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A Monthly Publication of the Christian Law Association

THE LEGAL ALERT



**Celebrating Christian
Education**

**TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY
HE SHOULD GO:
AND WHEN HE IS OLD,
HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.**

PROVERBS 22:6

What is a Christian school?

Christian schools across America have a responsibility to be different from the local public schools in many ways. Particularly, these educational institutions must loudly proclaim the Christian worldview in both materials and in application. School administrators, teachers, school staff members: you have a duty to enrich the lives of those children and enlarge their coasts for the Lord. The results of this school year with this generation will go far beyond an immediate impact and will reach those decades later. Following the Lord's admonition to train children in a God-fearing way can change the world.



In the next few years, do not be surprised if the battle concerning the licensing of Christian schools, as well as other church ministries, becomes an even greater problem. I am already seeing major signs that we are going to be in court time and time again over this issue. Our only hope is to make certain that our stand is based upon conviction, and that our conviction is based upon principles from God's Word. We must be certain that we can take God's Word and prove those principles in the event that we are brought before a judge, and tried for what we believe to be right.

What is your Christian school?

Is it a ministry of your church?

Is it your conviction to have that Christian school?

Do you understand the basis of that conviction?

Do you realize that your Christian school cannot be subservient to the state?

Evaluate yourself and make certain that whatever you have established is truly a Christian school in the sight of God.

What makes a Christian school "Christian?"

A. THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS WHAT MAKES IT CHRISTIAN.

There are many Christian schools in America that are Christian in name, but not in philosophy. If the Christian school's philosophy is not Christian, then it is merely a private school. It is not enough to call a school Christian, nor is it enough to attach some Christian activities to the curriculum. What makes a school Christian is that it has a philosophy that permeates every area of the Christian school. A Christian philosophy dictates to the school exactly what should be done in all areas.

The world looks at us and demands to know why we believe what we do. Unless we are willing to give them an answer, we have no right to ask them to recognize

our right to exist. I believe that most Christian schools have problems because they have never defined their philosophy.

Does your Christian school have a truly Christian philosophy that dictates what you do?

Do all of those involved in your school clearly understand and agree with that philosophy?

B. THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SECULAR AND SACRED.

Let us explain...

In the courtroom, when it comes time to define why something is Christian, you must go to the philosophy. Men from state universities testify that man is divisible, and made up of two parts. They say that he has a secular side and a religious side. The state does not want to control the religious side, just the secular side. That was how my parents could send me to school where they did. They thought that the public school was only going to give me an education.

My spiritual needs were going to be taken care of at home where we had prayer and family worship, and at church, where we had preaching and Bible study. The school was only supposed to take care of my secular needs. In the courtroom man is recognized as having two parts: secular and sacred. Many Christians have somehow adopted this philosophy into their way of thinking.

The Word of God recognizes no such division. It says, *Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.* We came to the realization that when the Christian school movement is examined in the courtroom, we must testify that we believe there is no secular. That is the truth. It has been said that to a Christian all is sacred, and there is nothing that is only secular.



To the Christian, the secular is sacred. Education is not a separate activity that can somehow be isolated from his faith. While there may be secular schools, the actual matter of education is a very sacred thing. Everything affects the believer's spiritual being. Public schools may choose to ignore the spiritual, but that does not negate the fact of its existence.

Is your school truly Christian? You grade your students in the classroom, so take a few minutes to grade yourself. How well are you building these characteristics into your school? Do you need improvement? Be honest with yourself because one day you will be faced with the task of giving an honest account to God for how well you fulfilled what you are called to do. What do you need to work on in your educational ministry? Do it!

Weighed in the Balance

I have traveled thousands of miles since the day I first tried to answer the question, "What is it that really makes our schools Christian?" I have been in many courtrooms, visited many Christian schools, and spoken to thousands of Christian educators since that day.

I am more convinced today than ever that these are the characteristics that make a school truly Christian. It is critical that we examine our Christian schools to make certain that these are the foundations upon which they are built. Anything less than this would be a failure to ourselves, our students, the parents, and most importantly to our God Who has called us to this sacred mission.

Do not forget your purpose. Do not forget why it is that you are Christian. Do not forget that you are to walk in wisdom towards them that are without. Do not forget that you are to redeem the time because of what shall be asked of you when you stand before the Lord Jesus Christ in that day when you shall give an answer. I pray that your school will be evaluated and found truly Christian.

You only educate a child once. As the years pass, the opportunity to educate any given child vanishes. Scripture teaches that all your works will be weighed in the balance of God's Holy Word. I pray that we will fulfill God's command to properly train this generation.

~ These articles are excerpts from our resource "Navigating the Christian Life", by Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. Please call our offices today for your complete copy. ~

Checklist of a Truly Christian School

A Christian school must...

I. Lead every child to personal salvation knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

II. Be designed to lead every child to a knowledge of God's Word.

III. Teach every child how to lead another person to Jesus Christ.

IV. Teach every child to fear God.

V. Teach every child the way of holiness.

VI. Teach every child the stewardship of life.

VII. Teach every child about dedication to excellence.

VIII. Teach every child how to worship God.



VACCINATION RULES FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

As previously eradicated diseases continue to re-appear, many states are swiftly cracking down on vaccination exemptions. While the law in every state may be different, it is important you understand that these laws often apply to private schools as well. Your school may not have the option of enrolling an unvaccinated child without a valid medical exemption.

As another school year begins make sure your school is aware of all relevant regulations and requirements regarding vaccinations. Some states even require private schools to give reports on the vaccination status of their students.

Call our attorneys today at 888-252-1969 to discuss your Christian school. We are honored to help.

Always, Always

REPORT

A recent federal court case found that a Pennsylvania Christian school can be held liable for failure to report an employee's sexual misconduct to the proper authorities.

This school discovered that the basketball coach had been sending inappropriate text messages to multiple minors at the school. The school promptly investigated the situation and asked the coach to resign. The coach resigned, publicly stating "health problems".

Unfortunately, the school did not contact the authorities as it should have.

This coach later got a job at a public school and sexually assaulted a minor. The minor's family sued the Christian school for failing to initially report the coach's behavior. An appeals court ruled that the coach's behavior constituted "reasonable cause to suspect sexual abuse or sexual exploitation" of a minor.

The lesson here is clear, and one we here at the Christian Law Association have consistently advocated: **ALWAYS** contact the authorities and report suspected child abuse immediately.

Contact our attorneys at 888-252-1969 if you have any questions specific to your situation.

Unpaid Tuition?

One of the most common calls we receive from Christian schools is how to deal with a family who is falling behind on tuition costs. While these ministries certainly want to be a help and a blessing, believers should honor their promises when they give their word to pay tuition just as in every other situation in life.

Sadly, when bills pile up for families and for ministries, catching up on those payments becomes nearly impossible. Before it gets to this point, discuss amiable options about payment plans and get a written schedule in place. This will help to prevent hardships on both sides and maintain friendly relations between believers.

If these resolutions cannot be attained in a proper fashion, both groups may become upset both for unpaid debts and for broken fellowship. To avoid such an issue, it is vital that Christian schools create a clear tuition and fee schedule in their school handbook that lays out financial policies and consequences for failing to follow same.

Call our offices today at 888-252-1969 for advice specific to your ministry's needs.

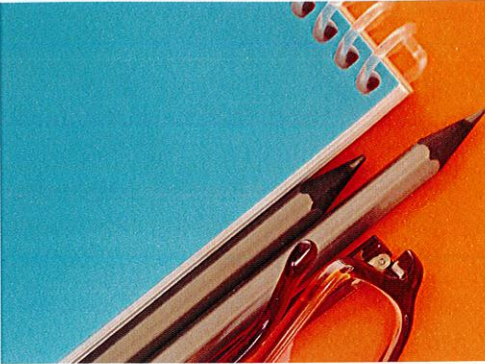


ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

The Christian Law Association is a ministry of legal helps.

CLA serves you the following ways:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Weekday radio program broadcast, *The Legal Alert*, on over 1,400 outlets around the world
- Publication of *The Legal Alert*, a monthly newsletter
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government



PRAYER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **OKLAHOMA** who was prohibited from being a volunteer at a local festival due to her social media posts.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **NEW MEXICO** who was laid off for having a discussion about religion while at her workplace.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **PENNSYLVANIA** under workplace scrutiny for not promoting LGBT in the library newsletter.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **TENNESSEE** where two members are attempting to get the pastor to leave the church simply because they disagree.
- ✓ Please pray for a church in **WISCONSIN** that was contacted by local media about incidents that took place many years in the past.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **TEXAS** who was forced to drop certifications because she would not compromise to LGBT standards.
- ✓ Praise the Lord a church in **VIRGINIA** was able to find out what the law says about designated giving to the church after speaking with a CLA attorney.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **OHIO** that is prayerfully considering allowing a power company to put equipment on the church's property.
- ✓ Praise the Lord a church in **GEORGIA** talked with CLA attorneys and was able to make an informed legal decision on employee salary accounting.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **CALIFORNIA** updating their end of life documents to better reflect their Christian beliefs.
- ✓ Pray for a pastor in **TENNESSEE** who recently found out someone has been misusing church funds.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian nurse in **KENTUCKY** who is wondering how to properly witness and care for LGBT patients.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian public school teacher in **TEXAS** attempting to have his school remove offensive artwork from common areas.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **FLORIDA** who is being told by her apartment complex she cannot have a Bible study in the common area.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **TEXAS** as a city employee is directly discriminating against the church.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian homeschool sports group in **VIRGINIA** updating their policies on sexual abuse claims and how to handle them.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **NORTH CAROLINA** that is updating their security policies and procedures to include audio/visual monitoring.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **FLORIDA** considering the liabilities of having lock-in activities for the youth group.
- ✓ Please pray for a Christian in **CALIFORNIA** with the desire to witness at a local public college.
- ✓ Please pray for a Christian in **NEW JERSEY** who is being told he cannot witness or pass out Christian literature while on the clock in his secular workplace.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **OHIO** considering trained armed church security officers to better protect the church from potential threats.