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**THE FIRST AMENDMENT:  
STANDARDS OF INTERPRETATION**

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THE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE:  
STANDARDS OF INTERPRETATION

If a law or regulation is said to violate the establishment clause,  
The Supreme Court will generally ask the following questions:

**Does that law or regulation:**

1. Have a secular purpose.
2. Have a primary effect that neither advances nor inhibits religion.
3. Foster no excessive entanglement between church and state.

If the Court is able to answer “YES” to these questions,  
It will usually find that the law is constitutional.

Summarized from: *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971)

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