

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

BARBARA O'BOYLE, Individually and on
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,

Defendant.

) Case No.: 16-cv-1384

) **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

) **Jury Trial Demanded**

INTRODUCTION

1. This class action seeks redress for collection practices that violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (the "FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Barbara O'Boyle is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).

4. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), in that Defendant sought to collect from her a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes.

5. Defendant GC Services, Limited Partnership ("GCS") is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business located at 6330 Gulfton, Houston, TX 77081.

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

7. GCS is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes. GC is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

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

FACTS

9. On or about August 16, 2016, GCS mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed to: “Synchrony Bank” (“Synchrony”). A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.

10. The alleged debt referred to in Exhibit A is an “AEO, Inc.”-branded credit card account, allegedly owed to Synchrony. “AEO” stands for the clothing retailer, “American Eagle Outfitters,” and Synchrony issues AEO credit cards. *See* <https://www.onlinecreditcenter6.com/consumergen2/duallogin.do?subActionId=1000&accountType=generic&clientId=aeoutfitters>.

11. The debt was incurred for personal, family or household purposes, including clothing purchases.

12. Exhibit A was the first letter that GCS sent to Plaintiff regarding the alleged debt referenced in Exhibit A.

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

14. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form, initial communication, debt collection letters used by GCS to attempt to collect alleged debts.

15. Exhibit A contains the following text:

As of the date of this letter, our records show you owe a balance of \$177.00 to Synchrony Bank. If you dispute this balance or the validity of this debt, please let us know in writing. If you do not dispute this debt in writing within 30 days after you receive this letter, we will assume this debt is valid.

However, if you do dispute all or any portion of this debt in writing within 30 days of receiving this letter, we will obtain verification of the debt from our client and send it to you. Or, if within 30 days of receiving this letter you request in writing the name and address of the original creditor, we will provide it to you in the event it differs from our client, Synchrony Bank.

Exhibit A.

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA

16. The text in GCS's letter to Plaintiff and the class is inconsistent with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a), which states:

(a) Notice of debt; contents

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing—

(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 a 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.

17. Exhibit A states that the consumer's dispute of the alleged debt must be in writing; however, nothing in 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) requires that notification of the dispute must be in writing.

18. Failure to provide the correct validation notice pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) is a *per se* violation of the FDCPA. No analysis of materiality of the error or omission is required. *Janetos v. Fulton Friedman & Gullace, LLP*, 825 F.3d 317, 324 (7th Cir. 2016) (“we have not extended the implicit materiality requirement of § 1692e to reach claims under § 1692g(a).”).

19. For the purposes of Plaintiff’s claims under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, Defendant’s misrepresentation is a material false statement.

20. Purporting to impose a writing requirement to dispute a debt raises an impediment to consumers who wish to dispute an alleged debt.

21. Oral disputes invoke some rights under the FDCPA. For example, a debt collector contacting third parties after an oral dispute must inform those parties that the debt is disputed, pursuant to § 1692e(8), which prohibits “[c]ommunicating or threatening to communicate to any person credit information which is known or which should be known to be false, including the failure to communicate that the debt is disputed.”

22. Oral disputes also trigger a consumer’s rights under several other federal and state statutes. The Fair Credit Reporting Act, for example, requires all persons who furnish information to a credit reporting agency (“CRA”) to provide notice of the dispute to the CRA if the debt is disputed by the consumer. 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(a)(3).

23. In addition, oral disputes invoke the provisions of the Wisconsin Consumer Act that regulate debt collection. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(f).

24. Defendant’s conduct has been repeatedly found to violate the FDCPA. *Camacho v. Bridgeport Fin., Inc.*, 430 F.3d 1078, 1081 (9th Cir. 2005) (“The plain meaning of § 1692g is that debtors can trigger the rights under subsection (a)(3) by either an oral or written “dispute,”

while debtors can trigger the rights under subsections (a)(4) and (a)(5) only through written dispute.”); *Beattie v. Capital One F.S.B.*, No. 05-cv-310-CNC, slip op. at 6-7 (E.D. Wis. Nov. 8, 2005); *Rosado v. Taylor*, 324 F. Supp. 2d 917, 929 (S.D. Ind. 2004); *Spearman v. Tom Wood Pontiac-GMC, Inc.*, 00-CV-1340-C-T/K, 2002 WL 31854892 at *8 (S.D. Ind., Nov. 4, 2002); *Walters v. PDI Management Services*, 02-CV-1100-JDT-TAB, 2004 WL 1622217 at *4-5 (S.D. Ind., April 6, 2004), *modified by Walters v. PDI Management Services*, 2004 WL 2137513 (S.D. Ind., Jun 14, 2004); *contra. Graziano v. Harrison*, 950 F.2d 107, 112 (3d Cir. 1991).

25. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.

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

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

28. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Quinn v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC*, No. 16 C 2021, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 107299 *8-13 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 2016) (rejecting challenge to Plaintiff’s standing based upon alleged FDCPA statutory violation); *Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC*, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) (“When a federal statute is violated, and especially when Congress has created a cause of action for its violation, by definition Congress has created a legally protected interest that it deems important enough for a lawsuit.”); *Church v. Accretive Health, Inc.*, No. 15-15708, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 12414 *7-11 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); *see also Mogg v. Jacobs*, No. 15-CV-1142-JPG-DGW, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33229, 2016 WL 1029396, at *5 (S.D. Ill.

Mar. 15, 2016) (“Congress does have the power to enact statutes creating legal rights, the invasion of which creates standing, even though no injury would exist without the statute,” (quoting *Sterk v. Redbox Automated Retail, LLC*, 770 F.3d 618, 623 (7th Cir. 2014)). For this reason, and to encourage consumers to bring FDCPA actions, Congress authorized an award of statutory damages for violations. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a). Moreover, Congress has explicitly described the FDCPA as regulating “abusive practices” in debt collection. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(a) – 1692(e). Any person who receives a debt collection letter containing a violation of the FDCPA is a victim of abusive practices. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(e) (“It is the purpose of this subchapter to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses”).

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

COUNT I – FDCPA

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

31. The language in GCS’s letters is false, misleading and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer, in that the letter tells the consumer that disputes must be in writing,

when the plain language of the statute does not require disputes to be made in writing. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3); *Camacho*, 430 F.3d at 1081.

32. Defendant has failed to accurately provide the portion of the FDCPA validation notice required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

33. The Defendant has therefore violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g(a), 1692g(a)(3), 1692e and 1692e(10).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

34. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a Class, consisting of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent a collection letter in the form represented by Exhibit A to the complaint in this action (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (d) between October 14, 2015 and October 14, 2016, inclusive, (e) that was not returned by the postal service.

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

36. There are questions of law and fact common to the members of the class, which common questions predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members. The predominant common question is whether the Defendant complied with 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g(a) and 1692e.

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

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

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

JURY DEMAND

40. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

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

Dated: October 14, 2016

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: /s/ John D. Blythin
Shpetim Ademi (SBN 1026973)
John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)
Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944)
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(414) 482-8001 (fax)
sademi@ademilaw.com
jblythin@ademilaw.com
meldridge@ademilaw.com
dmorris@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A

PO Box 1389
Copperas Cove TX 76522-5389
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SEND PAYMENT TO:

August 16, 2016

Synchrony Bank/AEO, Inc.
PO Box 530942
Atlanta GA 30353-0942

200649758



Barbara Lee Oboyle
8541 S Chicago Rd Apt 229N
Oak Creek WI 53154-8035

Acct. #: *****9649 Balance Due: \$177.00

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE UPPER PORTION OF THE STATEMENT WITH YOUR PAYMENT

RE: AEO, Inc. Credit Card Account

Dear Barbara Lee Oboyle,

Your AEO, Inc. Credit Card Account, which was issued by and owed to Synchrony Bank, has been referred to us by our client for collection. We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and inform you of your rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

As of the date of this letter, our records show you owe a balance of \$177.00 to Synchrony Bank. If you dispute this balance or the validity of this debt, please let us know in writing. If you do not dispute this debt in writing within 30 days after you receive this letter, we will assume this debt is valid.

However, if you do dispute all or any portion of this debt in writing within 30 days of receiving this letter, we will obtain verification of the debt from our client and send it to you. Or, if within 30 days of receiving this letter you request in writing the name and address of the original creditor, we will provide it to you in the event it differs from our client, Synchrony Bank.

We look forward to working with you in resolving this account.

www.ae.com

Sincerely,

Cindy Kreidler
Collection Manager

Balance Due: \$177.00

Acct. #: *****9649

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

NOTICE: SEE THE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION

GC Services Limited Partnership - Collection Agency Division - 6336 Guffon, Houston, TX 77081
Case 2:16-cv-01384 Filed 10/14/16 Page 2 of 3 Document 1-1

GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

California Residents: The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877- FTC-Help or <http://www.ftc.gov>.

Colorado Residents: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE: WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR. 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. Our Colorado office is located at 621 Seventeenth Street, Suite 2400, Denver, CO 80293. Toll Free Phone: 855-413-3038.

Massachusetts Residents: You may call us using the toll free phone number shown on the front of this letter. Our normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT. Our local office in Massachusetts is located at 49 Winter St., Weymouth, MA 02188. The local office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT Monday - Thursday.

Maine Residents: You may call us using the toll free phone number shown on the front of this letter. Our normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT.

Minnesota Residents: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit Numbers:

Columbus - 112786; Copperas Cove - 112777; Elgin - 112780; Irwindale - 112782; Jacksonville - 112776; Knoxville - 112775; Oklahoma - 112781; Phoenix - 112779; San Antonio - 112774; San Diego - 112783; St. Louis - 112787; Tucson - 112785; Houston - 112778; Huntington - 112784.

Tennessee Residents: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Washington local office: Our local office in Washington is located at 926 North 14th Street, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273.

Wisconsin Residents: This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org.

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

BARBARA O'BOYLE

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110
(414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482-8001-Facsimile

DEFENDANTS

GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

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

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

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	PROPERTY RIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs.	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health	SOCIAL SECURITY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	LABOR	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 495 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY	PRISONER PETITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	Habeas Corpus:	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	IMMIGRATION		<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application		<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee		<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions		<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition			

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

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

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

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

15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq

Brief description of cause:

Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$ _____

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE _____

DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE

October 14, 2016

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

s/ John D. Blythin

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____

AMOUNT _____

APPLYING IFP _____

JUDGE _____

MAG. JUDGE _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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

I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)

(c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

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

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553

Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

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

Civil Action No. 16-cv-1384

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

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

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

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify):* _____

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

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

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [GC Services Limited Partnership Hit with Debt Collection Class Action](#)
