



## Medical Exemption in California

California allows medical exemption to vaccination. Proof of medical exemption must take the form of a signed statement by a Medical Doctor (M.D.) that the administering of one or more vaccines would be detrimental to the health of an individual. Most doctors follow the AAP and CDC guidelines. California allows the California Department of Public Health to review the doctor's exemption and revoke it if health department officials don't think the exemption is justified.

120370. (SB 277)

(a) If the parent or guardian files with the governing authority a written statement by a licensed physician to the effect that the physical condition of the child is such, or medical circumstances relating to the child are such, that immunization is not considered safe, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history, for which the physician does not recommend immunization, that child shall be exempt from the requirements of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 120325, but excluding Section 120380) and Sections 120400, 120405, 120410, and 120415 to the extent indicated by the physician's statement.

Some helpful hints to prepare before going to your doctor and asking for a medical exemption letter:

- √ Do allergy (IgE and IgG) testing and environmental testing
- √ Look at your child's vaccine record and see what is missing. Look at the vaccine inserts for vaccines that are still needed as well as known allergens in all vaccines in the childhood schedule. Pay special attention to the vaccines missing at the next checkpoint.
- √ Document family medical history including incidence of auto immune history
- √ Get a copy of your child's medical record including vaccine records
- √ Construct a timeline especially if this includes vaccine injury and regression. Utilize helpful photos from this time period that show before and after vaccine injury.
- √ Put this information in a binder for your doctor to review with you.