# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA TAMPA DIVISION CASE NO.

JOHN NORTHRUP, Individually and on behalf of a Class of Similarly Situated Individuals,

Plaintiff,

VS.

ITG INSURANCE AGENCY LLC, INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS GROUP, AND HALLMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Defendants.	
	,

#### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff John Northrup, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, alleges and avers as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff brings this Class Action Complaint for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of ITG Insurance Agency LLC, Independent Truckers Group, and Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. ("Defendants"), in negligently, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff through SMS or "text" messages on Plaintiff's cellular telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., ("TCPA"), thereby invading Plaintiff's privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by his attorneys.

#### **PARTIES**

- 2. Plaintiff John Northrup is an individual who resides in Hillsborough County, Florida.
- 3. Defendant ITG Insurance Agency LLC, is a Texas limited liability company, with principal address at 6713 Mossberg, Plano, TX 75023. It may be served through its registered agent for service, Teresa Gilbert at 6713 Mossberg, Plano, TX 75023.
- 4. Defendant, Independent Truckers Group is a company with headquarters at 15280 Addison Road, Suite 250, Addison, Texas 75001. It may be served at that address.
- 5. Defendant Hallmark Financial Services, Inc., is a Texas corporation, with principal place of business at 777 Main St., Suite 1000, Fort Worth, TX, 76102. It also conducts business at 15280 Addison Road, Suite 250, Addison, Texas 75001. Its registered agent for service is Mark E. Schwartz, 777 Main St., Suite 1000, Fort Worth, TX, 76102. Hallmark owns and operates multiple companies out of the Addison Road address, including Independent Truckers Group and other companies that sell insurance and other services, targeting particular industries.
- 6. Defendants are jointly and severally liable for the acts alleged herein because they work together out of the Addison Road headquarters to market to truckers like Plaintiff by sending unsolicited text messages in violation of federal law.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7. This Court has jurisdiction over this action and all the Defendants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 in that this action arises under a United States federal statute, specifically the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., ("TCPA"). The TCPA specifically

authorizes this Court to exercise jurisdiction.

- 8. Jurisdiction is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and is between citizens of different states. Jurisdiction is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiff seeks up to \$1,500 in damages for each text message in violation of the TCPA, which, when aggregated among a proposed class number of more than five thousand, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Further, Plaintiff alleges a national class, which will result in at least one class member belonging to a different state than that of Defendants, providing jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. Section 1332(d)(2)(A). Therefore, both elements of diversity jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.
- 9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and/or (b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred in this District, in that the text message at issue was sent to a mobile phone number registered in this District.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. Defendants operate under the names "Independent Truckers Group," "ITG Trucking," and "ITG Insurance Agency." They market insurance and other services to trucking companies throughout the country from their headquarters in Addison, Texas. They operate the website www.itgtrucking.com.
- 11. Defendants made the deliberate decision to engage in bulk marketing by sending truckers, including the Plaintiff, advertisements through Short Message Services. The term "Short Message Service" or "SMS" is a messaging system that allows cellular telephone

subscribers to use their cellular telephones to send and receive short text messages.

- 12. An "SMS message" is a text message directed to a wireless device through the use of the telephone number assigned to the device. For purposes of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., ("TCPA"), a text message is considered to be a call. *See Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 14014, 14115, ¶ 165 (2003) ("2003 TCPA Order").
- 13. When an SMS or "text" message call is successfully made, the recipient's cell phone rings or otherwise notifies the recipient of the text message that a text message is being received.
- 14. As cellular telephones are inherently mobile and are carried by their owners at all times, text messages are received by the called party virtually anywhere.
- 15. Unlike standard advertising methods, bulk advertising by use of text messages cost recipients money, because cell phone users typically pay for the text messages they receive, either individually, or in bulk.
- 16. Over the course of an extended period beginning no later than in 2015, Defendants and their agents directed the mass transmission of text messages to the cell phones of persons they hoped were potential customers of Defendants' services.
- 17. On June 30, 2017, at 2:40 pm Eastern time, Plaintiff received an unsolicited SMS or "text" message to his wireless phone in Florida. The text was sent to his wireless phone number with area code 813 (the area code for Tampa, Florida and surrounding areas). It stated:

Hate the high price of Obama Care? Call for a free \$250 rewards card and free healthcare quote. TRUCKER plans start less than \$59 a month. 214-396-6822

- 18. Although Defendants are located in Texas. They sent the text message from an automatic texting service that uses a phone number with area code 208, which is in Idaho. Plaintiff called the phone number listed in the text message and spoke to a representative of Defendants, Donna Morgan, who said she was calling on behalf of Independent Truckers Group, the largest independent truckers group in America. Plaintiff asked the representative how Defendants' obtained his phone number and the representative immediately terminated the call. Accordingly, it appears that Defendants know that their text message campaign is illegal.
- 19. Plaintiff provided no consent to receive this text message, which was sent by Defendants in an effort to promote the sale of their health insurance plans to truck drivers.
- 20. The unsolicited text messages placed to Plaintiff's cellular telephone was placed via an "automatic telephone dialing system," ("ATDS") as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (a)(1).
- 21. "The term 'unsolicited advertisement' means any material advertising the commercial availability or quality of any property, goods, or services which is transmitted to any person without that person's prior express invitation or permission, in writing or otherwise." 47 U.S.C. § 227 (a)(5).
- 22. "The term 'telephone solicitation' means the initiation of a . . . message for the purpose of encouraging the purchase . . . of . . . services, which is transmitted to any person, but such term does not include a call or message (A) to any person with that person's prior express invitation or permission, (B) to any person with whom the caller has an established business relationship, or (C) by a tax exempt nonprofit organization." 47 U.S.C. § 227 (a)(4).
- 23. The telephone numbers that the Defendants, or their agents, sent the text messages to were assigned to cellular telephone services pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

- 24. These telephone text messages constituted "calls" under the TCPA that were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(i) and applicable regulations which make clear that texts are included within the TCPA.
- 25. Plaintiff did not provide Defendants or their agents prior express consent to receive unsolicited text messages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(B).
- 26. The text message by Defendants or their agents therefore violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).
- 27. Plaintiff, John Northrup, has standing to bring these claims because Defendants' violation of the TCPA resulted in a concrete and particularized injury to him, in the form of invasion of privacy, an unwanted and unauthorized text message received by his cell phone, which caused wasted time addressing an unwanted text message, unwarranted distraction from his work activities (including driving large trucks, and loading and unloading products), aggravation and distress, unavailability of his cell phone when it was receiving the unauthorized text message, depletion of his cell phone's battery and the resulting cost to recharge the phone, and potential financial loss in the form of increased charges from his cell phone carrier.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 28. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of all others similarly situated ("the Class").
- 29. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of the Class, consisting of: all persons within the United States who received an unsolicited SMS or text message from a Defendant, or an agent of a Defendant, on a paging service, cellular phone service, or other service, through the use of any automatic telephone dialing system as set forth in 47 U.S.C. Section 227(B)(1)(A)(3)

or artificial or prerecorded voice, which SMS or text messages by a Defendant (or agent of a Defendant) was not made for emergency purposes or with the recipients' prior express consent, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint.

- 30. Defendants and their employees or agents are excluded from the Class.
- 31. Plaintiff does not know the number of members in the Class, but believes the Class members number in the thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.
- 32. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by the acts of Defendants in at least the particularized and concrete ways set forth above.
- 33. This suit seeks only statutory damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the Class, and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto.
- 34. The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the court.
- 35. The Class can be identified through Defendants' records or Defendants' agents' records.
- 36. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved affecting the parties to be represented.
- 37. The questions of law and fact to the Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:
  - a. Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, Defendants or their agents placed cellular telephone SMS or text messages for purposes of soliciting

new customers without the recipients' prior express consent;

- b. What systems and methodologies were used to collect the cell phone numbers, and send the text messages at issue in this case;
- c. Whether the systems used to place the cellular telephone SMS or text messages constituted automatic telephone dialing systems under the TCPA;
- d. Whether either Defendant's violation of the TCPA was willful or knowing, such that the award should be increased up to three times pursuant to 47 USC §227(b)(3)(c); and
- e. Whether Defendants and their agents should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.
- 38. As a person who received at least one unsolicited telephone SMS or text message without his prior express consent, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class.
- 39. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to any member of the Class.
- 40. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result of the Defendants' unlawful and wrongful conduct.
- 41. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendants will likely continue such illegal conduct.
- 42. Because of the size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any, Class members could not afford to individually seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.
  - 43. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims of this

nature.

- 44. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.
- 45. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendants to comply with federal law.
- 46. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendants is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of the TCPA are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many individual claims.
- 47. Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.
- 48. The members of the Class are capable of being readily ascertained from the information and records in the possession or control of Defendants.
- 49. The Class members are so numerous that individual joinder of all members is impractical.
- 50. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the Class and are based on the same legal and factual theories.
- 51. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has been subject to the same unlawful acts as the rest of the Class members and is ready, willing and able to serve as a Class representative. Moreover, Plaintiff's counsel are experienced in handling complex litigation, and have extensive class action

experience and a long track record of successful prosecution of class action cases. Neither Plaintiff nor his counsel has any interest that might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

- 52. Certification of a Class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) is appropriate in that Plaintiff and the Class members seek liquidated statutory monetary damages, common questions predominate over any individual questions, and a class action is superior for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. A class action will cause an orderly and expeditious administration of the Class members' claims and economies of time, effort and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be ensured. Moreover, the individual Class members are unlikely to be aware of their rights and not in a position (either through experience or financially) to commence individual litigation against Defendants.
- 53. Alternatively, certification of a class is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1), in that inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants or adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class as a practical matter would be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudications or would substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
- 54. Alternatively, certification of a class is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because the parties opposing the Class have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief appropriate respecting the Class as a whole.

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ

- 55. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 56. Each such text message call was made using equipment that, upon information and belief, had the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator, or a system that otherwise qualified as an automatic telephone dialing system under the TCPA. By using such equipment, Defendants were able to effectively send thousands of text messages simultaneously to lists of thousands of wireless phone numbers of consumers without human intervention. These text messages were sent without the prior express consent of the Plaintiff and the other members of the Class to receive such text messages.
- 57. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants and their agents constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq. As a result of Defendants', and Defendants' agents', negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an award of \$500.00 each in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B). Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff and the Class members the following relief against Defendants:

- a. As a result of Defendants,' and Defendants' agents,' negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member \$500.00 in statutory damages, per violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- b. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- c. As a result of Defendants,' and Defendants' agents,' willful and/or knowing violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member increased damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500.00 per violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).
- d. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- e. Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- 58. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs 1-55 of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 59. Upon information and belief, Defendants violations of the TCPA were willful and/or knowing. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to have their awards increased to an amount not more than three times the \$500 liquidated damages amount, or \$1,500.00 per violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B and C).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff and the Class

members the following relief against Defendants: As a result of Defendants', and Defendants'

agents', willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class

member \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, per violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

a. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief prohibiting

such conduct in the future.

b. As a result of Defendants,' and Defendants' agents,' willful and/or knowing

violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class

member increased damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500.00 per violation,

pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

c. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct

in the future.

d. Reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and expenses.

e. Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND** 

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: August 8, 2017 Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Seth M. Lehrman</u>

Seth M. Lehrman (Fla. Bar No. 132896)

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

### $_{ m JS~44~(Rev.~11/15)}$ Case 8:17-cv-01890-CEH-JSSL Decument 1.1 SFiled 08/09/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID 15

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.)

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF TI	HIS FORM.)			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS John Northrup,  (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				DEFENDANTS ITG Insurance Agency LLC, Independent Truckers Group, and Hallmark Financial Services, Inc.,  County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.		
			NOTE: IN LAND CO			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, FARMER, JÁFFE, WEIS 425 N. Andrews Ave., St 954-524-2820	SING, EDWARDS, FI	STOS, LEHRMAN, P./	A., Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	One Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	t Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			TF DEF  1 □ 1 Incorporated or Pr  of Business In T		
2 U.S. Government		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			FORFEITHDE/DENALTV	RANKDUDTCV	OTHER STATUTES	
CONTRACT  ☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment ☐ & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted ☐ Student Loans ☐ (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment ☐ of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise   REAL PROPERTY ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJURY  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability Pharmaceutical Personal Injury - Product Liability Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	FORFEITURE/PENALTY  □ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 690 Other   LABOR □ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Management Relations □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION □ 462 Naturalization Application □ 465 Other Immigration Actions	BANKRUPTCY  □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES  □ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC □ 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ □ Exchange  ▼ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	moved from	Appellate Court	Reinstated or 5 Transfe Reopened Anothe (specify) ling (Do not cite jurisdictional state	r District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	·	IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only <b>JURY DEMAND:</b>	if demanded in complaint:  X Yes  No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 08/08/2017		signature of attor /s/ Seth M. Lehrm				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  RECEIPT # AI	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE_	MAG. JUI	DGE	

#### 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>Trucker Sues ITG Insurance</u>, <u>Others Over Unsolicited Text Message Advertisements</u>