

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
  
United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

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6230  
02 May 2022

### MEMORANDUM

LAFFERTY, MIRIAM Digitally signed by LAFFERTY, MIRIAM, DN: cn=LAFFERTY, o=U.S. COAST GUARD, email=miriam.lafferty@uscg.mil  
LYNN.1027807464

From: M. L. Lafferty, RDML  
Appellate Authority

To: S. G. Galdamez, 2/C Cadet 

Subj: DECISION ON APPEAL OF RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION DENIAL

Ref: (a) Your memo 6230 of 28 Mar 2022  
(b) CG-133 memo 6230 of 04 Mar 2022  
(c) Military Religious Accommodations, COMDTINST 1000.15 (series)  
(d) ALCOAST 305/21 R 262212Z AUG 21  
(e) ALCOAST 315/21 R 072247Z SEP 21

1. I have personally reviewed and fully considered your appeal (reference (a)) of the decision to deny your request for a religious accommodation (reference (b)). I find no error occurred in reaching the decision to deny your religious accommodation request. As such, and in accordance with reference (c), your appeal is denied.
2. My decision in your case came only after extensive consideration. I personally reviewed your appeals package and consulted with a Judge Advocate to ensure I accurately applied the law and policy to your specific circumstances. My actions in denying your request are intended to meet Coast Guard requirements as a ready military workforce and national first responder in which you play a valuable role.
3. I noted in your appeal that you object to "the utilization and involvement of fetal stem cell lines in the development and/or efficacy testing of COVID-19 immunizations." A member who has received all required doses of a vaccine listed on the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency use listing (EUL) is compliant with the Coast Guard's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, as described in references (d) and (e). If you are aware of a vaccine on this list that satisfies your stated religious objections and choose to receive all required doses, you would be considered fully vaccinated and in compliance with references (d) and (e). I encourage you to engage with your command to discuss ways in which you could become compliant, should you elect to pursue this option.
4. I realize my denial of your appeal is not welcome news. It takes courage to submit an accommodation request that requires sharing your closely held beliefs, as well as to trust others to treat those beliefs thoughtfully. I also understand that you may have experienced additional stress during this process and, if so, strongly encourage you to take advantage of the many resources the Coast Guard provides to help you best manage that stress. Contact your command if you have questions about how to access these resources.
5. I have no doubt that you have made significant sacrifices along your journey, investing yourself in our Coast Guard and the Nation. I hope you will decide to comply with the Coast Guard's vaccine requirement and continue your service well into the future.

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