



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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### STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 99-06

**CODE:** 1997 State Regulations for Barrier-Free Facilities

**SECTION:** Group A Occupancies, Section 1103.1.2.1 (Religious facilities)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Are religious facilities exempt from the state barrier-free regulations?
2. Is a baptistery required to be accessible?
3. Must the edge of a baptismal font or tank be accessible?
4. Can a baptistery be served only by a stairway (such as by a stairway with six risers), or is a platform lift required?

**ANSWERS:**

1. No.
2. Yes, a religious facility must comply with Section 1103.2.2 which states that an accessible route of travel shall be provided to all portions of the building, therefore an accessible route of travel complying with Section 1106.4 is required to connect a baptistery with wheelchair seating locations.
3. No, baptismal fonts and tanks are not addressed by the code.
4. No, an accessible route to a baptistery is required as indicated in Answer 2. A platform lift is not specifically required, the accessible route can be provided as part of the architectural design, such as by ramps per Section 1106.4, or by a platform lift per Section 1105.3.2.

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Cowlitz County