

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MIAMI DIVISION
CASE NO.:

JORGE L. ABREU
and other similarly-situated individuals,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
And FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR.,
Individually.

Defendants,

COMPLAINT

(OPT-IN PURSUANT TO 29 U.S.C § 216(b))

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, JORGE L. ABREU, and other similarly-situated individuals, by and through the undersigned counsel, and hereby sues Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC., and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR., individually and alleges:

JURISDICTION VENUES AND PARTIES

1. This is an action to recover money damages for unpaid minimum and overtime wages under the laws of the United States. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201-219 (Section 216 for jurisdictional placement) (“the Act”).
2. Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU is a resident of Miami-Dade County, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court. Plaintiff is a covered employee for purposes of the Act.
3. Defendant FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC. (hereinafter FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, or Defendant) is a Florida corporation, having a place of business in Miami-Dade County, Florida, where Plaintiff worked for Defendant, and at all times material hereto, Defendant was engaged in interstate commerce.

4. The individual Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR. was and is now, the owner, President, of Defendant Corporation FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC. (hereinafter FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, or Defendant). This individual Defendant was an employer, within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the “Fair Labor Standards Act” [29 U.S.C. § 203(d)].
5. All the action raised in this complaint took place in Miami/Dade County Florida, within the jurisdiction of this Court.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

6. This cause of action is brought by Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU to recover from Defendants minimum wages, overtime compensation, liquidated damages, and the costs and reasonably attorney’s fees under the provisions of Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq* (the “FLSA or the “ACT”).
7. Corporate Defendant FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION is a general residential and commercial construction company specialized in the installation of water and sewer lines.
8. Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ employed Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU as a non-exempt full-time construction employee from approximately April 3, 2017 through July 28, 2017, or 16 weeks.
9. Plaintiff was hired to work as a water and sewer pipe installer, with a wage rate of \$13.00 an hour. Plaintiff overtime rate should be \$19.50 an hour.
10. Plaintiff worked under the supervision of the owner of the business FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR.
11. During his relevant employment period with Defendants, Plaintiff maintained a regular schedule. Plaintiff worked from Monday to Friday from 7:00 AM to approximately 5:00

PM (10 hours each day). Thus, Plaintiff worked a total of 47.5 hours weekly, (Plaintiff has deducted 2.5 hours weekly of lunch break periods.

12. Plaintiff worked in excess of 40 hours every week period. However, Plaintiff was not paid for all his overtime hours. Sometimes, Plaintiff was paid for a few hours, but most of the time, he was paid for 40 or less regular hours.
13. In addition, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff for overtime hours at the rate of time and a half his regular hourly rate.
14. Additionally, Plaintiff worked at least 4 Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, or 8 hours (deducting half-time lunch hour). These 32 working hours on 4 Saturdays, constitute 32 additional unpaid overtime hours.
15. Defendants did not use any time keeping method, but they maintained a regular schedule, and they were able to keep track of hours worked by Plaintiff and other employees similarly situated. Plaintiff and other individuals similarly situated reported every day to Defendants' place of business to pick up equipment and materials. Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees were constantly monitored by manager FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ.
16. Therefore, Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff minimum wages and overtime hours at the rate of time and a half his regular rate, in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
17. During the last weeks of Plaintiff's employment, he was paid his regular wages with 4 bad checks, that Defendants never replaced. Defendants owe Plaintiff at least Four weeks of wages, or the total value of \$1,846.00.
18. On or about July 30, 2017, Plaintiff was forced to terminate his employment with Defendants because he was working without proper compensation.

19. Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU seeks to recover minimum wages, and overtime hours at the rate of time and a half his regular rate, for every hour in excess of 40 that he worked in a week period, and any other relief as allowable by law.
20. The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are employees and/or former employees of Defendants who are and who were subject to the unlawful payroll practices and procedures of Defendants and were not paid overtime wages at the rate of time and one half of their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours worked in excess of forty.

COUNT I:
WAGE AND HOUR FEDERAL STATUTORY VIOLATION;
FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME, AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

21. Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU re-adopts each and every factual allegation as stated in paragraphs 1-19 above as if set out in full herein.
22. This cause of action is brought by Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU as a collective action to recover from Defendants overtime compensation, liquidated damages, costs and reasonably attorney's fees under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq* (the "FLSA or the "ACT"), on behalf of Plaintiff and all other current and former employees similarly situated to Plaintiff ("the asserted class") and who worked in excess of forty (40) hours during one or more weeks on or after April 2017, (the "material time") without being compensated "at a rate not less than one and a half times the regular rate at which he is employed."
23. Defendant FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION was and is engaged in interstate commerce as defined in §§ 3 (r) and 3(s) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r) and 203(s)(1)(A). The defendant is construction company. Defendant had more than two employees recurrently engaged in

commerce or the production of goods for commerce by regularly and recurrently using the instrumentalities of interstate commerce to accept and solicit funds from non-Florida sources; by using electronic devices to authorize credit card transactions. Upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of the Employer/Defendant was at all times material hereto in excess of \$500,000 per annum. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant's business activities involve those to which the Fair Labor Standards Act applies. Therefore, there is FLSA enterprise coverage.

24. Plaintiff and those similarly-situated were employed by an enterprise engage in interstate commerce. Plaintiff and those similarly-situated through their daily activities were regularly engaged in interstate commerce. Plaintiff regularly handled and worked on goods and materials that were moved across State lines at any time in the course of business. Therefore, there is FLSA individual coverage.

25. Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, employed Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU as a non-exempt full-time construction employee from approximately April 3, 2017 through July 28, 2017, or 16 weeks.

26. Plaintiff was hired to work as a water and sewer pipe installer, with a wage rate of \$13.00 an hour.

27. During his relevant employment period with Defendants, Plaintiff maintained a regular schedule. Plaintiff worked from Monday to Friday from 7:00 AM to approximately 5:00 PM (10 hours each day). Thus, Plaintiff worked a total of 47.5 hours weekly, (Plaintiff has deducted 2.5 hours weekly of lunch break periods.

28. Additionally, Plaintiff worked at least 4 Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, or 8 hours deducting half-time lunch hour. These 32 working hours on 4 Saturdays, constitute 32 additional unpaid overtime hours.
29. Plaintiff worked in excess of 40 hours every week period. However, Plaintiff was not paid for all his overtime hours. Sometimes, Plaintiff was paid for a few hours, but most of the time, he was paid for 40 or less regular hours.
30. Therefore, Plaintiff was not paid for all his overtime hours at the rate of time and one-half his regular rate for every hour that he worked in excess of forty (40), in violation of Section 7 (a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(a)(1)).
31. Defendants did not have any time-keeping method, but they maintained a regular schedule, and they were able to keep track of hours worked by Plaintiff and other employees similarly situated. Plaintiff and other individuals similarly situated reported every day to Defendants' place of business to pick up equipment and materials. Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees were constantly monitored by manager FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ.
32. The records, if any, concerning the number of hours worked by Plaintiff and those similarly situated, and the compensation paid to such employees should be in the possession and custody of Defendant. However, upon information and belief, Defendant did not maintain time accurate records of hours worked by Plaintiff and other employees.
33. Defendant violated the record keeping requirements of FLSA, 29 CFR Part 516.
34. Prior to the completion of discovery and to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, at the time of the filing of this complaint, Plaintiff's good faith estimate of unpaid overtime wages is as follows:

* Please note that these amounts are based on a preliminary calculation and that these figures could be subject to modifications as discovery could dictate. Plaintiff is not in possession of records at this moment, but will adjust his calculations after proper discovery.

a. Total amount of alleged unpaid O/T wages:

Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and 00/100 (\$2,964.00)

b. Calculation of such wages:

Relevant weeks of employment: 16 weeks

Total hours worked: 47.5 hours weekly plus 32 O/T hours worked on 4 Saturdays

Total overtime hours: 7.5 O/T hours

Regular rate: \$13.00 x 1.5= \$19.50 O/T rate

1.- \$19.50 O/T rate x 7.5 O/T hours=\$146.25 x 16 weeks=\$2,340.00

2.- \$19.50 O/T rate x 32 O/T hours = \$624.00

Nature of wages (e.g. overtime or straight time):

This amount represents unpaid overtime wages.

35. At all times material hereto, the Employer/Defendant failed to comply with Title 29 U.S.C. §207 (a) (1), in that Plaintiff and those similarly-situated performed services and worked in excess of the maximum hours provided by the Act but no provision was made by the Defendant to properly pay them at the rate of time and one half for all hours worked in excess of forty hours (40) per workweek as provided in said Act.
36. Defendant knew and/or showed reckless disregard of the provisions of the Act concerning the payment of overtime wages as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and remain owing Plaintiff and those similarly-situated these overtime wages since the commencement of Plaintiff's and those similarly-situated employee's employment with Defendant as set forth above, and Plaintiff and those similarly-situated are entitled to recover double damages.

37. At the times mentioned, individual Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ was the owner, president, and manager of FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, respectively. Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ was the employer of Plaintiff and others similarly situated within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the “Fair Labor Standards Act” [29 U.S.C. § 203(d)]. In that this individual Defendant acted directly in the interests of FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION in relation to its employees, including Plaintiff and others similarly situated. Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ had absolute financial and operational control of the Corporation, determined terms and working conditions of Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees, and he is jointly liable for Plaintiff’s damages.
38. Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ willfully and intentionally refused to pay Plaintiff overtime wages at the rate of time and one half his regular rate, as required by the law of the United States, and remain owing Plaintiff these overtime wages since the commencement of Plaintiff’s employment with Defendants as set forth above.
39. Plaintiff has retained the law offices of the undersigned attorney to represent him in this action and is obligated to pay a reasonable attorneys’ fee.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU and those similarly-situated respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

- A. Enter judgment for Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU and other similarly-situated individuals and against the Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ on the basis of Defendants’ willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.; and

- B. Award Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU, actual damages in the amount shown to be due for unpaid overtime compensation for hours, worked in excess of forty weekly, with interest; and
- C. Award Plaintiff an equal amount in double damages/liquidated damages; and
- D. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
- E. Grant such other and further relief as this Court deems equitable and just and/or available pursuant to Federal Law.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU demands trial by jury of all issues triable as of right by jury.

COUNT II:
F.L.S.A. WAGE AND HOUR FEDERAL STATUTORY VIOLATION: FAILURE TO
PAY MINIMUM WAGE; AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS

- 40. Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU re-adopts each and every factual allegation as stated in paragraphs 1-19 of this complaint as if set out in full herein.
- 41. This action is brought by Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU and those similarly-situated to recover from the Employer FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION unpaid minimum wages, as well as an additional amount as liquidated damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., and specifically under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. §206.
- 42. Defendant FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION was and is engaged in interstate commerce as defined in §§ 3 (r) and 3(s) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r) and 203(s)(1)(A). The defendant is construction company. Defendant had more than two employees recurrently engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce by regularly and recurrently using the instrumentalities of interstate commerce to accept and solicit funds from non-Florida

sources; by using electronic devices to authorize credit card transactions. Upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of the Employer/Defendant was at all times material hereto in excess of \$500,000 per annum. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant's business activities involve those to which the Fair Labor Standards Act applies. Therefore, there is FLSA enterprise coverage.

43. Plaintiff and those similarly-situated were employed by an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce. Plaintiff and those similarly-situated through their daily activities were regularly engaged in interstate commerce. Plaintiff regularly handled and worked on goods and materials that were moved across State lines at any time in the course of business. Therefore, there is FLSA individual coverage.

44. U.S.C. §206 states "Every employer shall pay to each of his employees who in any workweek is engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce, or is employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, wages at the following rates:

(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

(A) \$5.85 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after May 25, 2008;

(B) \$6.55 an hour, beginning 12 months after that 60th day; and

(C) \$7.25 an hour, beginning 24 months after that 60th day

45. Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, employed Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU as a non-exempt full-time construction employee from approximately April 3, 2017 through July 28, 2017, or 16 weeks.

46. Plaintiff was hired to work as a water and sewer pipe installer, with a wage rate of \$13.00 an hour.

47. During his relevant employment period with Defendants, Plaintiff maintained a regular schedule. Plaintiff worked from Monday to Friday from 7:00 AM to approximately 5:00 PM (10 hours each day). Thus, Plaintiff worked a total of 47.5 hours weekly, (Plaintiff has deducted 2.5 hours weekly of lunch break periods.

48. However, Plaintiff was not paid for all his hours worked. Plaintiff was not paid for a substantial number of hours regular wages at any rate, not even the minimum wage as required by law.

49. For the last 4 weeks of employment Defendant paid Plaintiff his regular wages with bad checks that Defendants never replaced. Defendants owe Plaintiff at least Four weeks of wages for the total value of \$1,846.00.

50. The records, if any, concerning the number of hours worked by Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU, and all other similarly-situated employees, and the compensation paid to such employees should be in the possession and custody of Defendant. However, upon information and belief, Defendant did not maintain accurate and complete time records of hours worked by Plaintiff and other employees in the asserted class.

51. Defendant violated the record keeping requirements of FLSA, 29 CFR Part 516.

52. Prior to the completion of discovery, and to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, at the time of the filing of this complaint, Plaintiff's good faith estimate of unpaid wages are as follows:

*Florida minimum wage is \$8.05, which is higher than Federal minimum wage. As per FLSA regulations the higher minimum wage applies.

a. Total amount of alleged unpaid wages:

One Thousand One Hundred One Dollars and 60/100 (\$1,101.60)

b. Calculation of such wages:

Total weeks of employment 16
Total unpaid weeks: 4 weeks
Total hours worked: 3 weeks of 40 hours weekly plus 2 days of 8 hours each.
Federal minimum wage: \$7.25
Florida minimum wage: \$8.10

1.- 2017 Fl. minimum wage \$8.10 x 40 hrs.= \$324.00 x 3 weeks= \$972.00
2.- 2017 Fl. minimum wage \$8.10 x 16 hrs.= \$129.60

Total 1 + 2: \$1,101.60

c. Nature of wages:

This amount represents unpaid minimum wages.

53. Defendant FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION unlawfully failed to pay Plaintiff minimum wages. Plaintiff seeks to recover for minimum wage violations accumulated from the date of hire through Plaintiff's last date of employment.
54. Defendant FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION knew and/or showed reckless disregard of the provisions of the Act concerning the payment of minimum wages as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and remain owing Plaintiff and those similarly-situated these minimum wages since the commencement of Plaintiff and those similarly-situated employee's employment with Defendants as set forth above, and Plaintiff and those similarly-situated are entitled to recover double damages.
55. At the times mentioned, individual Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ was the owner, president, and manager of FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, respectively. Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ was the employer of Plaintiff and others similarly situated within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the "Fair Labor Standards Act" [29 U.S.C. § 203(d)]. In that this individual Defendant acted directly in the interests of FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION in relation to its employees, including Plaintiff and others similarly

situated. Defendant FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ had absolute financial and operational control of the Corporation, determined terms and working conditions of Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees, and he is jointly liable for Plaintiff's damages.

56. Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ willfully and intentionally refused to pay Plaintiff overtime wages at the rate of time and one half his regular rate, as required by the law of the United States, and remain owing Plaintiff these overtime wages since the commencement of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants as set forth above.

57. Plaintiff has retained the law offices of the undersigned attorney to represent him in this action and is obligated to pay a reasonable attorneys' fee.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU and those similarly-situated respectfully request that this Honorable Court:

- A. Enter judgment for Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU and against the Defendants FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ on the basis of Defendants' willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. and other Federal Regulations; and
- B. Award Plaintiff actual damages in the amount shown to be due for unpaid minimum wages, with interest; and
- C. Award Plaintiff an equal amount in double damages/liquidated damages; and
- D. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
- E. Grant such other and further relief as this Court deems equitable and just and/or available pursuant to Federal Law.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff JORGE L. ABREU and those similarly-situated demand trial by jury of all issues triable as of right by jury.

Dated: January 19, 2018

Respectfully submitted

By: /s/ Zandro E. Palma
ZANDRO E. PALMA, P.A.
Florida Bar No.: 0024031
9100 S. Dadeland Blvd.
Suite 1500
Miami, FL 33156
Telephone: (305) 446-1500
Facsimile: (305) 446-1502
zep@thepalmalawgroup.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.) NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below.

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
JORGE L. ABREU
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
The Law Office of Zandro E. Palma, P.A.
9100 South Dadeland Blvd., Suite 1500, Miami, FL 33156
Tel: (305) 446-1500

DEFENDANTS
FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR
County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)
NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT LAND INVOLVED.
Attorneys (If Known)

(d) Check County Where Action Arose: [X] MIAMI-DADE [] MONROE [] BROWARD [] PALM BEACH [] MARTIN [] ST. LUCIE [] INDIAN RIVER [] OKEECHOBEE HIGHLANDS

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
[] 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
[X] 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
[] 2 U.S. Government Defendant
[] 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
PTF DEF
Citizen of This State [] 1 [] 1
Citizen of Another State [] 2 [] 2
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country [] 3 [] 3
Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State [] 4 [] 4
Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State [] 5 [] 5
Foreign Nation [] 6 [] 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, SOCIAL SECURITY, LABOR, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like 110 Insurance, 310 Airplane, 362 Personal Injury, etc.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
[X] 1 Original Proceeding
[] 2 Removed from State Court
[] 3 Re-filed (see VI below)
[] 4 Reinstated or Reopened
[] 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
[] 6 Multidistrict Litigation
[] 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. RELATED/RE-FILED CASE(S).
a) Re-filed Case [] YES [X] NO
b) Related Cases [] YES [X] NO
(See instructions second page): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

VII. CAUSE OF ACTION
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and Write a Brief Statement of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
29 U.S.C.
LENGTH OF TRIAL via 3 days estimated (for both sides to try entire case)

VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:
[] CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: [X] Yes [] No

ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE & CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Zandro E. Palma, Esq.
DATE January 19, 2018

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

AMOUNT RECEIPT # IFP

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)

(c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

(d) Choose one County where Action Arose.

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Refiled Copy of Order of Dismissal. (3)

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

VII. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VIII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

AO 440 (Rev. 12/09) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Florida

JORGE L. ABREU

Plaintiff

v.

FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR.,

Defendant

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR.
13706 SW 145 CT
MIAMI, FL 33186

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: The Law Office of Zandro E. Palma, P.A.
9100 South Dadeland Boulevard
Suite 1500
Miami, FL 33156

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 12/09) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Florida

JORGE L. ABREU

Plaintiff

v.

FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
and FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR.,

Defendant

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) FREE FLOW CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
Throught Its Registered Agent
FELIPE A. RODRIGUEZ JR.
13706 SW 145 CT
MIAMI, FL 33186

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: The Law Office of Zandro E. Palma, P.A.
9100 South Dadeland Boulevard
Suite 1500
Miami, FL 33156

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Free Flow Construction Tapped with Unpaid Wage Lawsuit in Florida](#)
