

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE DIVISION**

ROBIN BETZ, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,)	Case No.: 17-cv-1369
)	
Plaintiff,)	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
vs.)	
)	
HEMMER LAW OFFICES, LLC,)	Jury Trial Demanded
)	
Defendant.)	
<hr/>		

INTRODUCTION

1. This class action seeks redress for collection practices that violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (the “FDCPA”), and the Wisconsin Consumer Act, chapter 427, Wisconsin Statutes (the “WCA”).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The court has jurisdiction to grant the relief sought by the Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337 and 1367. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant directed its collection efforts into the District.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Robin Betz is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).

4. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), in that Defendant sought to collect from Plaintiff a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family, or household purposes, specifically, an alleged bill for medical care.

5. Plaintiff is also a “customer” as defined in the Wisconsin Consumer Act, Wis. Stat. § 421.301(17), in that the alleged debt allegedly arose from one or more consumer transactions that included agreements to defer payment.

6. Defendant Hemmer Law Offices, LLC (“Hemmer”) is a law firm with its principal place of business located at 5232 W. Oklahoma Ave., Suite 220, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219-4598.

7. Hemmer is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.

8. Hemmer is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family, or household purposes. Hemmer is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a and Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3).

FACTS

9. On or about June 28, 2017, Plaintiff received a debt collection letter from Hemmer. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.

10. Exhibit A seeks to collect a debt allegedly owed to “Drs. Stiglitz & Young, S.C.” (“DSY”).

11. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A seeks to collect an alleged debt incurred for medical services.

12. Plaintiff was not required to pay for the medical services at the time services were rendered. Instead, DSY mailed a bill several days or weeks after the dates of service. Thus, payment was deferred by agreement. *See Tylke v. Advanced Pain Mgmt., S.C.*, Case No. 14cv5354 (Milwaukee Co. Cir. Ct., Dec. 11, 2014) (“Any time a merchant sends a bill for goods or services after a consumer transaction has taken place, there is an ‘agreement to defer payment’”).

13. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.

14. Exhibit A is printed on Hemmer's firm letter head.

15. Exhibit A identifies the sender as:

PETER C. HEMMER
Attorney at Law

16. Exhibit A appears to be hand-signed by Attorney Hemmer.

17. The letter Defendant sent to Plaintiff (Exhibit A) also includes the following text in the letterhead:

PETER C. HEMMER
Supplemental Court Commissioner

18. Including the title of Court Commissioner on a debt collection letter is misleading and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer and is an unfair practice.

19. The term "Court Commissioner" on Exhibit A implies to the unsophisticated consumer that the attorney collecting the debt is acting as a court commissioner in connection with the collection of the consumer's debt.

20. Consumers, especially those who have been involved in small claims actions, understand that a court commissioner acts like a judge in small claims cases, presiding over the trial and rendering a decision.

21. The consumer would wonder how he could possibly successfully contest the debt when a local judge or court commissioner is representing the other side.

22. The unsophisticated consumer is not expected to understand that an attorney who is a supplemental court commissioner cannot serve as a court commissioner in that consumer's particular case. *See* Wis. Stat. § 757.23 (requiring disqualification); SCR 60.04(4)(e)(2).

23. Including the title of Court Commissioner on a debt collection letter is a material FDCPA and WCA violation, similar to actions in which unlicensed, out-of-state debt collectors falsely claim to be licensed by the Division of Banking. *See, eg. Radaj v. ARS Nat. Services, Inc.*, No. 05 C 773, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 68883 at *10; 2006 WL 2620394 at *3 (E.D. Wis. Sep. 12, 2006) (“It suggests that [the debt collector] has been approved by the state, thereby enhancing in the mind of the unsophisticated consumer [the debt collector’s] legitimacy and power to collect the debt.”); *Seeger v. Aid Assocs.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 22824 at *13, 2007 WL 1029528 (E.D. Wis. Mar. 29, 2007) (“this court believes that the false statement used by Plaza that it was licensed by the state of Wisconsin, is precisely the kind of misrepresentation that Congress sought to prohibit when it passed the FDCPA.”).

24. Additionally, Exhibit A contradicts itself as to the amount of the debt. In the subject line of the letter, Exhibit A indicates that the “Balance Due” is \$1,285.80. Meanwhile, in the body of the letter, Exhibit A states “[t]he amount of the debt is \$1,285.50.”

25. Because of this contradiction, the unsophisticated consumer would be confused as to the amount owed.

26. Such misrepresentations are material because they mislead the unsophisticated consumer about the amount and character of the debt. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(a).

27. The Seventh Circuit has held that a debt collector must state the amount of the debt without “obscur[ing] it by adding confusing other information (or misinformation).” *Miller v. McCalla, Raymer, Padrick, Cobb, Nichols, & Clark, L.L.C.*, 214 F.3d 872, 2000 U.S. App.

LEXIS 12178 (7th Cir. Ill. 2000); *Marshall-Mosby v. Corporate Receivables, Inc.*, 205 F.3d 323, 326 (7th Cir. 2000); *Bartlett v. Heibl*, 128 F.3d 497, 500 (7th Cir. 1997).

28. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.

29. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused by Exhibit A.

30. Plaintiff had to spend time and money investigating Exhibit A, and the consequences of any potential responses to Exhibit A.

31. Plaintiff had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including traveling to counsel's office by car and its related expenses, including but not limited to the cost of gasoline and mileage, to advise Plaintiff on the consequences of Exhibit A.

32. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Bock v. Pressler & Pressler, LLP*, No. 11-7593, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81058 *21 (D.N.J. May 25, 2017) (“through [s]ection 1692e of the FDCPA, Congress established ‘an enforceable right to truthful information concerning’ debt collection practices, a decision that ‘was undoubtedly influenced by congressional awareness that the intentional provision of misinformation’ related to such practices, ‘contribute[s] to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy,’”); violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Quinn v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC*, No. 16 C 2021, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 107299 *8-13 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 2016) (rejecting challenge to Plaintiff's standing based upon alleged FDCPA statutory violation); *Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC*, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) (“When a federal statute is violated, and especially when Congress has created a cause of action for its violation, by definition Congress has created a legally protected interest that it deems

important enough for a lawsuit.”); *Church v. Accretive Health, Inc.*, No. 15-15708, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 12414 *7-11 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); *see also Mogg v. Jacobs*, No. 15-CV-1142-JPG-DGW, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33229, 2016 WL 1029396, at *5 (S.D. Ill. Mar. 15, 2016) (“Congress does have the power to enact statutes creating legal rights, the invasion of which creates standing, even though no injury would exist without the statute,” (quoting *Sterk v. Redbox Automated Retail, LLC*, 770 F.3d 618, 623 (7th Cir. 2014))). For this reason, and to encourage consumers to bring FDCPA actions, Congress authorized an award of statutory damages for violations. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a).

33. Moreover, Congress has explicitly described the FDCPA as regulating “abusive practices” in debt collection. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(a) – 1692(e). Any person who receives a debt collection letter containing a violation of the FDCPA is a victim of abusive practices. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(e) (“It is the purpose of this subchapter to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses”).

34. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits “any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.”

35. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(1) specifically prohibits the false representation that “the debt collector is vouched for, bonded by, or affiliated with the United States or any State, including the use of any badge, uniform, or facsimile thereof.”

36. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) specifically prohibits the false representation of “the character, amount, or legal status of any debt.”

37. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(9) specifically prohibits “the use or distribution of any written communication which simulates or is falsely represented to be a document authorized, issued, or approved by any court, official, or agency of the United States or any State, or which creates a false impression as to its source, authorization, or approval.”

38. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f generally prohibits “unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.”

39. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) requires that a debt collector, within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, send written notice of the amount of the debt.

40. Consumers’ WCA claims against debt collectors under Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1) are analyzed using the same methods as claims under the FDCPA. Federal courts in this District and the state courts in Wisconsin generally look to FDCPA case law for guidance. Indeed, the WCA itself requires that the court analyze the WCA “in accordance with the policies underlying a federal consumer credit protection act,” including the FDCPA. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1).

41. Further, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held that WCA claims relating to debt collection are to be analyzed under the “unsophisticated consumer” standard. *Brunton v. Nuwell Credit Corp.*, 785 N.W.2d 302, 314-15. In *Brunton*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court explicitly adopted and followed the “unsophisticated consumer” standard, citing and discussing *Gammon v. GC Servs. Ltd. P’ship*, 27 F.3d 1254, 1257 (7th Cir. 1994). *Id.*

COUNT I – FDCPA

42. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

43. Exhibit A identifies the sender, Attorney Hemmer, as a “Supplemental Court Commissioner.”

44. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused and would believe that Attorney Hemmer was authorized to serve as a supplemental court commissioner in regard to the consumer’s debt, while also collecting the alleged debt.

45. The unsophisticated consumer would be discouraged from disputing the debt or defending himself in court, believing that contesting the debt would be futile since the opposing attorney is a court commissioner.

46. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(1) and 1692e(9) by misleading consumers about Hemmer’s role in the collection of the consumers’ debts.

COUNT II – WCA

47. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

48. The alleged underlying transaction, i.e. physicians’ services, was a consumer transaction with an agreement to defer payment.

49. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(k) specifically prohibits a debt collector from using “a communication which simulates legal or judicial process or which gives the appearance of being authorized, issued or approved by a government, governmental agency or attorney-at-law when it is not.”

50. By using a letter which confusingly represented Hemmer’s status as a supplemental court commissioner in Exhibit A, when Hemmer could not serve as both a court commissioner and adversary in the same action, Defendant used a communication which gave the appearance of being authorized or approved by a governmental agency (the Court).

51. The unsophisticated consumer would be discouraged from disputing the debt, believing that contesting the debt would be futile since the opposing attorney is a court commissioner.

52. Defendant violated Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(k).

COUNT III - FDCPA

53. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

54. By making contradictory representations as to the amount of the debt, Exhibit A misstates the amount of the debt and thereby fails to provide adequate notice as to that amount.

55. Because of this misrepresentation, Exhibit A would be misleading to the unsophisticated consumer as to the amount actually owed.

56. Defendant therefore violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), 1692g, 1692(a)(1).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

57. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a Class, consisting of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent a collection letter by Hemmer in the form of Exhibit A to the complaint in this action, (c) stating that Hemmer is a “Supplemental Court Commissioner,” (d) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (e) between October 9, 2016 and October 9, 2017, inclusive, (f) that was not returned by the postal service.

58. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. Upon information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.

59. There are questions of law and fact common to the members of the class, which common questions predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members. The predominant common question is whether Exhibit A violates the FDCPA and/or the WCA.

60. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

61. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class members. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in consumer credit and debt collection abuse cases.

62. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute. Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

63. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendant for:

- (a) actual damages;
- (b) statutory damages;
- (c) attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and
- (d) such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: October 9, 2017

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: /s/ John D. Blythin
Shpetim Ademi (SBN 1026973)
John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)
Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944)
3620 East Layton Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110

(414) 482-8000
(414) 482-8001 (fax)
sademi@ademilaw.com
jblythin@ademilaw.com
meldridge@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A

HEMMER LAW OFFICES, LLC

A Limited Liability Company
5232 West Oklahoma Avenue, Suite 220
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219-4598

PETER C. HEMMER
Supplemental Court Commissioner

Tel.: 414-321-1010

Fax: 414-321-1012

June 28, 2017

Robin Betz
Megan Betz
5960 S. Quality Ave.
Cudahy WI 53110

**RE: Creditor: Drs. Stiglitz & Young, S.C.,
Balance Due: \$1,285.80
Account No. 434**

Mr. & Mrs. Betz:

I have been authorized to collect a debt. The amount of the debt is \$1,285.50. The creditor to whom the debt is owed is Drs. Stiglitz & Young, S.C.

Unless you, within thirty days after receipt of this notice, dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector (this office). If you notify this office in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, this office will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment entered against you, and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by this office. Upon your written request within the thirty-day period, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector.



PETER C. HEMMER
Attorney at Law

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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.)

Place an X in the appropriate Box: Green Bay Division Milwaukee Division

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
ROBIN BETZ

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee
 (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
 Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110
 (414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482-8001-Facsimile

DEFENDANTS
HEMMER LAW OFFICES, LLC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
 (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 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		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

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

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from another district (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq

Brief description of cause:
 Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and Wisconsin Consumer Act

VII. 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:** Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE: October 9, 2017 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD: s/ John D. Blythin

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)".

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.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

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. 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

VII. 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.

VIII. 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.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Eastern District of Wisconsin

ROBIN BETZ

Plaintiff(s)

v.

HEMMER LAW OFFICES, LLC

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 17-cv-1369

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)
HEMMER LAW OFFICES, LLC
c/o PETER C. HEMMER
5232 W. Oklahoma Ave., Ste. 220
Milwaukee, Wis. 53219

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you receive 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 the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

John D. Blythin
Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP
3620 East Layton Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110

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.

STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(l))

This summons and the attached complaint for *(name of individual and title, if any)*:

_____ were received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons and the attached complaint on the individual at *(place)*:

_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons and the attached complaint at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there, on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons and the attached complaint on *(name of individual)* _____ who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*: _____.

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Hemmer Law Offices Facing FDCPA Lawsuit](#)
