10:52 AM | Administration admits that the mandate will burden religion, and so it announces a narrow exemption for houses of worship. | HHS Rule | To qualify for the narrow exemption, the organization must satisfy 4 criteria: “(1) has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; (2) primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; (3) primarily serves persons who share its religious tenets; and (4) is a nonprofit organization” under certain parts of the tax code, referring to “churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches, as well as to the exclusively religious activities of any religious order.” “[E]ven the ministry of Jesus and the early Christian Church would not qualify as ‘religious,’ because they did not confine their ministry to their co-religionists or engage only in a preaching ministry.” (http://www.usccb.org/news/2011/11-168.cfm) |
| Feb 10, 2012 Friday 12:15 PM | Administration admits that the narrow exemption will still burden religious organizations, and so it announces a “Temporary Enforcement Safe Harbor,” promising not to enforce the mandate against religious non-profits for at least 18 months. This safe harbor will be in effect while HHS creates an appropriate accommodation. | Safe Harbor Guidelines | President Obama and Kathleen Sebelius announced the creation of the temporary safe harbor provisions at a press conference on February 10 th . This press conference also announced the basic outline for the ‘accommodation’ for religious non-profits. |
| Mar 16, 2012 Friday 5:52 PM | Administration admits that its original exemption was too narrow, and proposes an “accommodation” for religious non-profits. | HHS Rule | HHS issues Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on the accommodation, which it had first proposed during a February 10 th press conference. The ANPRM allows 90 days for comments on the proposed accommodation. |
| Aug 15, 2012 Wednesday | Administration admits, in response to lawsuits, that the “Safe Harbor” was too narrow, and so it broadens the | Safe Harbor Guidelines : Or see here | HHS updates the Safe Harbor Guidelines from February 2012. It clarifies three points: |

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| Time: N/A, No articles published on Aug. 15 | Safe Harbor to include additional organizations. | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “[S]afe harbor is also available to nonprofit organizations with religious objections to some but not all contraceptive coverage...” 2. “[G]roup health plans that took some action to try to exclude or limit contraceptive coverage that was not successful as of February 10, 2012, are not for that reason precluded from eligibility for the safe harbor...” 3. “[S]afe harbor may be invoked without prejudice by nonprofit organizations that are uncertain whether they qualify for the religious employer exemption...” |
| Feb 1, 2013 Friday 12:06 PM | Administration admits that the narrow exemption for houses of worship is too narrow, and so it proposes to remove the requirement that houses of worship hire and serve only people of their own faith. | HHS Rule | <p>Previously, churches that ran schools and soup kitchens would not have qualified for the exemption, as their charity was not limited to serving people of their own faith.</p> <p>HHS wrote: “The Departments agree that the exemption should not exclude group health plans of religious entities that would qualify for the exemption but for the fact that, for example, they provide charitable social services to persons of different religious faiths or employ persons of different religious faiths when running a parochial school.”</p> <p>Additionally, the Feb. 1, 2013 rule clarifies the cost provisions of the accommodation. It states that the insurance companies of objecting non-profits must pay for the coverage of contraceptive drugs/devices. The federal government will help the insurance companies of self-insured non-profits re-coup the costs by lowering some federal fees, proportionately.</p> |
| Jun 28, 2013 Friday 12:10 PM | Administration admits that the mandate is still burdening religious organizations, so it extends the Safe Harbor for another six months (now totaling two years). | Safe Harbor Guidelines HHS Final Regulations | These rules also created the accommodation for religious non-profits, first officially proposed in March 2012. |
| July 22, 2014 Tuesday Time: N/A | Administration admits, after Supreme Court losses in Hobby Lobby, Little Sisters of the Poor, and Wheaton, that the current accommodation needs to be changed, and so it says that it will issue new regulations to “augment” it. | Government Brief | Details on the new regulations should be announced within a month. |

Dates of Becket Fund Filings:

- November 10, 2011: Belmont Abbey
- December 22, 2011: Colorado Christian University
- February 9, 2012: Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN)
- February 21, 2012: Ave Maria University
- July 18, 2012: Wheaton College
- September 12, 2012: Hobby Lobby
- October 9, 2012: East Texas Baptist University
- September 24, 2013: Little Sisters of the Poor
- October 11, 2013: GuideStone/Reaching Souls