



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575

Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575

Phone: 803-798-0120 Fax: 803-737-0029 www.schsl.org

To: Dr. Duane Graham, Principal
From: Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
Subject: Time of scheduled appearance before Executive Committee
Date: July 26, 2018

You are scheduled to appear before the Executive Committee on August 2, 2018 to present your case for Lois Wells. The meeting will be held at the South Carolina High School League Office, 121 Westpark Boulevard, Columbia, South Carolina. Your scheduled appearance time is 10:00 am.

Please refer to page 1 of the League's By-Laws for the procedures to be used when making appeals to the Executive Committee. You are to forward copies of your request brief to members of the Executive Committee. Each committee person must receive a complete copy of all pertinent information prior to the meeting. You will have 10 minutes to make your presentation to the Committee.

Date: August 2, 2018
Time: 10:00 am
Site: South Carolina High School League
121 Westpark Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575

Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575

Phone: 803-798-0120 Fax: 803-737-0029 www.schsl.org

DAN MATTHEWS
President
Camden

OZZIE AHL
Vice President
Rock Hill

PENNY ATKINSON
Inman

RYAN BROWN
Columbia

CHARLES BURRY
Hartsville

KAREN RADCLIFFE
Ashley Ridge

KATHY COLEMAN
Saluda

PATRICK FINNERAN
Charleston

BOB HAYES
Mt. Pleasant

TINIECE JAVIS
Columbia

SAM JONES
Eastover

SHAWN JOHNSON
Blackville

GREGORY MCCORD
Beaufort

MICKEY PRINGLE
Denmark

JOE QUIGLEY
Little River

ROBBY ROACH
Williamston

AKIL ROSS
Chapin

MAUREEN TILLER
Clinton

SAM TUTEN
Johnsonville

STEVE WILSON
St. Matthews

February 21, 2018

Dr. Duane Graham, Principal
Chester High School
1330 J.A. Cochran By Pass
Chester, SC 29706

Dear Dr. Graham:

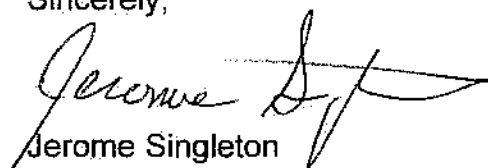
I have reviewed all the information submitted by Chester High School, including the statements submitted in support of the hardship request. However, based upon the information provided to me, I have determined that the degree of hardship necessary for me to grant a waiver for Lois Wells is not evident and, therefore, I must deny the request. The student's age must be verifiable. In absence of a state issued certificate of birth, I am not able to determine the student's age.

The League's Executive Committee will meet April 26, 2018 at the League Building in Columbia to hear appeals. If you desire to appeal this ruling, please notify me in writing by April 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Also, you are to refer to page 1 in the League's Bylaws for the procedure to be followed. Each committee person must receive a complete copy of the hardship request prior to April 23, 2018. Additionally, if you plan to have legal representation (i.e. attorney) at the meeting, please notify this office along with the appeal request. Please note that the meeting will proceed in open session pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-10, *et seq.* If you wish for the meeting to be closed to the public, please be prepared to make the request at the beginning of the meeting, identifying the specific exemption under FOIA that applies to your case.

Note: The Executive Committee does not have the authority to set aside the state statute.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,


Jerome Singleton
Commissioner



Application for Hardship Exceptions

South Carolina High School League

PO Box 211575

Columbia, SC 29221-6575

803-798-0120 Fax: 803-731-9679

A waiver of the South Carolina High School League eligibility is possible under By-Laws, Article III, Section 5 of the League's Handbook and may be considered if conditions exist or existed causing a student to be in violation of a rule. There cannot be an exception to the age rule. Please complete this form and furnish the additional information needed to develop acceptable proof that the student should be considered for this waiver.

1. School applying for exception Chester High
2. Name of Student Lois Wells Grade 11
3. Date student enrolled in your school 8/2015
4. If a transfer student, list former school's
 - Name: NA
 - Address: NA
 - Principal: NA
 - Telephone: NA
5. a. For which rule are you requesting an exception? (Circle One)
 - Residence/Transfer
 - Four-Year Rule
 - Attendance
 - Academics
- b. Special Conditions Criteria: (Circle One)
 - Extraordinary Circumstances
 - Medical
 - Financial
6. Include a transcript, if it is needed to support the request. (Required for appeal of Four-Year Rule & Attendance/Academic Rule)
7. School officials must include a brief narrative explaining the situation and why they feel this student should be considered for hardship. You must clearly state what you perceive to be the hardship.
8. Include written statements from individuals that have personal knowledge of the facts. We need those persons in authoritative positions such as: school officials; including principals, superintendents, counselors, etc., and doctors, social workers, employers, ministers, etc.
9. Include written statements from parents.
10. Include a written statement of support from the administration of the former school.

LEAGUE ACTION

Signature of Superintendent or Principal

Signed

2/15/18
Date

Date

(Last Updated: September 18, 2015)



Chester High School

1330 J.A. Cochran By Pass

Chester, South Carolina 29706

Phone (803) 377-3161 Fax (803) 581-2363

www.chester.chs.schooldesk.net

February 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

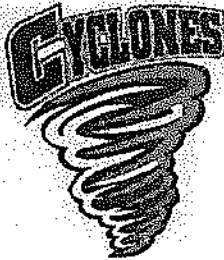
We believe that Lois Wells a student at Chester High School is experiencing a hardship, because she is not able to obtain a birth certificate. She was born in the state of Georgia. She did not receive vaccinations as required by the state at the time of birth because the family refused due to religious reasons. The state did not issue a birth certificate due to failure to vaccinate. The parents moved to Chester County and the school district did admit the child to public school based on the information given by the parents. We feel that the family is doing everything possible to obtain a birth certificate and the student has no control over any of the above actions. The student's sister, Christina Wells filed for a hardship in 2014 and it was approved by the Executive Committee. Thanks for your consideration of this hardship.

Sincerely,

Dr. Duane Graham

Principal

Chester High School



Chester High School

1330 J.A. Cochran By Pass

Chester, South Carolina 29706

Phone: (803) 377-3161 Fax: (803) 581-2363

www.chester.chs.schooldesk.net

February 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Lois Ann Wells is a current 11th grader at Chester Senior High School without a birth certificate. She has been enrolled in the Chester Schools since 2011. She would like to participate this spring on the Track and Field Sports Team. I believe that this is a tremendous opportunity for this student both athletically and social. She will be able to make friends outside of the classroom and learn how it feels to be a part of a team. Lois excels in the classroom and is a very dependable student.

Lois cannot help the fact that she does not have a birth certificate. I have spoken to her mother on multiple occasions. The mother is working on trying to get the birth certificate but circumstances have prevented this from being an easy task.

I would not want for these circumstances to hinder Lois from playing a sport and feeling like she is part of a team like other high school students.

Please do not take this opportunity away from her.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Kovas

School Counselor

These children were
born to charity michele
strong

Births
Michael Wells

Christina Marie Wells

April 13, 1998

1440 PM 22 1/2"

14 1/2" head 10lb

13 1/2" chest 18 1/2 lb

201 White Plankton Rd

Thibodaux, LA 70201

Nathanael Michael Wells

Sept 2 1999

1:19 AM 6 lbs 10 oz

4000 W. Sunburg Ct.

Trumbull, AL 36584

Births

Lois Ann Wells

July 16, 2001 8:23 AM

882 Warner Rd. Chick

Hartwell, Ga. 30643

August 27, 2003

Sept 2, 2003

Sept 26, 2003

Carlisle, SC 29531

Lucia Grace Wells

July 1, 2005

July 6, 2005

Carlisle, SC 29531

February 20, 2018

Mr. Singleton,

Lois Ann Nello (16) was a home birth in Hartwell, Georgia on August 16, 2001. Due to our religious beliefs at that time, we did not apply for a birth certificate. Lois is one of five of our children we have been trying to get certificates for. We could not provide Vital Records the required documents for the certificates.

Over a year and a half ago a lawyer took our case. She could not procure the certificates administratively or with collaboration with her colleagues. She was to secure us a court date, but her office has been vacated, and she hasn't answered texts. We are currently seeking other legal aid.

Pertinent documents have been submitted that aren't in our lawyer's possession to establish Lois's age. The children were enrolled in the Chester County School District six years ago without birth certificates.

I am requesting acceptance of this statement of Lois's age to be an active member of the Chester Senior High School track team.

Christy Wells
(mother)

Chester High School
1330 J A Cochran Bypass
Chester, SC 29706

February 15, 2018

Re: Documentation for Participation in Athletics

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing on behalf of a student who has no birth certificate to enable her to participate in a team sport at her school. I have worked with Ms. Lois Wells in my position as Senior Army Instructor for the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) since 2015. She truly cannot help that the documents are unavailable to her. Allowing her to compete releases significant stressed.

While a student, Ms. Wells was involved in several activities within the JROTC. She successfully completed JROTC Cadet Leadership Camp in June 2017 where she excelled as a member of Academic team who placed first in the Jeopardy competition. She also was a member of the Corps of Cadets Drill Team during her tenure in JROTC.

Ms. Well has a wonderful rapport with people of all ages. Her ability to connect with her classmates, teachers, and people with the community is uncanny. She is smart, dependable, and caring. She wants very much to play sports and feel equal to her peers in this high school setting.

She accomplishes all tasks with great initiative and with a very positive attitude. This opportunity would greatly enhance her chance to become part of a unit and feel welcome, as if she belongs.

I ask that you considered her feelings and desires in this matter. Furthermore, I ask that you give her a chance to accomplish all she can at this level. She deserves this opportunity. If you have any further questions with regard to her background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

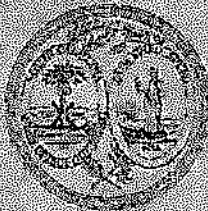
Sincerely,



Boyd Joye
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Retired
Senior Army Instructor
803-377-3161 Ext 968



South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption (From Immunization)



Section I - Pupil Information

<u>Wells</u>	<u>Lois</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>8-16-01</u>	
Pupil's Last Name	First Name	Initial	Birthday	Name of School
Street Address		City	County	Zip Code
Parent/Guardian's Name		Parent's/Guardian's Work Telephone		

Section II - Religious Exemption Authority

Pursuant to Section 44-28-40 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976 Department of Health and Environmental Control Regulation 61-8, 1980, "A South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the SOUTH CAROLINA CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION stating they are members of a recognized religious denomination in which the tenets and practices of the religious denomination conflict with immunizations."

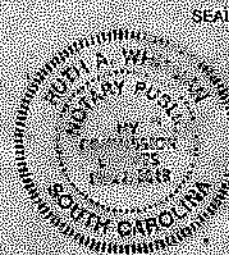
Section III - Statement of Religious Objection

As the parent (legal guardian or person in loco parentis) of the child named in SECTION I - PUPIL INFORMATION of this form, a minor seeking to be admitted into a child development program, a four or five year kindergarten, or school, whether public, private, or parochial in South Carolina, I request that said minor be exempted because of religious objections from immunizations in accordance with Section II, Sub-section B of Department of Health and Environmental Control Regulation 61-8, 1980 (as stated in SECTION II above).

Signed: Christy M. Wells (parent, legal guardian, or person in loco parentis)

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 23 day of July, 1901
Ruth A. Whitman
 Notary Public of South Carolina



ORIGINAL: Return for parent, legal guardian or person in loco parentis.

2 COPY: School Copy (To be sent to local Health Dept.)

3 COPY: School Record