

Terms and conditions for the acknowledgment¹ of incorporated churches using the name “Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church” in the United States.

1. You must have a state incorporation document which includes the name “Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church” in the articles of incorporation. We require a copy of the incorporation document showing the business number issued by the secretary of state. If you have a federal tax number, we’d like to have it, although we don’t require it.
2. You must supply us with the name of a contact for your organization, including name, mailing address, phone number, email address or other means of electronic communication.
3. You must be familiar with the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Employment Division v. Smith, 494 U.S. 872 (1990). The Smith case is about the religious use of peyote by the Native American Church and it references the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church on page 889, Olsen v. Drug Enforcement Administration, 878 F. 2d 1458 (D.C. Cir. 1989), and on page 918, [Some religions, for example, might not restrict drug use to a limited ceremonial context, as does the Native American Church. See, e. g., Olsen, 878 F. 2d, at 1464 (“[T]he Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church . . . teaches that marijuana is properly smoked 'continually all day'”)]. The Native American Church has a religious exemption for the use of peyote in the Code of Federal Regulations, 21 C.F.R. 1307.31 (2017), as well as in some states such as Iowa, Iowa Code 124.204(8) (2017).
4. You must be familiar with the ruling of the Florida Supreme Court in Town v. State ex rel. Reno, 377 So.2d 648 (Fla. 1979). Although that case found that the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church “is centuries old and has regularly used cannabis as its sacrament,” the statements regarding the doctrine and theology of the church are inaccurate. Cannabis is not the body of Christ as stated by the Florida Supreme Court. Cannabis is the blood of Christ and the members of the church are the body of Christ. You must agree with the church’s interpretation of its doctrine and theology and not the Florida

¹ <http://ethiopianzioncopticchurch.org/Home/About>

Supreme Court's interpretation.

5. You must file an annual report with us by April 1 of each year with the following information:
 - a. Any change to your state incorporation document.
 - b. Any efforts you have made to have your church's use of cannabis authorized by legislation, state or federal. Please describe these efforts in sufficient detail so we can follow along. Also, if necessary for us to follow along, send us updates on this activity on a more frequent basis. If you are not engaged in such activity, then so state.
 - c. Any efforts you have made to have your church's use of cannabis authorized by administrative regulation, state or federal. Please describe these efforts in sufficient detail so we can follow along. Also, if necessary for us to follow along, send us updates on this activity on a more frequent basis. If you are not engaged in such activity, then so state.
 - d. Any efforts you have made to have your church's use of cannabis authorized by judicial order, state or federal. Please describe these efforts in sufficient detail so we can follow along. Also, if necessary for us to follow along, send us updates on this activity on a more frequent basis. If you are not engaged in such activity, then so state.

Thank you!

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