Case 2:16-cv-14522-DMM Document 1 Entered on FLSD Docket 11/28/2016 Page 1 of 8

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA CASE NO.

JAMES ALDERMAN, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

GENPACT SERVICES, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company,

Defendant.

# **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

1. Plaintiff, James Alderman, alleges violations of the *Fair Debt Collection Practices Act*, *15 U.S.C.* §1692 *et seq.* ("*FDCPA*").

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331, and 15 U.S.C. §1692k. Venue in this District is proper because Plaintiff resides here and Defendant conducts business in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff, James Alderman ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person, and citizen of the State of Florida, residing in Indian River County, Florida.

4. Defendant, Genpact Services LLC ("Defendant"), is a Delaware Limited Liability Company engaged in the business of collecting consumer debts, which operates from offices located at 42 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury, Connecticut 06810.

5. Defendant regularly uses the United States Postal Service and telephone in the collection of consumer debt.

6. Defendant is licensed in the State of Florida as a consumer collection agency, license number CCA0900507.

7. Defendant regularly collects or attempts to collect debts for other parties. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined in the *FDCPA*.

8. At all times material to the allegations of this complaint, Defendant was acting as a debt collector with respect to the collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. Defendant sought to collect from Plaintiff an alleged debt incurred by Plaintiff for personal, family, or household purposes; more specifically, the debt at issue was a delinquent credit card debt.

10. In the month of April 2016, Defendant left three (3) telephone messages on Plaintiff's phone. Phone number xxx-xxx-9902.

11. The first telephone message stated: "Hi this message is for James Alderman my name is Justin from Genpact Services uh uh please call me back 877-843-7934 thank you for your time, take care, you have a good day."

12. The second telephone message stated: "Message for James Alderman, Steven calling from Genpact Services with a call back number as 877-843-7934, thank you."

13. The third telephone message stated: "This is a message for James Alderman my name is Tom Carol and I'm calling from Genpact Services give us a call back at 877-843-7934 thank you and have a nice day by by thank you."

14. None of the messages identified that the call was from a debt collector.

## 15. *15 U.S.C § 1692e(11)* states:

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

XXXX

(11) The failure to disclose in the initial written communication with the consumer and, in addition, if the initial communication with the consumer is oral, in that initial oral communication, that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose, **and the failure to disclose in subsequent communications that the communication is from a debt collector**, except that this paragraph shall not apply to a formal pleading made in connection with a legal action.

(emphasis added)

16. *15 U.S.C.* § *1692d*(*6*) states:

A debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

#### XXXX

(6) Except as provided in section *1692b* of this title, the placement of telephone calls without meaningful disclosure of the caller's identity.

17. Defendant's phone messages falsely and misleadingly omit that the message is from

a debt collector in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

18. Defendant's phone messages fail to provide meaningful disclosure of its identity in

violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(6).

19. Any potential *bona fide* error defense which relies upon Defendant's mistaken interpretation of the legal duties imposed upon it by the *FDCPA* would fail as a matter of law.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

20. This action is brought on behalf of a Class consisting of (i) all persons located in Florida (ii) for whom Genpact Services, LLC, left, or caused to be left, a voice message, (iii) in connection with the collection of a consumer debt, (iv) that failed to state that Genpact Services, LLC was a debt collector (vi) during the one-year period prior to the filing of the original Complaint in this action through the date of certification.

21. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief based upon the Defendant's practice of leaving or causing to be left, voice messages that fail to state that Genpact Services, LLC was a debt collector, left as voice messages for the Class, that the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is impractical.

22. There are questions of law or fact common to the Class, common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual Class members. The factual issue common to each Class member is that each was left or caused to be left a voice message by Defendant, that failed to state that Genpact Services, LLC was a debt collector. The common principal legal issue is whether Defendant's omission in its voice messages that it left or caused to be left, that Genpact Services, LLC was a debt collector violated the *FDCPA*.

23. Plaintiff's claim is typical of those of the Class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.

24. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. He has retained counsel experienced in handling actions involving unlawful practices under the *FDCPA* and Class actions. Neither Plaintiff nor his counsel has any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

25. Certification of the Class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil

*Procedure* is also appropriate in that:

(1) The questions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member.

(2) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

26. Plaintiff requests certification of a Class under *Rule 23(b)(3)*, of the *Federal Rules* 

of Civil Procedure, for monetary damages; his appointment as Class Representative; and that his

attorney Leo W. Desmond be appointed Class Counsel.

## COUNT I

# VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11)

- 27. Plaintiff re-alleges Paragraphs 1 through 19.
- 28. *15 U.S.C.* § *1692e(11)* states:

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

XXXX

(11) The failure to disclose in the initial written communication with the consumer and, in addition, if the initial communication with the consumer is oral, in that initial communication, that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose, **and the failure to disclose in subsequent communications that the communication is from a debt collector**, except that this paragraph shall not apply to a formal pleading made in connection with a legal action.

(emphasis added)

29. Defendant left three voice messages on Plaintiff's phone in an attempt to collect a

consumer debt.

30. Each voice message falsely and misleadingly omitted that the call was from a debt collector.

31. Defendant's failure to identify in the voice messages that it left on Plaintiff's phone that it was a debt collector is a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

32. Defendant's voice message would be confusing and misleading to the least sophisticated consumer with regard to his/her legal rights.

33. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an award of statutory damages pursuant to *15 U.S.C. §1692k*.

34. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class entitled to an award of costs and attorney's fees pursuant to *15 U.S.C.* §1692k.

### COUNT II

## VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(6)

35. Plaintiff re-alleges Paragraphs 1 through 19 and 28 through 32.

36. *15 U.S.C.* § *1692d*(*6*) states:

A debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

#### XXXX

(6) Except as provided in section *1692b* of this title, the placement of telephone calls without meaningful disclosure of the caller's identity.

37. Defendant placed at least three telephone calls to Plaintiff and left three voice

messages on Plaintiff's phone in an attempt to collect a consumer debt.

38. Each voice message did not provide meaningful disclosure of the caller's identity,i.e., that the call is from a debt collector.

39. Defendant's failure to provide meaningful disclosure of its identity in its voice messages it left on Plaintiff's phone is a violation of  $15 U.S.C. \$  (6).

40. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an award of statutory damages pursuant to *15 U.S.C. §1692k*.

41. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class entitled to an award of costs and attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in his favor against Defendant for:

- a. An Order certifying this matter as a Class action and appointment of James Alderman as Class Representative as to all claims against Defendant;
- b. An Order appointing Leo W. Desmond as Class Counsel;
- c. An award of statutory damages for Plaintiff and the Class pursuant to 15 U.S.C. \$1692k for all Class claims;
- d. An award of attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs of the instant suit; and
- e. Such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: November 28, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

DESMOND LAW FIRM, P.C.

<u>/s/ Leo W. Desmond</u> LEO W. DESMOND, ESQ. Florida Bar No. 0041920 5070 Highway A1A

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Suite D Vero Beach, FL 32963 Telephone: 772-231-9600 Facsimile: 772-231-0300 Iwd@verobeachlegal.com

/s/ Sovathary K. Jacobson SOVATHARY K. JACOBSON, ESQ. Florida Bar No. 102200 5070 Highway A1A Suite D Vero Beach, FL 32963 Telephone: 772-231-9600 Facsimile: 772-231-0300 jacobson@verobeachlegal.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

# S 44 (Rev. 12/12) Case 2:16-cv-14522-DMM Document 1-1 Entered on ELSD Docket 11/28/2016 Page 1 of 2

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 a 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 purpos of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.) NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below.

# . (a) PLAINTIFFS James Alderman

# DEFENDANTS Genpact Services, LLC

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Indian River (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Ad Desmond Law Firm, P.C 5070 Highway A1A, Su	2.	32963	Attorneys (If Know	THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED." #n)				
(d) Check County Where Action	n Arose: 🔲 miami-dade	🗖 MONROE 🗖 BROWARD 🕻	] PALM BEACH 🛛 MARTIN 🗋 ST	T. LUCIE 🛛 INDIAN RIVER 🗆 OKEECHOBEE 🗖 HIGHLANDS				
I. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	. CITIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff)				
1 U.S. Government	✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only	ly) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF				
Plaintiff			Citizen of This State	□ I □ I Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 □ 4 of Business In This State				
2 U.S. Government Defendant		arsity p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2       2       Incorporated and Principal Place       5       5         of Business In Another State				
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3   3   Foreign Nation   6   6				
V. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box On	//						
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         (Excl. 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 & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 750 Motor Vehicle 760 Vehicle 760 Vehicle 161 S55 Motor Vehicle 760 Vehicle 760 Vehicle 760 Vehicle 760 Vehicle 162 Vehicle 760 Vehicle 76	PERSONAL INJURY         365 Personal Injury -         Product Liability         367 Health Care/         Pharmaceutical         Personal Injury         Product Liability         368 Asbestos Personal         Injury Product Liability         368 Asbestos Personal         Injury Product         Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> 370 Other Fraud         371 Truth in Lending         380 Other Personal         Property Damage         385 Property Damage         Product Liability         PRISONER PETITIONS         Habeas Corpus:         463 Alien Detainee         510 Motions to Vacate         Sentence         Other:         530 General         535 Death Penalty         540 Mandamus & Other	Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act 1MMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Applicat 465 Other Immigration	422 Appeal 28 USC 158       375 False Claims Act         423 Withdrawal       400 State Reapportionment         28 USC 157       410 Antitrust         430 Banks and Banking       430 Commerce         820 Copyrights       460 Deportation         830 Patent       470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations         840 Trademark       480 Consumer Credit         862 Black Lung (923)       863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))         864 SSID Title XVI       891 Agricultural Acts         895 Freedom of Information Act       899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision         871 TRS       950 Constitutionality of Stat Statutes				
<b>√</b> 1 Original □ 2 Rem		<ul> <li>☐ 550 Civil Rights</li> <li>☐ 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement</li> <li>☐ Confinement</li> <li>☐ Generated (See ☐ 4 Reinstated of Reopered</li> </ul>	Actions					
Froceeding State	Court VI belo		(specify)	Judgment				
VI. RELATED/ RE-FILED CASE(S)	(See instructions): JUDGE	led Case □YES <b>1</b> 2 N		Ses □YES \$ NO DOCKET NUMBER				
VII. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta		ling and Write a Brief Stater S.C. 1692 et al for both sides to try entire ca	ment of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):				
VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	<b>DEMAND \$</b> 500,000.00	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes Z No				
ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE & CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE SIGNATURE OF ASTORNEY OF RECORD								
11/28/2014	0	Lenw		4 BAR # 0041920				
OR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT #	AMOUNT	IFP	JUDGE	E MAG JJDGE				

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/12)

#### 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.

Refiled (3) Attach copy of Order for Dismissal of Previous case. Also complete VI.

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.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (8) Check this box if remanded from Appellate Court.

VI. Related/Refiled Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases or re-filed cases. Insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judges name for such cases.

 VII.
 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.
 Do not cite jurisdictional Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553

 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VIII. 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.

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

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

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

)

)

Southern District of Florida

JAMES ALDERMAN, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Civil Action No.

GENPACT SERVICES, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company,

Defendant(s)

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) GENPACT SERVICES, LLC C/O NATIONAL CORPORATE RESEARCH,LTD.,INC. (REGISTERED AGENT) 115 North Calhoun Street, Suite 4 Tallahassee, FL 32301

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: DESMOND LAW FIRM. P.C.

LEO W. DESMOND, ESQ. 5070 HIGHWAY A1A, SUITE D VERO BEACH, FL 32963

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

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

Civil Action No.

# **PROOF OF SERVICE**

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

	This summons for (name	e of individual and title, if any)						
was re	ceived by me on (date)							
	□ I personally served t	he summons on the indivi	idual at <i>(place)</i>					
			on (date)					
	I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with <i>(name)</i>							
	, 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 summor	served the summons on <i>(name of individual)</i>						
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)							
		on (date)						
	$\Box$ I returned the summ	; 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: <u>Genpact Services Hit with Class Action Over Debt Collection Practices</u>