

## ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE

### **Rhode Island Royal Charter** (1663)

The American colonies often had very different laws regulating religious practices. Rhode Island was the first colony to allow religious freedom. Documents such as the Rhode Island Royal Charter would later influence the First Amendment. [Link](#).

### **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom** (1777)

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was first drafted in 1777 by Thomas Jefferson. The statute disestablished the Church of England in Virginia and guaranteed freedom of religion to people of all religious faiths, including Christians of all denominations, Jews, Muslims, and Hindus. [Link](#).

### **Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments** (1785)

“Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments” is a document, written by James Madison, which was presented to the Virginia General Assembly in 1785, arguing for complete religious liberty and against government support of religion in any form. [Link](#).

### **County of Allegheny v. ACLU** (1989)

Supreme Court case over whether Christmas and Hanukkah displays on government property violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. [Link](#)

## ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE, CONTINUED.

### **Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster Brochure** (c. 2010s)

Many have fought for religious freedom and tolerance in the United States. Some have often employed comical strategies to achieve these ends. The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster is an American satirical religion that uses humor and theatrics to fight for the “separation of church and state”. [Link](#).

## FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE

### **Jefferson Bible** (1820)

The “Jefferson Bible” was completed by Thomas Jefferson who cut and pasted, with a razor and glue, numerous sections from the New Testament. Jefferson’s condensed composition excludes all miracles by Jesus and most mentions of the supernatural. Jefferson’s Bible is a controversial text that sheds light on the religious beliefs of one of the most influential Founding Fathers. [Link](#).

### **Book of Mormon Manuscript Excerpt** (1829)

The First Amendment not only protects religious practice, but also gives Americans the ability to create new ways of thinking. Many Americans have utilized this to found new religions. One of the most famous religions founded in the United States is Mormonism. Joseph Smith, a farmer from Upstate New York,

created the Book of Mormon which spawned Mormonism. The story of Joseph Smith is a testament to the power of the freedoms found within the First Amendment. [Link](#).

### ***Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*** (1875)

This seminal book, by Christian Science founder Mark Baker Eddy, was selected as one of the “75 Books By Women Whose Words Have Changed The World,” by the Women’s National Book Association. It is the foundational text of the Christian Science religion. Christian Science is one of the few American religions founded by a woman. [Link](#).

### ***Case Brief: West Virginia State Board of Education et al. vs. Barnett. et al.*** (1943)

During the height of WWII, the West Virginia State Board of Education required students to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. One student, a Jehovah’s Witness, refused, saying it was against his religious beliefs. But was this legal? The Supreme Court weighed in. [Link](#).

### ***American Indian Religious Freedom Act*** (1978)

The law was enacted by the US Congress to return basic civil liberties to Native Americans, Inuit, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians, and to allow them to practice their inherent religious rights freely. [Link](#).