

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

October 3, 2011

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL

David F. Black
General Counsel
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd., Rm. 600
Altmeyer Building
Baltimore, MD 21235-6401

Re: Question Concerning Religious Record of Birth as Part of Social Security Application Process

Dear Mr. Black:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to follow up on a letter we sent on June 21, 2011. In that letter we stated that we were writing on behalf of our members regarding constitutional concerns related to the Social Security application process. FFRF members who applied for Social Security benefits objected to being asked: "Was a religious record of your birth made before you were age 5?" This question is constitutionally suspect, and while FFRF understands that it may be required in some circumstances, it is unnecessary as a per se requirement. I have included a copy of our previous letter for your reference, as well as a copy of our initial letter sent to your office in May 2008.

To date, we have not received a response to our letters. We would greatly appreciate hearing from you in writing at your earliest convenience about this Establishment Clause concern.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Markert
Staff Attorney

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Enclosure