

§ 88.8

and regulations which govern the administration of contracts (*e.g.*, Federal Acquisition Regulation), grants (*e.g.*, 45 CFR part 75) and CMS funding arrangements (*e.g.*, the Social Security Act):

(i) Temporarily withholding Federal financial assistance or other Federal funds, in whole or in part, pending correction of the deficiency;

(ii) Denying use of Federal financial assistance or other Federal funds from the Department, including any applicable matching credit, in whole or in part;

(iii) Wholly or partly suspending award activities;

(iv) Terminating Federal financial assistance or other Federal funds from the Department, in whole or in part;

(v) Denying or withholding, in whole or in part, new Federal financial assistance or other Federal funds from the Department administered by or through the Secretary for which an application or approval is required, including renewal or continuation of existing programs or activities or authorization of new activities;

(vi) In coordination with the Office of the General Counsel, referring the matter to the Attorney General for proceedings to enforce any rights of the United States, or obligations of the recipient or sub-recipient, under Federal law or this part; and

(vii) Taking any other remedies that may be legally available.

(j) *Noncompliance with § 88.4.* If a recipient of Federal financial assistance or applicant therefor fails or refuses to furnish an assurance or certification required under § 88.4 or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with a requirement imposed by or pursuant to that section, OCR, in coordination with the relevant Department component, may effect compliance by any of the remedies provided in paragraph (i) of this section. The Department shall not be required to provide assistance in such a case during the pendency of the administrative proceedings brought under such paragraph.

§ 88.8 Relationship to other laws.

Nothing in this part shall be construed to preempt any Federal, State, or local law that is equally or more protective of religious freedom and

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moral convictions. Nothing in this part shall be construed to narrow the meaning or application of any State or Federal law protecting free exercise of religious beliefs or moral convictions.

§ 88.9 Rule of construction.

This part shall be construed in favor of a broad protection of the free exercise of religious beliefs and moral convictions, to the maximum extent permitted by the Constitution and the terms of the Federal conscience and anti-discrimination laws.

§ 88.10 Severability.

Any provision of this part held to be invalid or unenforceable either by its terms or as applied to any entity or circumstance shall be construed so as to continue to give the maximum effect to the provision permitted by law, unless such holding shall be one of utter invalidity or unenforceability, in which event such provision shall be severable from this part, which shall remain in full force and effect to the maximum extent permitted by law. A severed provision shall not affect the remainder of this part or the application of the provision to other persons or entities not similarly situated or to other, dissimilar circumstances.

APPENDIX A TO PART 88—MODEL TEXT: NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER FEDERAL CONSCIENCE AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

[Name of recipient, the Department, or Department component] complies with applicable Federal conscience and anti-discrimination laws prohibiting exclusion, adverse treatment, coercion, or other discrimination against individuals or entities on the basis of their religious beliefs or moral convictions. You may have the right under Federal law to decline to perform, assist in the performance of, refer for, undergo, or pay for certain health care-related treatments, research, or services (such as abortion or assisted suicide, among others) that violate your conscience, religious beliefs, or moral convictions.

If you believe that [Name of recipient, the Department, or Department component] has failed to accommodate your conscientious, religious, or moral objection, or has discriminated against you on those grounds, you can file a conscience and religious freedom complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for