

Conscientious Objection Sample Questions¹

M. A description of the nature of the belief which is the basis for the applicant's claim.

N. An explanation as to how, when, and from whom or from what source the application received the training and acquired the belief which is the basis of his claim.

O. The name and present address of the individual on whom the applicant relies most for religious guidance in matters of conviction relating to his claim.

P. A statement as to circumstances, if any, under which the applicant believes in the use of force.

Q. A description of the action and behavior in the applicant's life which in his opinion most conspicuously demonstrates the consistency and depth of his religious convictions which give rise to his claim.

R. A statement as to whether the applicant has ever given public expression, written or oral, to the views expressed in his application as the basis for his claim. If so the applicant shall specify when and where.

S. Information as to whether applicant has ever been a member of any military organization or establishment before entering upon his present term of service. If so, the name and address of such organization shall be given, together with reasons why he became a member.

T. A statement as to whether the applicant is a member of a religious sect or organization. If so, the statement shall indicate the name of the sect and the name and location of its governing body or head, if known; when, where, and how the applicant became a member of the sect or organization; the name and location of any church, congregation, or meeting which the applicant customarily attends; the name, title, and present address of the pastor or leader of such church, congregation, or meeting; a description of the creed or official statements, if any, of the positions taken by the sect or organization in relation to participation in war.

U. A description of applicant's relationships with and activities in all organizations with which he is or has been affiliated, other than military, political, or labor organizations.

¹ N.B.: These questions are taken verbatim from a partial CO application form found among the papers of G. William Carlson, professor emeritus of History and Political Science at Bethel University, St. Paul Minnesota. It is unclear exactly which form number and series the questions derive from and whether all applicants were required to answer these exact questions; however, they cover in spirit the various aspects of personal belief any CO applicant was required to attest to.