

EBSA FORM 700-- CERTIFICATION
(revised January 2023)

Public Health Service Act section 2713 requires, among other things, that certain group health plans and issuers provide benefits for women’s preventive services without cost sharing as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The HRSA-Supported Guidelines provide exemptions for, among other entities and individuals, group health plans and student health insurance coverage under certain circumstances related to an objection to providing contraception coverage. An optional accommodation process is available for eligible entities, under which the entity’s issuer or third party administrator instead provides or arranges separate payments for contraceptive services. The accommodation process for eligible organizations is described in 26 CFR 54.9815-2713A, 29 CFR 2590.715-2713A, and 45 CFR 147.131. These instructions and model notice may be used to claim an accommodation (not the exemption) from the contraceptive coverage requirements for an eligible organization. These instructions are intended for use in connection with whichever accommodation process for eligible organizations is in effect at the time an entity submits this form. Entities should check current regulations and guidance to determine which accommodation process(es) are in effect.

An eligible entity may, but is not required to, use a completed copy of this form to provide notice to its issuer or third party administrator that the objecting entity has a sincerely held religious objection, consistent with applicable rules, to coverage of all or a subset of contraceptive services, pursuant to 26 CFR 54.9815-2713A, 29 CFR 2590.715-2713A, and 45 CFR 147.131. Alternatively, an objecting entity may provide notice to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. A model notice is available at - <http://www.cms.gov/ccio/resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/index.html#Prevention>.

An organization may revoke its use of the accommodation process at a later date if it chooses to do so provided that written notice of any such revocation is given to participants and beneficiaries consistent with 26 CFR 54.9815-2713A, 29 CFR 2590.715-2713A, and 45 CFR 147.131. Entities should check current regulations and guidance to determine if revocation is available.

If an eligible organization intends to utilize the accommodation process and chooses to use this form instead of notifying the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the eligible organization should fill out this form completely and provide it to the eligible organization’s plan’s health insurance issuers (for insured coverage) or third party administrators (for self-insured coverage). This form should be made available for examination upon request and maintained on file for at least 6 years following the end of the last applicable plan year.

Name of the objecting entity	
Name and title of the individual who is authorized to make, and makes, this certification on behalf of the entity	

Mailing and email addresses and phone number for the individual listed above

I certify the organization is an objecting entity (as described in 26 CFR 54.9815-2713A(a), 29 CFR 2590.715-2713A(a); 45 CFR 147.131(c)) that has a sincerely held religious objection to providing coverage for all or a subset of contraceptive services.

I declare that I have made this certification, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct. I also declare that this certification is complete.

Signature of the individual listed above

Date

Notice to Third Party Administrators of Self-Insured Health Plans

In the case of a group health plan that provides benefits on a self-insured basis, the provision of this certification to a third party administrator for the plan that will process claims for contraceptive coverage required under 26 CFR 54.9815-2713(a)(1)(iv) or 29 CFR 2590.715-2713(a)(1)(iv) constitutes notice to the third party administrator that the eligible organization:

- (1) Will not act as the plan administrator or claims administrator with respect to claims for contraceptive services, or contribute to the funding of contraceptive services; and
- (2) The obligations of the third party administrator are set forth in 26 CFR 54.9815-2713A, 29 CFR 2510.3-16, and 29 CFR 2590.715-2713A.

This form or a notice to the Secretary is an instrument under which the plan is operated.

PRA Disclosure Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is **0938-1344**. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 50 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.