

## **Personal Religious Statement Objecting to Vaccines Based Upon Judaism**

I am seeking a religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine based on religious grounds. It is my personal and strongly held religious belief that the COVID-19 vaccination contravenes my religious convictions as a Jew.

I have been raised to follow the tenets of my Jewish faith, which I have studied over the years and in the process of doing so have developed a knowledge of the obligations which my religion imposes. I have always felt a deep connection with G-d and Divine law, given by G-d thousands of years ago. That law does not change to meet the times, to satisfy social mores as to what is acceptable or even to take advantage of medical and scientific progress. It is an act of faith to adhere to Divine law in the face of the challenges to our survival as Jews and that conviction has allowed us to remain steadfast in our Torah beliefs over centuries of massive social change and upheaval.

I have learned about the sanctity of life and our Divine human bodies. I strongly oppose abortion, which is akin to murder [Genesis 9:6] and any injection of cell lines descended from tissue taken from aborted fetuses would defile my body. Were I to allow such an injection into my body, I would be complicit in an act of murder. This is my interpretation of Torah law regarding abortion. Our human bodies are vessels of the Divine spark of life, and we must live our lives consistent with that transcendent reality.

The Torah prohibits us from accepting foreign material into our bodies and more particularly [Deuteronomy 14:1] prohibits needle wounds except for direct curative benefit. One must maintain his body and blood uncontaminated under Jewish law. I consider these COVID-19 injections to represent a defilement of my body, blood and soul and a rejection of the trust we must have as Jews in the natural healing powers bestowed upon the human body by our Creator.