1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Arthur H. Bryant (SBN 208365) BAILEY & GLASSER, LLP 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 660 Oakland, CA 94612 T: 510.272.8000 abryant@baileyglasser.com  [Additional counsel on signature page]  Attorneys for Plaintiff Victoria Monsch			
7 8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION			
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Victoria Monsch, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  v.  Dreamland Baby Company,  Defendant.	Case No. 3:24-cv-2996 COMPLAINT CLASS ACTION DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		

### CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Victoria Monsch ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, hereby brings this Class Action Complaint against Defendant Dreamland Baby Company, and, in support thereof, alleges as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Defendant manufactures, markets, and sells weighted sleep products for children, including, but not limited to, weighted sleep sacks such as the Dream Weighted Sleep Sack; weighted swaddles such as the Dream Weighted Sleep Swaddle, the Dream Weighted Transition Swaddle, and the Bamboo Weighted Transition Swaddle; and a Weighted Toddler Blanket ("Weighted Sleep Products"). Defendant touts these products as "[g]ently weighted sleep solutions to help your baby sleep so you can too." The problem is that these products do not help children sleep. Worse, Defendant markets its products as "design[ed]...according to the American Academy of Pediatricts safe sleep guidelines," when this is patently false.
- 2. The American Academy of Pediatrics ("AAP") has, on multiple occasions, warned against the use of weighted blankets, sleepers, or swaddles on children. In its 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment, the AAP wrote: "It is recommended that weighted blankets, weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, or other weighted objects not be placed on or near the sleeping infant." In 2023, it wrote the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") and was even more explicit: "The AAP believes these weighted swaddles and related blankets are unsafe for infants and does not recommend these products." The AAP noted that these products are associated with "concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants…which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant's brain."
  - 3. The AAP is joined by numerous other scientific organizations in finding these

products are unsafe for children. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention writes: "[w]eighted products such as weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, weighted sleep sacks, and weighted blankets are not safe for infants." The National Institute of Health agrees, finding that "[t]hings in the sleep area can pose dangers for baby, especially if they are... Weighted (e.g., weighted blankets, weighted swaddles."

- 4. This overwhelming scientific consensus caught the attention of the CPSC, which recently wrote to numerous retailers that it was "aware of **multiple infant deaths** involving weighted infant sleep sacks." (emphasis original). In a statement last month, CPSC Commissioner Richard L. Trumka Jr. wrote: "I've sat with parents of a child who died in one of these products, and I carry their grief with me. I share their desire to make sure that no one else suffers the fate that their family did."
- 5. Defendant nonetheless continues to deceptively and unlawfully market its products as safe and effective. In the words of a United States Senator, Defendant "continue[s] selling these products to vulnerable and unsuspecting parents who are sleep-deprived, stressed and desperate for help, all while lacking reputable research to back the safety of these items."
- 6. No reasonable consumer would purchase Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products if she or he knew the overwhelming scientific consensus is that these products are unsafe and should not be used with children; nor would she or he purchase the Weighted Sleep Products if she or he knew that there was no evidence the products helped children sleep more soundly.
- 7. In other words, Defendant uses deceptive and unfair tactics to sell millions of dollars' worth of its wholly useless Weighted Sleep Products which do not provide the benefits that Defendant market. Worse, Defendant makes millions of dollars' worth of sales while omitting from its marketing the fact that these products are dangerous and should not be used.
- 8. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings this consumer class action individually and on behalf of Class Action Complaint 2 Case No.

a class of similarly situated consumers (defined below) to redress the false and misleading, as well as deceptive and unfair, trade practices, acts, and omissions employed by Defendant in the marketing and sale of its Weighted Sleep Products.

### **PARTIES**

- 9. Plaintiff Victoria Monsch is domiciled in Santa Monica, CA.
- 10. Defendant Dreamland Baby Company. is a California corporation headquartered at 3383 Deer Hollow Dr., Danville, CA 94506.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 11. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), because there are 100 or more class members; at least one class member is a citizen of a state that is diverse from Defendant's citizenship; and the matter in controversy exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant operates, conducts, and engages in substantial business in this judicial district, including but not limited to the promotion, sale, marketing, and distribution of its Weighted Sleep Products; Defendant committed tortious acts in this State through its misrepresentations related to the sale, marketing, and distribution of the Weighted Sleep Products; Defendant caused injury to persons within this State; and a substantial portion of the actions giving rise to the claims took place in this State, given Defendant is headquartered in Danville, California.
- 13. Venue is appropriate in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because this is a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated. This is especially true given Defendant is headquartered in Danville, California.

16

15

17 18

19 20

21

22 23

24 25

26

27

28

14. **Divisional Assignment:** Pursuant to Local Rules 3.1(c) and (d), this action may be assigned to the San Francisco Division, as a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in Contra Costa County.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- A. Weighted sleep products, like Defendant's, are neither effective nor safe.
- 15. The AAP has addressed the topic of weighted sleep blankets, sleep sacks, and swaddles on numerous occasions. In 2022, the AAP stated this explicitly in its report: Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment:1

Soft bedding	It is recommended that <mark>weighted</mark> blankets, <mark>weighted</mark> sleepers, <mark>weighted</mark> swaddles, or other <mark>weighted</mark> objects not
	be placed on or near the sleeping infant.

16. In 2023, the AAP reaffirmed this recommendation in a letter to the CPSC, writing that weighted sleep products dangerously reduce oxygen levels for children using the products:<sup>2</sup>

There is no evidence in the peer-reviewed scientific literature evaluating the safety of weighted sleep products on typical, healthy infants, and there is also nothing published regarding their use in an unmonitored setting. Even preliminary, non-peer-reviewed data under discussion in ASTM International proceedings suggest these products are associated with concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants. This means there is evidence that the use of weight sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant's brain. A lack of substantial evidence about the possible harms of weighted sleep products should not serve as evidence that they do not cause harm.

17. It also noted that the evidence available on weighted sleep products "does not...demonstrate that they are effective in helping babies sleep longer or with fewer disruptions."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/1/e2022057990/188304/Sleep-Related-Infant-Deaths-Updated-2022?autologincheck=redirected

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23849624-aap-letter-61523

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id*.

2
 3
 4

5

6

7 8

10

9

12

11

13 14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

2223

24

25

27

26

28

18. The AAP ended its letter with a warning that the CPSC should not allow a repeat of history in allowing unsafe sleep products to harm children:

Parents expect that products available for purchase at reputable retailers are thoroughly tested for safety. CPSC and ASTM International should both take a precautionary approach to these and other novel infant sleep products to avoid a repeat of what happened with inclined sleepers, in-bed sleepers, and other novel sleep-related products. These products ultimately were associated with over 100 infants' deaths—all of which would have been prevented if these products were not kept on the consumer market. Waiting for the emergence of confirmatory data about these concerns while these products proliferate is an unacceptable outcome when each of those data points will be a family whose lives are forever marked by unfathomable tragedy of their infant dying from a sleep-related death.

The AAP urges you to conduct vigorous oversight on all weighted sleep products, especially those marketed for infants and children. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important issue and for your work to better protect children from dangerous products. If the AAP can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Zach Laris in our Washington, D.C. office at 202/347-8600 or zlaris@aap.org.

Sincerely,



Sandy L. Chung, MD, FAAP President

SC/zml

19. Likewise, on its Safe to Sleep website, the National Institutes of Health warns against putting weighted items in a crib with a baby:<sup>4</sup>

# Can I put a pillow, blanket, or a favorite toy in baby's sleep area?

Even though a crib with nothing in it except a fitted sheet covering the mattress may seem bare, it is the safest option for baby.

Things in the sleep area can pose dangers for baby, especially if they are:

- · Soft or squishy (e.g., pillows, stuffed toys, crib bumpers)
- Under or on top of baby (e.g., comforters, quilts, blankets, positioners)
- Non-fitted, even if they are lightweight, small, or "tucked in" (e.g., loveys/cloths, non-fitted sheets, tucked-in blankets)
- Weighted (e.g., weighted blankets, weighted swaddles)

Research also links crib bumpers and bedding other than a fitted sheet covering the baby's mattress to serious injuries and deaths from SIDS, suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation.

Keeping these things out of baby's sleep area is the best way to avoid these dangers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment

20. The Center for Disease Control has come to the same conclusion:<sup>5</sup>

- Keep soft bedding such as blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and soft toys out of your baby's sleep area. Additionally, do not cover your baby's head or allow your baby to get too hot. Some parents may feel they should add sheets or blankets to their baby's crib to help keep their baby warm and comfortable while sleeping. However, sheets, comforters, and blankets can increase the risk of suffocation or overheat your baby. If you're worried about your baby getting cold during sleep, you can dress them in sleep clothing, like a wearable blanket, also known as a sleep sack. Weighted products such as weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, weighted sleep sacks, and weighted blankets are not safe for infants. In a Pediatrics report '' , CDC scientists found that using soft bedding was associated with 16 times the risk of explained suffocation, compared with no soft bedding use.
- Learn how to create a safe sleep environment for baby in your home by exploring an <a href="Interactive Safe Sleep">Interactive Safe Sleep</a> Environment Tool from Safe to Sleep ®.
- 21. In an interview with the Washington Post, Dr. Rachel Moon, the co-chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics task force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, explained why weighted blankets, swaddles, and sleep sacks were so dangerous to children: "When babies are first born, their rib cage is not rigid, and so it doesn't take a lot of pressure to press on it and create obstruction there. It makes it harder for them to breathe, it makes it harder for their heart to beat properly if there's pressure on there." (emphasis added).<sup>6</sup>
- 22. These warnings from the scientific community led to Senator Richard Blumenthal to write to Defendant, on numerous occasions, most recently stating that he was "deeply disappointed by [Defendant's] refusal to engage meaningfully with my office to discuss critical safety concerns concerning your weighted sleep products."
- 23. The CPSC has taken notice of the scientific community's consensus and issued its own warnings and declarations about the safety, or lack thereof, of Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products.
  - 24. On its "Safe Sleep Cribs and Infant Products" website, the CPSC is explicit in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/index.html#:~:text=Weighted%20products%20such%20as%20weighted,with%20no%20soft%20bedding%20use.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2024/01/22/weighted-baby-blankets-unsafe/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/download/2024-04-25\_blumenthal-letter\_follow-up-dreamland-baby

26

27

28

recommending that parents avoid using weighted blankets or weighted swaddles with their children:8

#### Remember CPSC's "dos and don'ts" for baby sleep spaces

Many young babies cannot lift their heads to pull away from soft objects that can pose a suffocation risk, such as bumpers, blankets, pillows, and sleep positioners. Also, a seated or semi-reclined position can cause your baby's head to tip forward and their airway to be blocked.

Follow these simple tips to make every sleep a safe sleep:

DO:

- Do use products intended for sleep including cribs, bassinet, play yard and bedside sleepers that meet federal requirements.
- Do remember "Bare is Best" nothing but a fitted sheet in a crib, bassinet or play yard.
- Do always place baby on their back.
- . Do move your baby to their crib, bassinet, or play yard if they fall asleep elsewhere.
- Do check our website for recalls (<u>SaferProducts.gov</u>) and <u>sign\_up</u> to receive recall notifications

DON'T:

- Don't add pillows or blankets to your baby's sleep space
- Don't use weighted blankets or weighted swaddles\*.
- Don't allow your baby to sleep in an inclined product with an angle greater than 10° such as a rocker, bouncer or glider.
- Don't leave your baby unsupervised in products that aren't designed for safe sleeping, such as any inclined product.

Inclined products, such as rockers, gliders, soothers and swings, should never be used for infant sleep.

\*NIH.gov and CDC.gov

25. On April 15, 2024, Commissioner Richard Trumka Jr. wrote to retailers, urging them to stop sales of these products:



### UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION 4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY BETHESDA, MD 20814

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.

April 15, 2024

#### BEWARE: WEIGHTED INFANT SWADDLES AND BLANKETS ARE UNSAFE FOR SLEEP; RETAILERS SHOULD CONSIDER STOPPING SALES

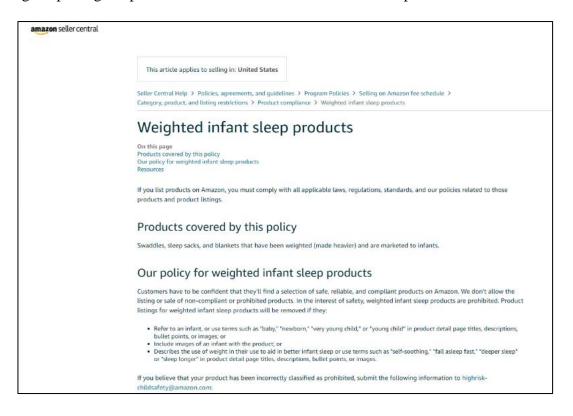
CPSC has a clear warning for safe infant sleep: "Don't use weighted blankets or weighted swaddles" for your babies.\(^1\) This matches the warnings from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that weighted products "can pose dangers for babies," and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that "(w)eighted products such as weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, weighted sleep sacks, and weighted blankets are not safe for infants.\(^2\)

There are multiple infant deaths in these products. As the co-chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP's) task force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), Dr. Rachel Moon, explained to the Washington Post: "When babies are first born, their rib cage is not rigid, and so it doesn't take a lot of pressure to press on it and create obstruction there. It makes it harder for them to breathe, it makes it harder for their beat properly if there's pressure on there." 3

AAP also cites risks to babies' brain development, stating that "there is evidence that the use of weighted sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which  $\dots$  may be harmful to the developing infant's brain."

<sup>8</sup> Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products | CPSC.gov

- 26. Retailers saw theses warnings and took action, with companies such as Amazon, Walmart, and Target, pulling Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products and similar items from their shelves.<sup>9</sup>
- 27. Amazon's policy for the weighted sleep infant products is explicit in the company's reasoning for pulling the products Amazon does not believe these products are safe:



28. The decision by these major retailers to pull Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products and similar items from their shelves was met with approval from one CPSC commissioner, who noted that the retailers were "acting as responsible stewards of public safety [and] focusing on their customers' best interests" in stopping the sale of the items. That commissioner also noted that he had "sat with parents of a child who died in one of these products, and I carry their grief with me." <sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> https://www.npr.org/2024/05/02/1248194639/weighted-infant-sleepwear-amazon-target-safety
10 https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-

29. The AAP also cheered this decision, calling this a "strong first step" and noting that "[e]xhausted parents shouldn't have to become part-time product safety regulators, but our current system forces them to by allowing infant products onto the market without evidence they are safe."<sup>11</sup>

### B. Defendant sells Weighted Sleep Products it claims help children sleep safely.

- 30. Defendant manufactures, markets, and sells several substantially similar Weighted Sleep Products in swaddle, sleep sack, and blanket varieties.
- 31. It promotes its Weighted Sleep Products as "[g]ently weighted sleep solutions to help your baby sleep so you can too." 12

### Gently weighted sleep solutions to help your baby sleep - so you can too.



TRANSITION SWADDLE

NEW PRINT

32. Defendant previously said on its website that Dreamland Baby "has exceeded all United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards," even after the CPSC had on numerous occasions said that Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products were not safe to use.<sup>13</sup>

public/Trumka\_Statement\_Weighted\_Infant\_Products\_4\_26\_24\_with\_attachments.pdf?VersionId=i K5EDmatuGu9\_z2jKt8t8BaWndFKwWCh

 $<sup>^{11}\</sup> https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/28768/AAP-leaders-call-decision-to-pull-harmful-weighted.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://dreamlandbabyco.com/ (last accessed May 15, 2024).

<sup>13</sup> https://dreamlandbabyco.com/pages/faq (last accessed May 10, 2024)

Is Dreamland Baby safe?

Does Dreamland Baby meet all current safety standards?

Dreamland Baby has exceeded all United States Consumer Product Safety Commission standards. Our products were designed in close partnership with Pediatricians and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Nurses.

We continually work with experts in the medical, science, and sleep fields to ensure our products exceed safety standards. Read more about our commitment to safety <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a>



33. Defendant markets the Weighted Sleep Products as "gently weighted sleep solutions" that are "patent pending" and which lead to "[a] happy, relaxed, sleeping baby!" <sup>14</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://dreamlandbabyco.com/ (last accessed May 15, 2024).

34. As of May 15, 2024, Dreamland has removed any discussions of Weighted Sleep Product Safety from its FAQ page, with the section that used to be entitled "Product Safety and Care" now simply labeled as "Care". 15

# Frequently Asked Questions PRODUCT USE PRODUCT DETAILS CARE TODDLER WEIGHTED BLANKET COMPANY POLICIES What are the bamboo & cotton care instructions? Dreamland Baby is designed to withstand frequent washing. Cotton: For best results, we recommend washing in cold water, on a gentle cycle, and tumble dry on low heat, or lay flat to dry. Bamboo: For best results, we recommend washing before first use, machine wash cold with like colors, lay flat to dry, iron low if needed, do not bleach. Do not hang, fold to store.

35. However, it still has blog posts up stating that its Weighted Sleep Products are "a godsend for getting fussy babies sound asleep, and keep[ing] them that way" and that, "[w]hile some may have concerns about the safety of weighted swaddles, there's little evidence to back up the doubt."<sup>16</sup>

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://dreamlandbabyco.com/pages/faq (last accessed May 15, 2024)

https://dreamlandbabyco.com/blogs/news/are-weighted-swaddles-safe?\_pos=5&\_sid=b52cdf427&\_ss=r (last accessed May 15, 2024)

### C. Defendant's marketing of its Weighted Sleep Products is misleading to the reasonable consumer.

- 36. By selling Weighted Sleep Products that are "gently weighted sleep solutions," that are "patent pending," which lead to "[a] happy, relaxed, sleeping baby!," and which "exceed[] all United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards," Defendant is representing to consumers that these products help children sleep better and are safe for use.
- 37. When parents of young children, desperate for a good night's sleep, read about Defendant's products, they reasonably believe the Weighted Sleep Products will help children sleep better when using them. No reasonable consumer would read Defendant's website and think that Weighted Sleep Products do not actually help children sleep.
- 38. Moreover, consumers cannot reasonably know about the ineffective and dangerous nature of the Weighted Sleep Products at the point of sale. Consumers do not realize that, even when the Weighted Sleep Products are used as intended, they can create an unreasonable risk of oxygen reduction and fatal harm in children. They reasonably expect that Defendant—which has far greater expertise in product safety and is aware of the scientific literature detailed above—would not market a product that was unsafe and ineffective. To lay consumers who are not experienced in product design, the Weighted Sleep Products appear safe.
- 39. Defendant does not put consumers on notice of the dangers posed by the Weighted Sleep Products. Defendant could have warned consumers about the dangers presented by its products, but it did and does the opposite. It explicitly stated and states that its products are safe.
- 40. Thus, consumers are left unaware about the dangers presented by the Weighted Sleep Products at the time of purchase.
- 41. As a manufacturer of consumer products, Defendant is responsible for the design and safety testing of its Weighted Sleep Products.

- 42. Yet, Defendant did and does nothing to disclose the dangers presented by its Weighted Sleep Products to consumers.
- 43. In short, Plaintiff and class members purchased a dangerous product that is unusable for its intended central purpose: to help children sleep safely and soundly.

### D. Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products are worthless.

- 44. The misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendant in regard to its Weighted Sleep Products are highly material to reasonable consumers. Consumers buy Weighted Sleep Products because they believe those products are safe and will help their children sleep.
- 45. No reasonable consumer would purchase Weighted Sleep Products if she or he knew there was no evidence that those products are effective, and that the scientific consensus is that the products are unsafe to use.
- 46. If consumers knew the truth—that Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products are not proven to work and are unsafe to use—the price of the Weighted Sleep Products would crater. In fact, Weighted Sleep Products that do not work and are unsafe to use are wholly worthless to consumers. Thus, the full economic injury here is the entire price of the Weighted Sleep Products purchased by Plaintiff and the class members.
- 47. Alternatively, Plaintiff and class members were deprived the benefit of their bargained-for exchange and have suffered damages in an amount to be established at trial.

### E. Ms. Monsch was misled and harmed by Defendant's deceptive marketing.

- 48. In October 2023, Ms. Monsch purchased a Bamboo Weighted Swaddle, one of Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products, directly from Defendant's website.
- 49. Ms. Monsch bought the Weighted Sleep Product because she believed that it would safely help her child sleep. She read and relied on Defendant's marketing materials representing as

much.

- 50. After Ms. Monsch purchased the Weighted Sleep Product, she found that her young son slept *worse* in the Weighted Sleep Product than he had before. She discontinued it after several uses.
- 51. She would not have purchased the Weighted Sleep Product at the price she paid if she knew it did not help her child sleep. In fact, knowing the truth, the Weighted Sleep Product is worthless to her. The economic injury she suffered is the entire purchase price she paid for the Weighted Sleep Product.
- 52. Before purchasing the Weighted Sleep Product, Ms. Monsch did not know that the Product suffered from significant defects. Reasonable consumers with no special knowledge of product design or safety testing must rely on manufacturers' representations of safety when deciding to purchase a product, and Defendant explicitly marketed its Weighted Sleep Products as safe to use. Had Ms. Monsch known the truth, she would not have purchased the Product. Likewise, if the truth were known, other consumers would not buy Weighted Sleep Products either, which would drive down the demand for, and consequently the price of, the Products. So apart from purchasing something she would not have bought at all, Ms. Monsch also overpaid for the Product.
- 53. Thus, Ms. Monsch suffered economic injury as a direct result of Defendant's actions. Ms. Monsch would purchase a product that was proven to help her child sleep and was safe to use. Ms. Monsch, however, faces an imminent threat of harm because she will not be able to rely on representations of safety and the comprehensiveness of warnings in the future, and thus will not be able to purchase a Weighted Sleep Product.

### F. Defendant breached its contract with and warranties to Ms. Monsch.

54. Ms. Monsch and other class members entered into contracts with Defendant when they purchased Weighted Sleep Products. Defendant offered to provide Weighted Sleep Products Class Action Complaint 14 Case No.

that were safe for ordinary use, free from safety defects, and helped children sleep, for an advertised price. Ms. Monsch and other class members accepted this offer by purchasing Weighted Sleep Products.

- 55. By selling the Weighted Sleep Products, Defendant warranted that the Weighted Sleep Products were free from safety defects and fit and safe for their intended use. These were material terms of the contract.
- 56. Ms. Monsch and other class members performed their obligations under the contract by paying for the items that they purchased.
- 57. Defendant breached its contract and warranties by failing to provide Plaintiff and other class members with Weighted Sleep Products that were safe for their intended use, free from defects, and actually helped children sleep.
- 58. Defendant was on notice of its breaches from multiple letters from the scientific community stating that its Weighted Sleep Products were not safe to use.

### G. Defendant's actions injured other members of the putative class.

- 59. Defendant's material omissions, false representations of safety, and failure to warn consumers about the dangers of its Weighted Sleep Products allowed Defendant to charge more for the Products than it could have had the safety defects and lack of proof regarding the Products' effectiveness been disclosed to consumers. Consumers like Ms. Monsch would not have bought the Weighted Sleep Products or, at minimum, would have paid substantially less for them if they knew the Products were unsafe and not proven to be effective. Stated another way, demand for Weighted Sleep Products would have plummeted if Defendant disclosed the dangers and shortcomings of the Products. As a result of Defendant's omissions and misrepresentations, Plaintiff and class members were charged a price premium and sustained economic injuries.
- 60. Consumers purchase Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products because they think they

  Class Action Complaint 15 Case No.

are safe and will help their children sleep. Instead, Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products endanger children and are not proven to be effective. Therefore, the products Plaintiff and class members received in exchange for their purchase price are worthless. The economic injury suffered by Plaintiff and the class members is the entire purchase price of the Weighted Sleep Products because they were unsafe and useless for their intended purpose.

### H. No adequate remedy at law.

- 61. Plaintiff seeks damages and, in the alternative, restitution. Plaintiff is permitted to seek equitable remedies in the alternative because she has no adequate remedy at law.
  - 62. A legal remedy is not adequate if it is not as certain as an equitable remedy.
- 63. To obtain a full refund as damages, Plaintiff must show that the products they received have essentially no market value. In contrast, Plaintiff can seek restitution without making this showing. This is because Plaintiff purchased products that she would not otherwise have purchased, but for Defendant's misrepresentations. Obtaining a full refund by law is less certain than obtaining a refund in equity.
- 64. Also, winning damages under the CLRA requires additional showings not required under the UCL and FAL. For example, to obtain damages under the CLRA, Plaintiff must prove that she complied with the CLRA's notice requirement. No such requirements exist to obtain restitution. In addition, the CLRA prohibits only particular categories of deceptive conduct. By contrast, the UCL broadly prohibits "unfair" conduct and is thus broader.
- 65. By the same token, Plaintiff's common law claims require additional showings, compared to her UCL, FAL, or unjust enrichment claims. For example, to prevail on her breach of warranty claim, Plaintiff needs to show that the statements they challenge constitute a warranty and that the warranty was part of the basis of the bargain. No such showings are required by the UCL or FAL, or for an unjust enrichment theory. In fact, the UCL and the FAL were enacted specifically to Class Action Complaint

  16

  Case No.

create new claims and remedies not available at common law. And unjust enrichment exists in part because contractual claims are often more difficult to establish. In this way, Plaintiff's UCL and FAL claims, and Plaintiff's unjust enrichment claims, are more certain than her legal claims.

66. Finally, the remedies at law available to Plaintiff are not equally prompt or otherwise efficient. The need to schedule a jury trial may result in delay. And a jury trial will take longer, and be more expensive, than a bench trial.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 67. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 68. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of the following Class and Subclasses:

**Nationwide Class.** All individuals who purchased a Weighted Sleep Product from Defendant Dreamland Baby Company within the applicable statute of limitations.

**Multistate Subclass.** All individuals who purchased a Weighted Sleep Product in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, and New York within the applicable statute of limitations.

**California Subclass.** All individuals who purchased a Weighted Sleep Product in California within the applicable statute of limitations.

- 69. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of, this Class and these Subclasses.
- 70. Excluded from the Class and Subclasses are the Defendant, any entities in which the Defendant has a controlling interest, the Defendant's employees, any Judge to whom this action is assigned, any member of such Judge's staff and immediate family, and all individuals pursuing claims for personal injury or wrongful death.
- 71. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify the Class and Subclass definitions after having an opportunity to conduct discovery.

- 72. The Class and Subclasses meet the criteria for certification under Rule 23(a), (b)(2), (b)(3), and (c)(4). Plaintiff and all members of the Class have been harmed by the acts of the Defendant. Class-wide adjudication of Plaintiff's claims is appropriate because Plaintiff can prove the elements of her claims on a class-wide basis using the same evidence as would be used to prove those elements in individual actions asserting the same claims.
- 73. *Numerosity*. The members of the Class and Subclasses are so numerous that individual joinder of all class members is impracticable. Although the exact number of members is unknown at this time, it can readily be determined from the internal business records of Defendant or the retailers and distributors of the Weighted Sleep Products, and Class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by published and/or mail/emailed notice. Plaintiff reasonably estimates that there are hundreds of thousands of members of the Class.
- 74. *Commonality and Predominance*. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the putative class and Subclasses that will drive the litigation and predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. Common questions include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Whether Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products improve sleep for children;
  - b. Whether Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products are safe for children;
  - c. Whether Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products are fit for their ordinary and intended use;
  - d. Whether Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products are fit for their particular purpose;
  - e. Whether Defendant committed a breach of an express or implied warranty;
  - f. Whether Defendant engaged in an unlawful deceptive practice in marketing and selling the Weighted Sleep Products as they are;
  - g. Whether Plaintiff and other consumers who purchased Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products suffered ascertainable loss as a result of Defendant's conduct;

- h. Whether Defendant should be enjoined from further sales of its Weighted Sleep Products;
- What damages are needed to compensate Plaintiff and the members of the proposed Class and Subclasses;
- j. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched by the sale of the Weighted Sleep Products;
- k. Whether Defendant violated consumer protection statutes.
- 75. *Typicality*. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of each putative class member and are based on the same facts and legal theories as each of the class members. Plaintiff, like all members of the Class and Subclasses, purchased one of Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products. Plaintiff, like all Class and Subclass members, was thus subject to Defendant's common misrepresentations and omissions regarding the efficacy and safety of its products, which misleadingly and deceptively claimed that the Weighted Sleep Products had value by purportedly helping children sleep and that the products were safe. Plaintiff is entitled to relief under the same causes of action as the other members of the putative class.
- 76. Adequacy of Representation. Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the putative Class and Subclasses because her interests coincide with, and are not antagonistic to, the interests of the members of the Class and Subclasses. Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and highly experienced in complex consumer class action litigation who intend to prosecute the action vigorously. Plaintiff and her counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and Subclasses.
- 77. Superiority. Questions of law and fact common to the Class and Subclass members predominate over questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy. The damages sought by each Class Action Complaint

  19

  Case No.

member are such that individual prosecution would prove burdensome and expensive. It would be virtually impossible for all members of the Class and Subclasses individually to effectively redress the wrongs done to them. Even if the members of the Class and Subclasses could afford and pursue such individual litigation, it would be an unnecessary burden on the Courts. Furthermore, individualized litigation presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments and increases the delay and expense to all parties and to the court system presented by the legal and factual issues raised by Defendant's conduct. By contrast, the class action device will result in substantial benefits to the litigants and the Court by allowing the Court to resolve numerous individual claims based upon a single set of proof. Plaintiff is not aware of any other current pending litigation against Defendant to which any Class member is a party involving the subject matter of this suit. This case presents no difficulties that will impede its management by the Court as a class action.

78. Injunctive Relief Appropriate for the Class. Class certification is appropriate because Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate injunctive relief and/or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to Plaintiff and putative Class members. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class that could establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant. Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent further fraudulent and unfair business practices by Defendant including Defendant's continued sale of its dangerous and worthless Weighted Sleep Products.

### **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

79. Based on the foregoing allegations, Plaintiff's claims for relief include the following:

# COUNT I Breach of Contract On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

80. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at Class Action Complaint 20 Case No.

length herein.

- 81. Plaintiff brings this count individually and for the Nationwide Class. Common law breach of contract claims are materially similar in all fifty states. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 82. Plaintiff and Class members entered into contracts with when they placed orders to purchase Weighted Sleep Products on Defendant's website. A valid contract existed between Plaintiff and the Class members and Defendant.
- 83. The contracts provided that Plaintiff and Class members would pay Defendant for the Products ordered.
- 84. The contracts further required that Defendant provide Plaintiff and Class members with Weighted Sleep Products that conformed to the description advertised on the website and that was free of defects. These were specific and material terms of the contracts.
- 85. Plaintiff and Class members paid Defendant for the Weighted Sleep Products they ordered, and satisfied all other conditions of their contracts.
- 86. Defendant breached the contracts with Plaintiff and Class members by failing to provide Products that conformed to the description advertised on the website. Defendant breached its contract by providing Products that were defective, as described more fully above.
- 87. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches, Plaintiff and Class members were deprived of the benefit of their bargained-for exchange and have suffered damages in an amount to be established at trial.

# COUNT II Breach of Express Warranty On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

88. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.

- 89. Plaintiff brings this count on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. Common law breach of express warranty claims are materially similar in all fifty states. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 90. Defendant, as the manufacturer, marketer, and seller of Weighted Sleep Products, issues material written warranties by representing that the products help children sleep and are safe to use. These were affirmations of fact about the Weighted Sleep Products and a promise relating to the goods.
- 91. These warranties were part of the basis of the bargain and Plaintiff and the Class relied on this warranty.
- 92. However, the Weighted Sleep Products do not conform to the above-referenced representations because, as alleged in detail above, the Weighted Sleep Products do not help children sleep and are not safe to use. Thus, the warranties were breached.
- 93. Plaintiff provided Defendants with notice of this breach of warranty, by mailing a notice letter to Defendants' headquarters, on May 15, 2024. Defendant also had notice of this breach through countless news articles and letters from the scientific community and government agencies stating the products were unsafe.
- 94. Plaintiff and class members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, and this conduct was a substantial factor in causing harm, because: (a) they would not have purchased Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the Products were ineffective and/or unsafe or (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.

# COUNT III Breach of Implied Warranty of Fitness On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

- 95. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 96. Plaintiff brings this count on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. Common law implied warranty of fitness claims are materially similar in all fifty states. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 97. The Uniform Commercial Code Sec. 2-315 states where a seller has "reason to know any particular purpose for which the goods are required and that the buyer is relying on the seller's skill or judgment to select or furnish suitable goods there is...an implied warranty that the goods shall be fit for such purpose."
- 98. Plaintiff and members of the Nationwide Class purchased Weighted Sleep Products for the particular purpose of helping their children sleep safely, and Defendant knew or should have known this.
- 99. Defendant marketed itself as a knowledgeable and effective developer, manufacturer, and seller of sleep products for children.
- 100. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff and members of the Nationwide Class would justifiably rely on Defendant's particular skill and knowledge of baby sleep products when choosing to purchase the Weighted Sleep Products.
- 101. Plaintiff and members of the Nationwide Class did justifiably rely on Defendant's purported judgment and skill.
- 102. But the Weighted Sleep Products were not suitable for their intended purpose, as they neither helped children sleep nor were safe to use.
- 103. Defendant thus breached its implied warranty of fitness concerning the products and knew of this breach through countless news articles and letters from the scientific community and government agencies stating the products were unsafe.

- 104. Plaintiff provided Defendants with notice of this breach of warranty, by mailing a notice letter to Defendants' headquarters, on May 15, 2024. Defendant also had notice of this breach through countless news articles and letters from the scientific community and government agencies stating the products were unsafe.
- 105. As a result of the breach, Plaintiff and members of the Nationwide Class suffered economic harm and damages.

# COUNT IV Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

- 106. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 107. Plaintiff brings this count on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. Common law implied warranty of merchantability claims are materially similar in all fifty states. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 108. The Uniform Commercial Code Sec. 2-314 states that "a warranty that [] goods shall be merchantable is implied in a contract for their sale if the seller is a merchant with respect to goods of that kind." Merchantable goods must be "fit for the ordinary purposes for which the goods are used."
- 109. As alleged above, Plaintiff and Class members entered into contracts with Defendant when they placed orders to purchase Products on Defendant's website. A valid contract existed between Plaintiff and the Class and Defendant.
- 110. Defendant is and was at all times a merchant with respect to its Weighted Sleep Products for children, and the products constitute goods under the UCC.

- 111. Plaintiff and members of the Nationwide Class purchased the Weighted Sleep Products.
- 112. Defendant, as the manufacturer, marketer, and seller of the Weighted Sleep Products impliedly warranted to Plaintiff and the Class that the products were of merchantable quality and were safe for their ordinary use.
- 113. In fact, the Weighted Sleep Products were never in merchantable condition and were not fit for children to use while sleeping. Specifically, the Weighted Sleep Products were unsafe in that they restricted oxygen flow to children wearing them. The Weighted Sleep Products are unsafe even when used according to Defendant's instructions.
- 114. Moreover, the Weighted Sleep Products were never in merchantable condition because there was no evidence that they worked for their stated purpose, to help children sleep more soundly.
- 115. Defendant breached the implied warranty of merchantability when it sold its Weighted Sleep Products.
- 116. Plaintiff provided Defendants with notice of this breach of warranty, by mailing a notice letter to Defendants' headquarters, on May 15, 2024. Defendant also had notice of this breach through countless news articles and letters from the scientific community and government agencies stating the products were unsafe.
- 117. Defendant's breach directly caused Plaintiff and the Class harm, as neither Plaintiff nor the Class would have bought the products had they known the products were unsafe when used for their ordinary purpose.

# COUNT V Fraud On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

118. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.

- 119. Plaintiff brings this count on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. Common law fraud claims are materially similar in all fifty states. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 120. As alleged above, Defendant made false representations to Plaintiff and Nationwide Class members when it said its Weighted Sleep Products were effective and safe to use.
  - 121. These representations were false.
- 122. When Defendant made these misrepresentations, it knew they were false and/or acted recklessly in making them.
- 123. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and Class members rely on these representations and Plaintiff and Class members reasonably relied on them.
- 124. In addition, class-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Weighted Sleep Products.
- 125. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and Class members.
- 126. Defendant also made materially misleading omissions concerning the efficacy and safety of its Weighted Sleep Products. Specifically, it concealed information related to the related to the risks of oxygen reduction in the Products.
- 127. In deciding to purchase the Weighted Sleep Products from Defendant, Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members reasonably relied on Defendant's omissions to form the mistaken belief that the Weighted Sleep Products were effective and safe to use.
- 128. Defendant's conduct was knowing and intentional and intended to induce, and actually induced, Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members to purchase the Weighted Sleep Products.

  Plaintiff and Nationwide Class members would not have purchased the products if they knew the Class Action Complaint

  26 Case No.

products were unsafe. Class-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's omissions were material, i.e. a reasonable consumer would consider them important to their purchase decision.

- 129. Defendant had a duty to disclose because it had superior knowledge and access to material facts about the Products' safety, and a reasonable consumer could not have expected or known that the Weighted Sleep Products were unsafe.
- 130. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because: (a) they would not have purchased Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the products were unsafe and ineffective at helping children sleep, and (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.
- 131. Defendant's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiff's and the Class members' rights and well-being to enrich Defendant. Defendant's conduct warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

### **COUNT VI**

### Negligent Misrepresentation On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

- 132. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 133. Plaintiff brings this count on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. Common law negligent misrepresentation claims are materially similar in all fifty states. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 134. As alleged more fully above, Defendant made false representations to Plaintiff and Nationwide Class members when it said its Weighted Sleep Products were effective and safe to use.
  - 135. These representations were false.

- 136. When Defendant made these misrepresentations, it knew or should have known that they were false. Defendant had no reasonable grounds for believing that these representations were true when made.
- 137. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and Nationwide Class members rely on these representations; Plaintiff and Nationwide Class members did in fact reasonably rely on them.
- 138. In addition, class-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Weighted Sleep Products.
- 139. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and Class members.
- 140. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because: (a) they would not have purchased Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the products were unsafe and ineffective at helping children sleep, and (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.

#### **COUNT VII**

### Quasi-Contract Claim for Restitution ("Unjust Enrichment") On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class

- 141. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 142. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. Common law quasi-contract claims are materially similar in all fifty states. Plaintiff brings this cause of action in the alternative to her Breach of Contract claim (First Cause of Action) and Breach of Express Warranty claim (Fifth Cause of Action) on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim under California law for herself and members of the California Subclass.

- 143. As alleged in detail above, Defendants' false and misleading representations caused Plaintiff and the Class to purchase wholly worthless Products.
- 144. In this way, Defendants received a direct and unjust benefit, at Plaintiff's and the Class members' expense.
  - 145. Plaintiff and the Class seek restitution, and in the alternative, rescission.

### **COUNT VIII**

### Violation of State Consumer Protection Acts On behalf of Plaintiff and the Multistate Consumer Protection Class

- 146. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 147. As alleged below, Plaintiff brings individual and California Subclass claims based on California law. For the Multistate Consumer Protection Subclass, Plaintiff brings this count for violations of state consumer protection laws that are materially similar to the laws of California, including:

State	Statute
California	Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, and the
	following: <i>Id.</i> §17500, and the following; Cal. Civ.
	Code §1750 and the following.
Connecticut	Conn. Gen Stat. Ann. § 42- 110, and the following.
Illinois	815 ILCS § 501/1, and the following.
Maryland	Md. Code Ann. Com. Law, § 13-301, and the
	following.
Missouri	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 407, and the following.
New York	N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, and the following.

- 148. Each of these statutes is materially similar. Each broadly prohibits deceptive conduct in connection with the sale of goods to consumers. No State requires individualized reliance, or proof of Defendant's knowledge or intent. Instead, it is sufficient that the deceptive conduct is misleading to reasonable consumers and that the conduct proximately caused harm.
- 149. As alleged in detail above, Defendant's misrepresentations are misleading to reasonable consumers in a material way. Defendant's false and misleading marketing was a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decisions and the purchase decisions of the Subclass members.
- 150. Plaintiff and the Multistate Consumer Protection Class members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because: (a) they would not have purchased Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the products were unsafe and ineffective at helping children sleep, and (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.

### **COUNT IX**

### Violation of California's False Advertising Law & Prof. Code §§ 17500 & 17501 et. seq. On behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass

- 151. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
  - 152. Plaintiff asserts this count on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 153. Defendant has violated Sections 17500 and 17501 of the Business and Professions Code.
- 154. Defendant has violated, and continues to violate, Section 17500 of the Business and Professions Code by disseminating untrue and misleading advertisements to Plaintiff and the Subclass members.
- 155. As alleged more fully above, Defendant falsely advertised its products by falsely representing that its Weighted Sleep Products were safe to use and helped children sleep.

- 156. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on the statements when purchasing the Weighted Sleep Products. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Weighted Sleep Products.
- 157. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision and the purchase decisions of the Subclass members.
- 158. Plaintiff and the Subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because: (a) they would not have purchased Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the products were unsafe and ineffective and (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.

#### **COUNT X**

### Violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act On behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass

- 159. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
  - 160. Plaintiff asserts this count on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 161. Plaintiff and the subclass members are "consumers," as the term is defined by California Civil Code § 1761(d).
- 162. Plaintiff and the subclass members have engaged in "transactions" with Defendant as that term is defined by California Civil Code § 1761(e).
- 163. The conduct alleged in this Complaint constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices for the purpose of the CLRA, and the conduct was undertaken

by Defendant in transactions intended to result in, and which did result in, the sale of goods to consumers.

- 164. As alleged more fully above, Defendant violated the CLRA by falsely representing that its Weighted Sleep Products were safe and effective. Defendant knew or should have known, through the exercise of reasonable care, that these statements were false and misleading.
- 165. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770 of the California Civil Code.
- 166. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770(a)(5) of the California Civil Code by representing that Products offered for sale have characteristics or benefits that they do not have. Defendant represents that its Weighted Sleep Products have the characteristic of being safe to use and effective in helping children sleep, when neither is true.
- 167. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770(a)(7) of the California Civil Code by representing that Weighted Sleep Products offered for sale are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, if they are another. Defendant represents that its Weighted Sleep Products meet the standard of being safe to use and effective at helping children sleep, when in reality they do not.
- 168. Defendant also violated, and continues to violate, section 1770(a)(9) of the California Civil Code. Defendant violated this law by advertising its Weighted Sleep Products as being fit for their intended purpose of helping children sleep, when they were not.
- 169. Defendant's false labeling was likely to deceive, and did deceive, Plaintiff, the Subclass members, and all reasonable consumers. Defendant knew or should have known through the exercise of reasonable care that these statements were inaccurate and misleading.
- 170. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff and the Subclass members reasonably relied on the statements when purchasing the Weighted Sleep Product. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were Class Action Complaint

  32

  Case No.

material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Weighted Sleep Products.

- 171. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision and the purchase decisions of the Subclass members.
- 172. Plaintiff and the Subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because: (a) they would not have purchased Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the products were unsafe and ineffective and (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.
- 173. Accordingly, pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a)(2), Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other members of the Subclass, seeks injunctive relief.
  - 174. A CLRA venue declaration is attached.

### COUNT XI

### Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law On behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass

- 175. Plaintiff restates each of the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
  - 176. Plaintiff asserts this count on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
- 177. Defendant has violated California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL) by engaging in unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair conduct (i.e., violating each of the three prongs of the UCL).

### The Unlawful Prong

178. Defendant engaged in unlawful conduct by violating the CLRA and FAL, as alleged above and incorporated here.

### The Fraudulent Prong

179. As alleged in detail above, Defendant's representations that its Weighted Sleep Products promote sleep and are safe to use were false and misleading. Its marketing is likely to deceive, and did deceive, Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers.

### The Unfair Prong

- 180. Defendant's conduct, as detailed above, also violated the "unfair" prong of the UCL.
- 181. Defendant's conduct caused substantial injury to Plaintiff and the Subclass members. The harm to Plaintiff and the Subclass greatly outweighs the public utility of Defendant's conduct (which is none). Unsafe Weighted Sleep Products have no public utility and in fact are a hazard to public safety. This injury was not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition. Dangerous and useless products only injure and harm consumers.
- 182. Plaintiff and the Subclass could not have reasonably avoided this injury. As alleged above, Defendant's marketing is false and misleading. It is likely to deceive and did deceive reasonable consumers like Plaintiff.
- 183. Defendant's conduct, as alleged above, was immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers.
- 184. Defendant's conduct violated the public policy against false and misleading advertising, which is tethered to the CLRA and the FAL.
- 185. For all prongs, Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff and the Subclass members reasonably relied on the statements when purchasing the Weighted Sleep Products. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Weighted Sleep Products.
- 186. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision and the purchase decisions of the Subclass members.

187. Plaintiff and the Subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because: (a) they would not have purchased Weighted Sleep Products if they had known that the products were unsafe and ineffective and (b) they received products that were, in truth, worthless.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

188. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, hereby demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment on behalf of herself and the Class and Subclasses she seeks to represent against Defendant for:

- An order certifying the asserted claims, or issues raised, as a class action;
- An order appointing Plaintiff as a representative for the Nationwide Class, Multistate Subclass, and the California Subclass, and appointing her counsel as lead counsel for the Class and Subclasses;
- An order awarding Plaintiff and all other Class and Subclass members damages in an amount to be determined at trial for the wrongful acts of Defendant
- A declaration that Defendant's Weighted Sleep Products are unfit for ordinary purposes and pose a serious safety risk to consumers;
- An order enjoining Defendant from engaging in or continuing to engage in the manufacture, marketing, and sale of its Weighted Sleep Products; requiring Defendant to issue corrective actions including notification, recall, service bulletins, or replacement of the Weighted Sleep Products; and requiring Defendant to preserve all evidence relevant to this lawsuit and notify Weighted Sleep Product owners with whom it comes in contact of the pendency of this and related litigation;

1	•	• Nominal damages as authorized by law;		
2	•	Restitution as authorized by law;		
3	•	Pre- and post-judgment interest;		
4		Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as allowed by law; and		
5		Reasonable attorneys nees and costs, as anowed by law, and		
6	•	Any additional relief that the Court deems reasonable and just.		
7	Dated: May 1	6, 2024	Respectfully submitted,	
8			By: BAILEY & GLASSER, LLP	
9			/s/ Arthur H. Bryant	
10			Arthur H. Bryant (SBN 208365) 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 660	
			Oakland, CA 94612	
11			T: 510.272.8000	
12			abryant@baileyglasser.com	
13			Bart D. Cohen, Esq.	
			1622 Locust Street	
14			Philadelphia, PA 19103	
15			(215) 274-9420	
16			bcohen@baileyglasser.com	
			Day /a/ Zaalana Aalitaan	
17			By: <u>/s/ Zachary Arbitman</u> Alan M. Feldman*	
18			Zachary Arbitman*	
19			George Donnelly*	
			FELDMAN SHEPHERD WOHLGELERNTER TANNER	
20			WEINSTOCK & DODIG, LLP	
21			1845 Walnut Street, 21st Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103	
,			T: (215) 567-8300	
22			F: (215) 567-8333	
23			afeldman@feldmanshepherd.com	
24			zarbitman@feldmanshepherd.com	
			gdonnelly@feldmanshepherd.com	
25			Attorneys for Plaintiff	
26				
27			*Pro Hac Vice Applications Forthcoming	
20	1			

## **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Dreamland Baby Co. Weighted Sleep Sacks, Swaddles, Blankets Are Falsely Advertised, Class Action Lawsuit Says</u>