

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
ORLANDO DIVISION**

**ELVA BENSON,
on behalf of herself and on behalf
of all others similarly-situated,**

Plaintiff,

v.

CASE NO.: 6:20-cv-00891

**ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS, INC.,
ENTERPRISE LEASING COMPANY OF
FLORIDA, LLC, and ENTERPRISE LEASING
COMPANY OF ORLANDO, LLC**

Defendants.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)**

Plaintiff, Elva Benson, on behalf of herself and on behalf of all others similarly situated, files this Class Action Complaint against Defendants, Enterprise Holdings, Inc., Enterprise Leasing Company of Florida, LLC and Enterprise Leasing Company of Orlando, LLC (“Defendants” or “Enterprise”). In sum, Defendants violated the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. (the “WARN Act”) when it terminated Plaintiff and the putative class members without providing sufficient (or any) advance written notice. In further support thereof, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a class action for the recovery by the Plaintiff, a former 34-year employee of Defendants, on her own behalf and on behalf of approximately hundreds of other similarly situated former employees (collectively the “Class”, as defined below), of damages

in the amount of 60 days' compensation and benefits for each of them by reason of the Defendants' violation of their rights under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. (the "WARN Act").

2. The Plaintiff and the other Class members were employees of Defendants who were terminated without cause on their part in or about April 27, 2020, as part of or as the reasonably expected consequence of a mass layoff or plant closing, which was effectuated by Defendants on or about that date.

3. Defendants failed to give the Plaintiff and the other Class members advance written notice of their termination and/or failed to "give as much notice as practicable."

4. In fact, Defendants gave *no* advance written notice to Plaintiff or the putative class members. Instead, the written notice was given on April 27, 2020, although the letter was dated April 24, 2020, both of which occurred several days after Defendants engaged in a mass layoff of Plaintiff and the putative class members she seeks to represent.

5. In violation of the WARN Act, Defendants failed to provide as much written notice as was practicable under the circumstance surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, and also failed to provide a statement of the basis for reducing the notification period to zero days advance notice.

6. Defendants could have but failed to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 upon its employees days prior to the mass layoff.

7. Not only that, Defendants had also furloughed Plaintiff in Mid-March because of COVID-19, meaning Defendants knew its business was suffering and, thus, knew a mass layoff was coming. But, furloughing employees for a few weeks, and then terminating their

employment without any advance written notice is not a substitute for -- and certainly does not comply with -- the WARN Act's advance written notice requirement.

8. Moreover, the fact that Congress recently made available to Defendants and many other businesses nationwide millions of dollars in forgivable loans through the "Paycheck Protection Program," but Defendants still opted to instead e in a mass layoff – and do so without any advance written notice to its employees -- only further underscores the severity of the WARN Act violations committed by Defendants.

9. Defendants' failure to provide its employees with any advance written notice had a devastating economic impact on Plaintiff and the putative class members.

10. As a consequence, the Plaintiff and the other Class members are entitled under the WARN Act to recover from the Defendants their respective compensation and benefits for 60 days, no part of which has been paid. Specifically, the class Plaintiff seeks to certify is defined as:

WARN Act National Class:

All former Enterprise employees throughout United States who were not given a minimum of 60 days' written notice of termination and whose employment was terminated on or about April 27, 2020, as a result of a "mass layoff" or "plant closing" as defined by the Workers Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act of 1988.

JURISDICTION

11. This Court has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 2104(a)(5).

12. The violation of the WARN Act alleged herein occurred in this District.

13. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 2104(a)(5).

THE PARTIES AND SUPPORTING FACTS

14. At all relevant times, Defendants were a business authorized to conduct business in the State of Florida.

15. At all relevant times, Defendants maintained an office or facility in Orlando, Florida (the “Facility”), at the Orlando International Airport where Plaintiff worked.

16. On information and belief, in or about April 2020, Defendants employed hundreds of people in Florida, and thousands across the nation.

17. Prior to her termination, Plaintiff worked for Defendants as a rental agent.

18. On April 27, 2020, Plaintiff received a written notice dated April 24, 2020 terminating her employment effective April 30, 2020, without cause on her part, by the Defendants. However, Plaintiff had already been fired several days prior.

19. Upon information and belief hundreds of other employees working for Defendants were terminated without cause on their part as part of or as the reasonably expected consequence of the terminations (collectively, the “Class”).

20. Plaintiff brings this action on her own behalf and, pursuant to rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of herself and the other members of the Class.

THE CLAIM FOR RELIEF

21. At all relevant times, the Defendants employed 100 or more employees, exclusive of part-time employees, *i.e.*, those employees who had worked fewer than 6 of the 12 months prior to the date notice was required to be given or who had worked fewer than an average of 20 hours per week during the 90 day period prior to the date notice was required to

be given (the “Part-Time Employees”), or employed 100 or more employees who in the aggregate worked at least 4,000 hours per week exclusive of hours of overtime within the United States.

22. The terminations in or about April 27, 2020 of the employment of persons who worked at the various facilities for Defendants resulted in the loss of employment for at least 50 employees excluding Part-Time Employees.

23. The terminations in or about April 27, 2020 of the employment of persons who worked at the Facility or as the reasonably foreseeable consequence of those terminations resulted in the loss of employment for at least 33% of the Facility’s employees excluding Part-Time Employees.

24. The Plaintiff and the other Class members were discharged without cause on their part in or about April 27, 2020 or thereafter as the reasonably expected consequence of the terminations that occurred on that date.

25. The Plaintiff and each of the other Class members experienced an employment loss as part of or as the reasonably expected consequence of the mass layoff and/or plant closing that occurred in or about April 27, 2020.

26. Prior to her termination, the Plaintiff and the other Class members did not receive written notice at least 60 days in advance of the termination of their employment, nor did they receive as much notice as practicable under the circumstances.

27. The Plaintiff and the other Class members constitute a Class within the meaning of Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

28. Each of the other Class members is similarly situated to the Plaintiff with respect to his or her rights under the WARN Act.

29. Common questions of law and fact are applicable to all members of the Class.

30. The common questions of law and fact arise from and concern the following facts, among others: that all Class members enjoyed the protection of the WARN Act; that all Class members were employees of the Defendants who worked at the Facility; that the Defendants terminated the employment of all the members of the Class without cause on their part; that the Defendants terminated the employment of the members of the Class without giving them at least 60 days' prior written notice as required by the WARN Act; that the Defendants failed to pay the Class members wages and to provide other employee benefits for a 60-day period following their respective terminations; and on information and belief, the issues raised by an affirmative defenses that may be asserted by the Defendants.

31. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class in that for each of the several acts of Defendants described above, the Plaintiff and the other Class members is an injured party with respect to his/her rights under the WARN Act.

32. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class.

33. The Plaintiff has the time and resources to prosecute this action.

34. The Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel who have had extensive experience litigating WARN Act claims, employee rights' claims and other claims in Federal court.

35. The Class is so numerous as to render joinder of all members impracticable in that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of members of the Class.

36. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.

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

38. No Class member has an interest in individually controlling the prosecution of a separate action under the WARN Act.

39. No litigation concerning the WARN Act rights of any Class member has been commenced.

40. Concentrating all the potential litigation concerning the WARN Act rights of the Class members in this Court will avoid a multiplicity of suits, will conserve judicial resources and the resources of the parties, and is the most efficient means of resolving the WARN Act rights of all the Class members.

41. On information and belief, the names of all the Class members are contained in Defendants' books and records.

42. On information and belief, a recent residence address of each of the Class members is contained in Defendants' books and records.

43. On information and belief, the rate of pay and the benefits that were being paid or provided by Defendants to each Class member at the time of his or her termination are contained in Defendants' books and records.

44. As a result of Defendants' violation of the WARN Act, each Class member is entitled to recover an amount equal to the sum of: (a) his/her respective wages, salaries, commissions, bonuses and accrued pay for vacation and personal days for the work days in the 60 calendar days prior to their respective terminations and fringe benefits for 60 calendar days prior to their respective terminations; and (b) his/her medical expenses incurred during the 60-day period following their respective terminations that would have been covered and paid under the Defendants' health insurance plan had that plan provided coverage for such period.

45. Defendants failed to pay the Plaintiff and the other Class members for the Defendants' violation of the WARN Act in an amount equal to the sum of or any part of the sum of (a) their respective wages, salary, commissions, bonuses and accrued pay for vacation and personal days for the work days in the 60 calendar days prior to their respective terminations and fringe benefits for 60 calendar days prior to their respective terminations; and (b) their medical expenses incurred during the 60 calendar days from and after the date of his/her termination that would have been covered under the Defendants' benefit plans had those plans remained in effect.

46. Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial of all issues that may be so tried.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment as follows:

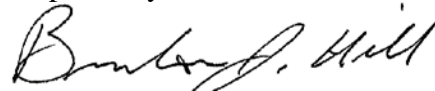
A. In favor of the Plaintiff and each other Class member against the Defendants equal to the sum of: (a) wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued pay for vacation and personal days, for 60 days; (b) pension, 401(k) contributions, health and medical insurance and other fringe benefits for 60 days; and (c) medical expenses incurred during the 60 day period following their respective terminations that would have been covered and paid under the

Defendants' health insurance plans had coverage under that plan continued for such period, all determined in accordance with the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a)(1)(A).

- B. Appointment of the Plaintiff as Class Representative;
- C. Appointment of the undersigned as Class Counsel;
- D. In favor of the Plaintiff for the reasonable attorneys' fees and the costs and disbursements of prosecuting this action, as authorized by the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a)(6).
- E. Interest allowed by law;
- F. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



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This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Enterprise Violated Warn Act with Mass Layoff During Pandemic, Class Action Claims](#)
