



Teacher Notification Template: Respecting Parental Religious Rights

Nothing in this document should be construed as legal advice. The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Anyone interested in the application of the law to a specific factual situation should contact their own counsel.

This template helps teachers provide parents with advance notice when class instruction may involve sensitive or controversial topics that could conflict with a family’s sincerely held religious beliefs. In *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (2025), the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed that public schools must respect parents’ constitutional right to direct the religious upbringing of their children. While not every topic will implicate this right, timely and transparent communications with families is key when issues arise that may concern families’ religious beliefs. This notice template supports that goal and helps schools comply with constitutional requirements.

Dear Families,

We will be discussing **[insert topic]** in class on **[insert date]**. If you would like to opt your child out of this instruction, please notify me by **[insert deadline date]**. For students who opt out, I will provide an alternative academic activity aligned with our learning objectives.

If you have any questions or would like to preview the materials in advance, please feel free to contact me at **[insert contact information]**.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,
[Teacher’s Name]
[Teacher’s Contact Information]