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January 25, 2016

Via E-Mail

Mark Gottlieb (mark.gottlieb@dot.wi.gov)
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

John [Refused to Give Last Name]
Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

RE: Michael Schumacher, Pastafarian

Dear Mr. Gottlieb and John:

I represent Michael Schumacher, a member of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster and a practicing Pastafarian.

As with many other Pastafarians, Mr. Schumacher's religious beliefs include donning a colander as a head covering. When Mr. Schumacher, however, attempted to practice his religion while having his driver's license photo taken on January 19, "John,"¹ a DMV supervisor at the Sheboygan Avenue facility, informed him that he could not do so.

As you should and probably do know, Wis. Trans. § 102.10(b) specifically allows an applicant to wear a religious head covering in his driver's license photo as long as the covering is "pushed from the forehead until a full facial image is shown." Mr. Schumacher was willing to abide by this reasonable requirement, so we are left only

¹ "John" refused to give my client his last name, but considering that there are likely a very limited number of international pop or soccer stars living in the Madison area and working at the DMV, it stands to reason that he has one.

with the State of Wisconsin's refusal to follow its own statute and its desire to interfere with Mr. Schumacher's constitutionally-protected religious beliefs.

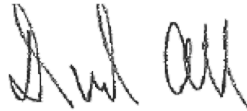
I urge the State of Wisconsin to follow its sister states in allowing exactly this type of head covering. For example, Pastafarians in [Utah](#), [Texas](#), and [Massachusetts](#) have all been allowed to don colanders in their identification photos, as have Pastafarians in [Austria](#), [Russia](#), and the [Czech Republic](#). As a Wisconsin resident, it is disheartening to imagine the possibility that my civil liberties—particularly my ability to freely practice my religion—would be better protected in Texas, Russia, or the birthplace of [TEXT OMITTED TO AVOID GODWIN'S LAW] than here in Wisconsin.

Interestingly enough, the State of Wisconsin has already recognized the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster during the last several years when [it has allowed](#) the Church to add displays in the capitol rotunda during the Christmas and Easter seasons along with other various displays from other religions.

It is my client's sincere hope that this issue can quickly be put to rest and that the State will allow him to take his driver's license photo while he dons his religious head covering. I ask that you please confirm that he will be allowed to do so the next time he enters the DMV.

Very truly yours,

SHANNON LAW OFFICE, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek R. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Derek R. Allen