UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
Austin Division

Sondra Nolan, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No: 1:17-cv-1184

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-v.-

Account Control Technology, Inc. and John Does 1-25,

Defendants.

Plaintiff Sondra Nolan (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Nolan"), a Texas resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, RC Law Group, PLLC, against Defendant Account Control Technology, Inc. (hereinafter "Defendant" or "ACT, Inc."), 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

1. 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 pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1331</u>, as well as <u>15 U.S.C. § 1692</u> et. seq. The Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1367(a)</u>.
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2)</u> as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Texas consumers under § 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and
 - 6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Texas, County of Williamson, residing at 670 Louis Henna Blvd, Apt. 1605, Round Rock, TX 78664.

- 8. Defendant Account Control Technology, Inc. is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 21700 Oxnard Street, Ste 1400, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Defendant is a "debt collector", as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 11. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - 13. The Class consists of:
 - a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Texas;
 - b. to whom ACT, Inc. sent an initial collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
 - c. regarding collection of a Capella University debt;
 - d. that falsely stated that interest may be accruing on the debt when it was not currently accruing;
 - e. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.

- 14. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 15. Excluded from the Plaintiff Classes are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.
- 16. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Classes, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibits A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692g and 1692f.
- 17. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes defined in this complaint. The Plaintiffs have retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiffs nor their attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 18. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:
 - a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiff Classes defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.

- b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Classes and those questions predominance over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms **attached as Exhibit A** violate 15 § 1692e and § 1692f and § 1692g.
- c. <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.

 The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Classes have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. Adequacy: The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs have no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiffs are committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiffs have also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.
- 19. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff

Classes predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

20. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 21. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 22. Some time prior to April 14, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Capella University.
- 23. The Capella University obligation arose out of a transaction involving the alleged enrollment in educational classes in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
- 24. The alleged Capella University obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).
 - 25. Capella University is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(4).
 - 26. Capella University contracted the Defendant to collect the alleged debt.
- 27. 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.

Violation I – April 14, 2017 Collection Letter

- 28. On or about April 14, 2017, Defendant sent the Plaintiff an initial collection letter (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Capella University. **See April 14, 2017 Collection Letter Attached hereto as Exhibit A.**
 - 29. In the top portion of the Letter Defendant states:

Principal	\$1,800.00
Interest	\$0.00
Other Fees	\$0.00
Collection Fee	\$0.00
Amount Received	\$0.00
Total Due	\$1,800.00

- 30. The letter, in the last paragraph, states "Because your credit agreement may require you to pay interest on the outstanding portion of your balance, as well as late charges and costs of recovery, which vary from day to day, as you agreed in your agreement, the amount required to pay your account in full on the day you send payment may be greater than the amount stated here."
- 31. When a debt collector solicits payment from a consumer, it must, within five days of an initial communication
 - (1) the amount of the debt;
 - (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
 - (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
 - (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of the judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and

- (5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).
- 32. The FDCPA further provides that "if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty day period . . . that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed . . . the debt collector shall cease collection . . . until the debt collector obtains verification of the debt . . . and a copy of such verification is mailed to the consumer by the debt collector." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).
- 33. Although a collection letter may track the statutory language, "the collector nevertheless violates the Act if it conveys that information in a confusing or contradictory fashion so as to cloud the required message with uncertainty." Russell v. EQUIFAX A.R.S., 74 F.3d 30, 35 (2d Cir. 1996) ("It is not enough for a debt collection agency to simply include the proper debt validation notice in a mailing to a consumer-- Congress intended that such notice be clearly conveyed."). Put differently, a notice containing "language that 'overshadows or contradicts' other language informing a consumer of her rights . . . violates the Act." Russell, 74 F.3d at 34.
- 34. Defendant is aware that during the collection of this debt the balance will not vary at all and stating that it may increase is merely a deceptive collection tactic to influence the consumer to pay the debt immediately without disputing it.
 - 35. The Defendant's Letter is false because this alleged debt is not accruing interest.
- 36. The false and coercive language in the final paragraph of the collection letter caused Plaintiff to believe she must pay the balance immediately in order to avoid a balance increase.

- 37. Plaintiff sustained an imminent risk of harm in that she was provided with false information about the increase of the debt which prevented her from making reasonable decisions about whether to pay the debt.
- 38. As a result of Defendant's deceptive misleading and false debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

- 39. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 40. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 41. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
 - 42. Defendant violated said section by:
 - a. Making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10).
- 43. 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.

COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692g et seq.

44. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

- 45. 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. § 1692g.
- 46. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b), a debt collector's activities during the 30-day validation period may not overshadow or be inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt.
- 47. Defendant violated this section by falsely and coercively threatening Plaintiff that the amount of her balance would increase due to interest and fees. This statement overshadowed Plaintiff's right to dispute the debt as was afforded her under the Statute.
- 48. 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.

COUNT III VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692f et seq.

- 49. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 50. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
- 51. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692f, a debt collector may not use any unfair or unconscionable means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 52. Defendant violated this section by unfairly and falsely advising Plaintiff that the amount of her loan would change due to incurred interest and fees. This statement is false because the alleged debt was not ever going to accrue interest and fees.

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53. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's

conduct violated Section 1692f et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs

and attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

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

a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Sondra Nolan, individually and on behalf of all others similarly

situated demands judgment from Defendant Account Control Technology, Inc. as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying

Plaintiff as Class representative, and Yaakov Saks, Esq. as Class Counsel;

2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;

3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and

expenses;

5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem

just and proper.

Dated: Hackensack, New Jersey

December 19, 2017

/s/ Yaakov Saks

By: Yaakov Saks, Esq.

RC Law Group, PLLC

285 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: (201) 282-6500 Fax: (201) 282-6501 Attorneys For Plaintiff

Exhibit A

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21700 Oxnard Street Suite 1400 Dept. 113897502 - DN01 Woodland Hills, CA 91367

April 14, 2017 Client: CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

Account Control Technology, Inc.

PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	OTHER FEES		
\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
COLLECTION FEE	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL DUE		
. \$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00		

* * * Offer of Assistance * * *

This letter is to notify you CAPELLA UNIVERSITY has referred your account to Account Control Technology, Inc., (ACT) for collection of your defaulted debt. At this time, CAPELLA UNIVERSITY has indicated your entire balance as indicated above is due and payable. We do recognize that many individuals may not be in the position to pay the full balance in one payment. Therefore, ACT is committed to providing assistance to you in determining the best resolution to your obligation. Our staff is trained to discuss all available options for repayment of your debt. Please telephone one of our representatives for assistance at this toll free telephone number: 1-844-743-1309.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request of this office in writing within 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.

PAY ONLINE: 🖳

http://snolan3aapk.revexpres s.com

YOUR PASSWORD IS: sond#439

PAY BY MAIL:

Account Control Technology, Inc. PO Box 9025 Renton, WA 98057 **SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

Account Control Technology, Inc. PO Box 8012 Canoga Park, CA 91309-8012 SMART PHONE: Scan the QR barcode with

your smart phone:



THIS HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU BY A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.
ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

SEE THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS LETTER FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

DEPT 544 2792577917046 PO BOX 4115 CONCORD CA 94524

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

իլովույիկիթագիութվիրդերիֆիալիերիկիրերի

SONDRA NOLAN PO BOX 143871 AUSTIN TX 78714-3871



PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS ONLY TO:

ACCOUNT CONTROL TECHNOLOGY, INC. PO BOX 9025 RENTON WA 98057

ACCOUNT IDENTIFICATION

Account #: 113897502

Client: CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

Principal: \$1,800.00 Interest: \$0.00 Other Fees: \$0.00 Collection Fee: \$0.00 Amount Received: \$0.00 Total Due: \$1,800.00

NTC1 - CUARW1

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ONE OF THE NOTICES BELOW MAY APPLY TO YOU. PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY SERVING ACTIVE DUTY OR HAVE SERVED IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WITHIN THE PRIOR 180 DAYS, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A LOWER INTEREST RATE AND REDUCTION IN COLLECTION FEES THROUGH THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT (SCRA). TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE OR ON-LINE AT WWW.STUDENTAID.ED.GOV.

COLORADO - A CONSUMER HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST IN WRITING THAT A DEBT COLLECTOR OR COLLECTION AGENCY CEASE FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONSUMER. A WRITTEN REQUEST TO CEASE COMMUNICATION WILL NOT PROHIBIT THE DEBT COLLECTOR OR COLLECTION AGENCY FROM TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO COLLECT THE DEBT.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE: WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR ACT'S COLORADO OFFICE LOCATION: COLORADO MANAGER, INC.

BUILDING B

80 GARDEN CENTER, SUITE 3

BROOMFIELD, CO 80020

(303) 920-4763

KANSAS - AN INVESTIGATIVE CONSUMER REPORT, WHICH INCLUDES INFORMATION AS TO YOUR CHARACTER, GENERAL REPUTATION, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND MODE OF LIVING, HAS BEEN REQUESTED. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WHICH INCLUDES THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION.

MASSACHUSETTS - NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A WRITTEN OR ORAL REQUEST THAT TELEPHONE CALLS REGARDING YOUR DEBT NOT BE MADE TO YOU AT YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. ANY SUCH ORAL REQUEST WILL BE VALID FOR ONLY TEN DAYS UNLESS YOU PROVIDE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THE REQUEST POSTMARKED OR DELIVERED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF SUCH REQUEST. YOU MAY TERMINATE THIS REQUEST BY WRITING TO COLLECTION AGENCY.

MINNESOTA - THIS AGENCY IS LICENSED BY MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

NORTH CAROLINA - NC PERMIT NO. 3762.

TENNESSEE - THIS AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE COLLECTION SERVICE BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

WISCONSIN - THIS COLLECTION AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE DIVISION OF BANKING IN THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, www.wdfi.org.

NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS FOR ACCOUNT CONTROL TECHNOLOGY, INC. IN EACH OF THEIR BUSINESS LOCATIONS ARE 8:00A.M. TO 5:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

As of the date of this letter, you owe the amount stated on the reverse side of this letter. Because your credit agreement may require you to pay interest on the outstanding portion of your balance, as well as late charges and costs of recovery, which vary from day to day, as you agreed in your credit agreement, the amount required to pay your account in full on the day you send payment may be greater than the amount stated here. If you pay the amount stated here, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive your payment. In that event, we will notify you of any adjustment in your balance. We encourage you to call prior to making a payment intended to pay your account in full.

NOTE CHANGES ONLY

FIRST NAME:		
LAST NAME:		
ADDRESS LINE 1:		
ADDRESS LINE 2:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
HOME PHONE:		
WORK PHONE:		

Print

Save As..

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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.)

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(b) County of Residence of	First Listed Plaintiff V	Villiamson		County of Residence	e of First Listed	Defendant			
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Yaakov Saks, Esq., RC L 285 Passaic St., Hackens 201-282-6500 x 101, ysa	Law Group, PLLC sack, NJ 07601	•)		Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL	PARTIES (Place an "X" in One	e Box for F	Plaintif
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		isleading and unfair EMAND \$	СН		if demanded in co	mplaint: J No	
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET	NUMBER			
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 - United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 - Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- **VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

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

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Suit Claims Account Control Technology Threatened False Debt Balance Increases</u>