HEALTH FREEDOM OHIO

Parent Exemption & Documentation Guide

Child Care & Preschool | Ohio Law | Updated November 2026

Purpose

This guide helps parents understand immunization documentation and statutory exceptions for Ohio child care and preschool enrollment. Requirements depend on the type of program. This is educational information, not legal advice.

1. Know the governing rule

Licensed child care: Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 5104.014 generally requires an immunization medical statement within 30 days after enrollment and every 13 months thereafter for covered settings. The statement must identify immunization dates and applicable exceptions and include a place for parental declination.

Covered preschool programs: Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5180:2-20-08 generally requires a dated immunization record by admission or within 30 days and every 13 months thereafter. The applicable enrollment and exception framework should be confirmed with the specific program.

2. What exceptions does ORC 5104.014 recognize?

- Medical contraindication for the child.
- A parent or guardian declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.
- The immunization is not medically appropriate for the child's age.
- For influenza, the seasonal vaccine is unavailable.

These are exceptions to the immunization requirement in the statute; they do not necessarily override every provider admission policy or separate health-related exclusion rule.

3. What documentation should parents prepare?

☐ Ask the provider which licensing category and immunization form or statement it uses.

☐ For a conscience-based declination, complete the declination portion of the provider's medical statement or submit a signed parent statement if the applicable program rules permit it.

☐ For a medical contraindication or age-related medical exception, obtain the appropriate statement from a qualified health professional under the applicable rule.

☐ Keep a dated copy of all forms, correspondence, and any acknowledgment of receipt.

☐ Ask the provider about renewal deadlines, outbreak policies, and any enrollment restrictions.

4. Sample parental statement — reasons of conscience

This optional sample is intended for a covered child care setting where a parental statement is accepted. A provider may require its own form. Do not use it to claim a medical exception.

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT OF DECLINATION

Child's name: _____ Date of birth: _____

I am the parent or legal guardian of the child named above. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 5104.014(C)(1)(b), I decline immunization against the following disease(s) for my child for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions where applicable:

_____

_____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. If a provider requests additional information

Ask for the written policy and the specific statute or administrative rule on which the request is based. Clarify whether the issue is missing documentation, a statutory exception, a private admission policy, or a temporary public-health exclusion. Request a written response and retain your records.

Official sources

ORC 5104.014: https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-5104.014

OAC 5180:2-20-08 (preschool): https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5180:2-20-08

OAC 5180:2-13-15 (family child care): https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5180:2-13-15

OAC 5180:2-12-15 (child care centers): https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5180:2-12-15

Disclaimer: Information reflects statutes and rules reviewed November 2026. Check official sources for amendments and consult qualified counsel about a specific enrollment dispute.