



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY

from
Americans for Freedom of Religion

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Despite the “Bah! Humbug!” Christmas Displays are Constitutional Multiple Law Firms Make The Case

Religious freedom in the United States is a right critical to all Americans as the basis for our laws and our culture. Our first amendment has two clauses making clear that our government may not establish one religion that all Americans must follow (the Establishment Clause) and that Americans are free to exercise their chosen religion without government interference (the Free Exercise clause.)

Every year the Christmas season brings with its religious celebrations, joy and festivities varying amounts of controversy. There are recurring discussions about the constitutionality of religious symbols of the season being displayed in schools, public buildings and public outdoor spaces. These discussions often focus on a community's Christmas tree in the town square or park. There are a growing number of court decisions where the judges decided that a Christmas tree is a secular symbol of a holiday season celebrated by the vast majority of Americans and is not a religious symbol. A creche and menorah are considered by the courts to be religious symbols which can also be displayed in public schools, government buildings and public squares as long as they are presented along with secular items such as a Christmas tree, Santa Claus, reindeer, etc.

- Liberty Counsel's attorneys defended the display of a Nativity Scene at the Jackson, IN Courthouse in 2021 in a precedent setting case that ruled the Nativity scene was not unconstitutional because it was part of the larger holiday display. Other victories by Liberty Counsel have restored more Nativity displays on public property, returned Christmas carols to the elderly who were not allowed to sing them in their nursing home, defeated a ban on students wearing red and green colors to school and stopping chorus directors from replacing religious lyrics in Christmas carols, etc.

Follow the links here to read more about the pro bono work done by these law firms to defend many aspects of religious freedom including the right to celebrate religious holidays as part of our shared community lives.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/yyx8dtfk> <https://tinyurl.com/2r2xn9r9> <https://tinyurl.com/5bzyzuw9>