

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

8/11/2006

To: Jesse White  
Illinois Secretary of State  
213 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL  
62706

Requestor: Donald G Schlesak  
c/o Crystal Reporter  
PO Box 695  
Burlington, WI  
53105

Certified USPS Mail No. 7003 3110 0005 6003 1714

**Re: Documented criteria and procedures for determining "bona fide religious convictions" et al.**

Illinois Attorney General's opinion 02-010, Sept 4, 2002, states:

"The Secretary of State may in his discretion substitute a federal tax number in lieu of a social security number, or he may instead assign an additional distinctive number in lieu thereof, where an applicant is prohibited by bona fide religious convictions from applying or is exempt from applying for a social security number. The Secretary of State shall, however, determine which religious orders or sects have such bona fide religious convictions."

An Illinois Secretary of State publication states:

"I have zero tolerance for unethical behavior in the Secretary of State's office. If you see suspicious activity - please report it. All reports are confidential. With your help we are continuing to strive for higher ethical standards and integrity in state government."<sup>1</sup>

Ensuring equal protection under the law for all applicants and religious orders or sects, to avoid ad hoc status determinations, and to prevent religious discrimination, or personal error in judgment, the Secretary of State must provide documented<sup>2</sup> criteria<sup>3</sup> with procedures<sup>4</sup> for any examiner within the departments of the Secretary of State in order to determine the "bona fide religious convictions" of applicants and religious orders, also to qualify the rejection of any related application or affidavit for religious exemption.

1. This is a formal written request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC 552 and appropriate regulations.
2. Send a copy of the rule, criteria or instructions for determining "bona fide religious convictions".
3. Send a copy of the determined "bona fide religious convictions" used for screening which applicants are "prohibited" from applying for a social security number.
4. Send a copy of all criteria for determining which public or private religious orders have "such bona fide religious convictions".
5. Send a copy of the procedure used in determining which public or private religious orders have "such bona fide religious convictions".
6. Send a copy of the list of the determined "bona fide religious orders or sects" mentioned above.

<sup>1</sup> Jesse White, "ReportItNow.net", <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/inspector/home.html> 8/11/2006

<sup>2</sup> Written or printed paper that bears the original, official, or legal form of something which can be used to provide decisive evidence or information.

<sup>3</sup> Specific details of a standard, rule or test upon which a judgment or decision can be based.

<sup>4</sup> Series of steps taken to accomplish an end; a set of established forms and/or methods for conducting government affairs.

7. Send a copy of all criteria used for determining whether "an applicant is prohibited by bona fide religious convictions".
8. Send a copy of the procedure used in determining whether "an applicant is prohibited by bona fide religious convictions".
9. Send a copy of all of the criteria used to reject an application for reason of failure "to comply with the provisions of this rule" stated within

Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
Title 92: Transportation  
Chapter II: Secretary of State  
Part 1030 Issuance of Licenses  
Section 1030.63 (i)

"The applicant shall be notified by a letter from the Director of the Department that the application has been approved or rejected because the applicant failed to comply with the provisions of this rule."

10. The copies must be clean and legible where all alphanumeric characters can be easily read.

I promise to pay fees and costs for locating, duplicating, and reviewing the documents requested above. I make this request in the classification of "other requestor". If costs are expected to exceed \$20.00, please forward to me an estimate of costs.

The information requested will provide to me knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations of the department used in determining an applicant's "bona fide religious convictions" and "which religious orders or sects have such bona fide religious convictions".

I understand the penalties provided in 5 USC 552(a)(1)(3) for requesting or obtaining access to documents or records under false pretenses.

Sincerely,



Donald G Schlesak

cc:	Suzie Bassi	Illinois State Representative
	James B. Burns	Inspector General
	Michael P. Farris, Esq.	Attorney, HSLDA
	Christopher J. Klicka, Esq.	Attorney, HSLDA
	Gary Lazzerini	Director, Metro Operations
	Donna Leonard	Inspector General Executive Counsel
	Michael J. Mayer	Director, Downstate Operations
	Allen Mitzenmacher	Director, Administrative Hearings
	Bob Mueller	Attorney, Legal Department
	Jacqueline Price	Director, Index Department
	Ferdinand P. Serpe	Chairman, Merit Commission
	Dan Rutherford	Candidate, Illinois Secretary of State
	J. Michael Smith, Esq.	Attorney, HSLDA
	Scott W. Somerville, Esq.	Attorney, HSLDA