UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SOPHIE BLANGA, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC.,

Defendant.

<u>CIVIL ACTION</u> CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff SOPHIA BLANGA (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through his attorneys, Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C., against Defendant NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC. (hereinafter "Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- Congress enacted the FDCPA in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws . . . [we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).
- 2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using

abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Id.* § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate, *id.* § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. *Id.* § 1692k.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using an unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 6. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("<u>FDCPA</u>") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
- 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

- Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of New York, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3).
- Upon information and belief, Defendant's principal place of business is located in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

11. Defendant is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP") Rule 23, individually and on behalf of the following consumer class (the "Class"):
 - All New York consumers who received a collection letter from the Defendant attempting to collect an obligation owed to or allegedly owed to American Express, that contain the alleged violation arising from Defendant's violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692g and 1692e, *et seq*.
 - The Class period begins one year to the filing of this Action.

13. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:

- Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from Defendant that violate specific provisions of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard form letter and/or notice that is sent to hundreds of persons (*See* Exhibit A, except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy);
- There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA;
 - b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendant's conduct;

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- c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
- d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.
- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class.
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and has retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class.
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action.
- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If

Defendant's conduct is allowed to proceed without remedy they will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.

• Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

ALLEGATIONS OF FACT PARTICULAR TO SOPHIA BLANGA

- 14. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered"1" through "13" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 15. Defendant collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and Internet.
- 16. Upon information and belief, within the last year Defendant commenced efforts to collect an alleged consumer "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5), when it mailed a Collection Letter to Plaintiff seeking to collect an unpaid tuition balance allegedly owing to Department Store National Bank.
- 17. On or around February 7, 2017, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter. See Exhibit A.
- The letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 19. The letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 20. Defendant's February 7, 2017 Collection Letter provides that the Account Balance is \$1,358.62.
- 21. Defendant's February 7, 2017 Collection Letter further states: "The Account Balance above reflects the total balance due as of the date of this letter. The itemization reflects the post charge-off activity we received from American Express and as such is subject to timing and

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system limitations."

- 22. Defendant was attempting to collect on Plaintiff's purportedly overdue credit card account with American Express ("AMEX").
- 23. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's account with AMEX was charged-off and is not subject to change, and will never increase due to any terms of the original agreement.
- 24. Upon information and belief, the amount due and collected by Defendant will never change due to interest, late charges or other charges.
- 25. Rather, upon information and belief, Defendant subtly pressed the least sophisticated consumer, in an attempt at pressuring Plaintiff into paying the account quickly, so as to avoid these non-existent fees subject to such "timing and system limitations."
- 26. Upon information and belief, Defendant has no legal or contractual right to change the amount that Plaintiff allegedly owes to the Creditor.
- 27. As a result of the following Counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

<u>First Count</u> Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e False or Misleading Representations

- 28. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered"1" through "27" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 29. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 30. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector is prohibited from using false, deceptive, or misleading representation in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 31. Defendant violated §1692e by falsely suggesting that immediate payment of the balance would benefit Plaintiff financially by stating that the account balance stated above was "subject to

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timing and system limitations." As the account balance Defendant seeks to collect *never* varies from the date of issuance of its Collection, and Defendant *never* makes an adjustment after it receives payment in the amount of the initial letter, the statement in its letter is false, deceptive and misleading.

- 32. The Defendant is incorrect in its characterization of the Defendant's violation of Section 1692e of the FDCPA. The Collection Letter states that the "interest accrued," "non-interest charges or fees accrued since charge-off" and "total payments made since charge-off" is "\$0.00."
- 33. Further down the page, however, the Collection Letter states that "[t]he itemization reflects the post-charge-off activity we received from American Express and as such is subject to timing and system limitations."
- 34. Based on the itemization language, the amount of interest and fees the Plaintiff may owe in the future is either \$0.00, as stated in the letter, or some larger amount.
- 35. If that amount is more than \$0.00, the Defendant is required to inform Plaintiff and the least sophisticated consumer that there may be a variation.
- 36. In a recent Second Circuit decision, the Court in *Avila v. Riexinger & Associates, LLC* held that the FDCPA does not only require disclosure of "the amount of the debt." 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 5327, at *7 (2d Cir. 2016). The Court instead adopted the Seventh Circuit's "safe harbor approach" formulated in *Miller v. Raymer, Padrick, Cobb, Nichols, & Clark, L.L.C.*, 214 F.3d 872 (7th Cir. 2000), which was intended to address the concern that including information regarding accruing interest and fees in a collection notice could deceitfully coerce consumers and invite abuse. While the Court did not require a debt collector to use the "safe harbor approach" in order to comply with §1692e, the Court held that a debt collector will not violate § 1692e if either: (1) the collection notice states that the amount of debt will increase over time,

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or (2) clearly states that the debt collector will accept the amount stated in the notice in full satisfaction of the debt if payment is made by a specific date.

- 37. This type of language is clearly absent from the Collection Letter at issue.
- 38. A statement that the itemization is subject to "timing and system limitations" does not inform the least sophisticated consumer that the amount of debt will increase over time.
- 39. Furthermore, "timing and system limitations" is an extremely ambiguous phrase, subject to a myriad of interpretations.
- 40. Nor does the phrase clearly inform the least sophisticated consumer that interest and fees may continue to increase over time if the debt is not timely paid.
- 41. Defendant could have taken the steps necessary to bring its actions within compliance of the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review its actions to ensure conformance to the law.
- 42. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e *et seq*. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

Second Count Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e False or Misleading Representations

- 43. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered"1" through 42" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 44. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector is prohibited from using false, deceptive, or misleading representation in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 45. Said letter stated in pertinent part as follows: "Charges or fees accrued since charge-off: \$0.00."
- 46. The notification of said "Charges or fees accrued since charge-off: \$0.00" is unlawful.

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- 47. Defendant did not have any legal basis for adding a "Charges or fees accrued since charge-off" onto Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 48. The least sophisticated consumer could be led to believe that although there are no "Charges or fees" at the time he received said letter, he may be liable to same in the near future.
- 49. The said letter language implies a threat, and is confusing to the least sophisticated consumer so as to falsely imply that the creditor is entitled to compensation for "Charges or fees."
- 50. Defendant was not entitled to impose "Charges or fees" as a permissible fee that a creditor may charge in connection with a consumer credit transaction. *Tylke v. Diversified Adjustment Service, Inc.*, No. 14-CV-748 (E.D. Wis. Oct. 28, 2014). ([I]t is possible that, as the defendant suggests, an "unsophisticated consumer" might understand the statement to be explaining that no part of the debt is a "collection fee" even though the (creditor's) agreement allows for one. On the other hand, it is also possible that an "unsophisticated consumer" would interpret the statement to mean that there is no "collection fee" now but that one could be assessed later on. In other words, the inclusion of a collection fee, even one showing a balance of zero, could imply the future possibility of one. Such a reading is neither bizarre nor idiosyncratic.)
- 51. Said language can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is false. *Pipiles v. Credit Bureau of Lockport, Inc.*, 886 F.2d 22, 25 (2d Cir. 1989). (Because the collection notice was reasonably susceptible to an inaccurate reading, it was deceptive within the meaning of the Act.), *Clomon v. Jackson*, 988 F.2d 1314, 1319 (2d Cir. 1993). (Collection notices are deceptive if they are open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate.), *Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.*, 74 F.3d 30, 34 (2d Cir. N.Y. 1996). (A collection notice is deceptive when it can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one

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of which is inaccurate. The fact that the notice's terminology was vague or uncertain will not prevent it from being held deceptive under § 1692e(10) of the Act.)

- 52. Defendant, as a matter of pattern and practice, mails letters, or causes the mailing of letters, to debtors using language substantially similar or materially identical to that utilized by Defendant in mailing the above-cited letter to Plaintiff.
- 53. The letters Defendant mails, or causes to be mailed, are produced by Defendant's concerted efforts and integrated or shared technologies including computer programs, mailing houses, and electronic databases.
- 54. Defendant's February 7, 2017 letter is in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(5) 1692e(10), 1692f and 1692f(1) for the use of false and deceptive means; for falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of a debt; for the false representation of compensation which may be lawfully received by a debt collector for the collection of a debt; for threatening to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken; for the use of unfair and unconscionable means to collect on a debt; and for attempting to collect an amount unless such an amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
- 55. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692g *et seq.* of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and the Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C., as Class Counsel;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Alan J. Sasson</u> Alan J. Sasson, Esq. Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C. 2687 Coney Island Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, New York 11235 Phone: (718) 339-0856 Facsimile: (347) 244-7178 *Attorney for Plaintiff*

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a

trial by jury on all issues so triable.

<u>/s/ Alan J. Sasson</u> Alan J. Sasson, Esq.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York March 15, 2017

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16) Case 1:17-cv-01458 Document 20 VER SHEET Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 12

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 NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)*

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
Sophia Blanga, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated			ted, NATIONWIDE CRI			
 (b) County of Residence of (E) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A) LAW OFFICE OF ALAN, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 	Address, and Telephone Numbe	^{r)} 37 Coney Island Av	NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT Attorneys (If Known)	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES C NDEMNATION CASES, USE T OF LAND INVOLVED.		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI			III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	DINCIDAL DADTIES		
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff			(For Diversity Cases Only) PT Citizen of This State	IF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF incipal Place	
□ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)		 2 □ 2 Incorporated and H of Business In A 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation 		
			Foreign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
 Ito Insurance Ito Marine Ita Marine<td>PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &</td><td>PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability</td><td>Image: Signal state in the image in the image. The image in the i</td><td>422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark 840 Trademark 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609</td><td> 375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes </td>	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	Image: Signal state in the image in the image. The image in the i	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark 840 Trademark 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	 375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)					
X 1 Original □ 2 Rea	moved from \Box 3 te Court	Appellate Court	□ 4 Reinstated or Reopened □ 5 Transfe Anothe (specify) re filing (Do not cite jurisdictional stat	r District Litigation Transfer		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	15 USC 1692	ause:				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: ★ Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 3/15/2017 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF AT /S/ Alan J. Sass	TORNEY OF RECORD SON			
	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE	

Case 1:17-cv-01458 Document 1-1 Filed 03/15/17 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 13 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I, ALAN J. SASSON	, counsel for PLAINTIFF	, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is
ineligible for compulsory arbit	tration for the following reason	n(s):

- \mathbf{X} monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- Questions of law rather than questions of the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason \mathbf{X} fact predominate **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1**
- NONE

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

- Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk 1.) County: NO
- 2.) If you answered "no" above: a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County?^{NO}

b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District?YES

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

No

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. X Yes No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? (If yes, please explain)

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I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Yes

Signature: /s/ Alan J. Sasson

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AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

)

SOPHIA BLANGA, on behalf of herself and all others

similarly situated,	
Plaintiff(s)	
v. NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC.	
Defendant(s)	

Civil Action No.

cjenaani(s)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC. C/O CORPORATION SYSTEM 111 EIGHTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011

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:

LAW OFFICE OF ALAN J. SASSON, P.C. 2687 CONEY ISLAND AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11235

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.

> DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

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AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

	This summons for (nam	ne of individual and title, if any)		
was re	ceived by me on (date)			
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individu	ual at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	□ I left the summons	at the individual's residence	or usual place of abode with (name)	
		, a pe	erson of suitable age and discretion who res	ides there,
			to the individual's last known address; or	
	\Box I served the summa	ons on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on	behalf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	\Box I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		· or
	Other (<i>specify</i>):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this informa	tion is true.	
Date:				
			Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL PO BOX 26315 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6315



023/A01	A/SS/921	/02/07	/2017/NY

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 ACCOUNT NUMBER:	XXXXXXXXXX21006
NCI ID:	17037108846
 ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$1,358.62
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	

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24-hour account access: myaccount.ncirm.com o Change of address: Print New Address on Back

NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC.

LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6314

REMIT TO:

PO BOX 26314

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NO

Make, or

Reschedule a Payment

Change your

Information

And More...

Contact

Sophie Blanga *** Please see the reverse side of this letter for important notices concerning your rights *** Please Detach and Return this Stub in the Enclosed Envelope with your Check or Money Order - Make Sure the "Remit to" Address appr in the Window NCI ID 88846 Nationwide Credit, Inc. Current Creditor: AMERICAN EXPRESS PO BOX 26314 Account Number: XXXXXXXXXX21006 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6314 Account Balance: \$1,358.62 Monday - Friday 8 AM to 6 PM ET 1-877-653-7089 Date: 02/07/2017 myaccount.ncirm.com We Want to Help You - Your Way! Your outstanding balance with the above referenced creditor is past due and has been referred to Nationwide Credit, Inc. for collection. The Account Balance as of the date of this letter is shown above. Unless you notify this office within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment against you and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. Upon your written request within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. This demand for payment does not eliminate your right to dispute this debt or inquire for more information about this debt, as described in the previous paragraphs. The following options are available to help you resolve this account: myaccount.ncirm.com Secure Online Portal: myaccount.ncirm.com is available 24 Pay by Mail: Send your check or money order to hours a day to schedule payments, negotiate alternatives, NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC. 24-hour Access manage your account and more! PO BOX 26314, LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002-6314 Reference your NCI ID on your check or money order Login using your NCI ID 8846 and Password: 2711 The State of New York Department of Financial Services requires that NCI provide you the following information regarding your debt: Original Creditor: AMERICAN EXPRESS Total due as of charge-off: \$1,358.62 Total interest accrued since charge-off: \$0.00 Total non-interest charges or fees accrued since charge-off: \$0.00 Total payments made since charge-off: \$0.00 The Account Balance above reflects the total balance due as of the date of this letter. The itemization reflects the post charge-off activity we received from American Express and as such is subject to timing and system limitations. Sincerely. MAURICE RICO Nationwide Credit, Inc. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector or consumer collection agency and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to:

(1) the use or threat of violence:

(2) the use of obscene or profane language; and

(3) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

Supplemental security income, (SSI)

- Social security; 2.
- Public assistance (welfare); 3.
- 4. 5. Unemployment benefits;
- 6. Disability benefits;

- 7. Workers' compensation benefits;
- 8. Public or private pensions;
- 9. Veterans' benefits;
- Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support; 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
 - 11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last 60 days.



ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Two Separate Law Firms File FDCPA Class Actions Against Nationwide Credit</u>