IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

GEORGE BERRY, Individually, : and on Behalf of Others Similarly :

Situated,

•

Plaintiff, : Civil Action No.

:

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

HOLTKAMP HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.,

:

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, George Berry ("Plaintiff"), and submits this Complaint against the Defendant, Holtkamp Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. ("Defendant"), on the grounds set forth below:

This is a civil action brought pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., ("FLSA").

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1.

Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Georgia.

Defendant is a Georgia corporation, with its principal office located at 450 Satellite Boulevard, NE, Suite K, Suwanee, Georgia 30024. Defendant may be served via its registered agent for service of process, Matthew L. Holtkamp, 2648 E. Maddox Road, Buford, Georgia 30519.

3.

The jurisdiction of this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337. This Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

4.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, venue is appropriate in this judicial district as the Defendant conducts business and maintains a registered agent within the Northern District of Georgia.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

5.

Plaintiff, an air conditioner installer, was an employee of Defendant beginning in April of 2017.

6.

Upon information and belief, Defendant has in the past and currently employs approximately twelve (12) air conditioner installers.

At all times material to this Complaint, Plaintiff, and others similarly situated, engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(b).

8.

The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are Defendant's current and/or former employees who are/were non-exempt and who, during one or more work weeks within the three year statute of limitations period, were not paid time and a half wages for all hours they worked in excess of a forty (40) hour work week.

9.

Plaintiff seeks to represent employees engaged in interstate commerce expressly covered by the protections of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207(a).

10.

Defendant is an employer within the meaning of FLSA § 203(d) and is not an exempt employer under the Act.

11.

Plaintiff was required to report to work each work day between 6:15 a.m.-6:30 a.m. to pick up and load into his truck the materials necessary to perform his job. In that process, Plaintiff was required to work a number of overtime hours.

After obtaining the necessary materials, Plaintiff would then travel to the job site, typically arriving at a job site between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Plaintiff frequently worked past 5:00 p.m., sometimes even as late as 10:30 p.m., with no lunch break taken.

13.

Although Plaintiff could not have accomplished his work without first obtaining the necessary materials and traveling to the work site(s), Defendant refused to pay Plaintiff for the hours he worked between 6:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. each work day. Defendant also did not pay Plaintiff for his travel time from work sites, regardless of the time expended by Plaintiff to do so.

14.

On Memorial Day 2017, Plaintiff, who had been out of town on the weekend, returned home to find that the company truck he had parked in his driveway, and which contained Plaintiff's personal property, including tools and a garage remote control, was gone.

Plaintiff believed that Defendant's agents had retrieved the company truck.

Plaintiff attempted to contact Holtkamp but his attempts were unsuccessful.

16.

When Plaintiff reported to work on Tuesday, June 1, 2017, Holtkamp confirmed that he had retrieved the company truck from Plaintiff's driveway, and, also advised Plaintiff that he was terminated.

17.

Plaintiff asked why he was being terminated. Holtkamp replied "I've got a business to run." No further explanation was provided.

18.

Plaintiff told Holtkamp that he wanted his personal property out of the company truck. Holtkamp told Plaintiff that there was nothing in the truck. Plaintiff then described the items and Holtkamp said "[w]e'll check on it."

19.

At that time, Plaintiff said that he wanted to be paid any outstanding earnings due him. Holtkamp replied that he wanted Plaintiff's company uniforms returned. As to Plaintiff's outstanding earnings, Holtkamp said "I'll get back to you."

Shortly thereafter, Plaintiff returned the uniforms to the company office, but was told that Holtkamp was not in.

21.

Subsequently, Plaintiff called several times to speak with Holtkamp about his outstanding earnings. Each time he called, he was told that Holtkamp was unavailable or not in.

22.

At the time of his termination, Defendant owed Plaintiff \$725.28 in unpaid earnings: 17.48 hours of overtime pay at \$36.00 per hour; and, 4 hours at his regular pay rate of \$24.00 per hour. Further, Plaintiff also believes that Defendant owes him for his travel time from work sites.

23.

Defendant is also liable to Plaintiff for the confiscation of Plaintiff's personal property, the value of which is \$222.04.

COUNT I (Claim For Relief Under FLSA §§ 206 and 207)

24.

Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the allegations contained in the preceding Paragraphs.

Defendant's failure to compensate Plaintiff for all time worked is in violation of §§ 206 and 207 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended. Such violations are intentional and willful. Said violations give rise to a claim for relief under the FLSA for Plaintiff for unpaid regular and overtime compensation, liquidated damages in an amount equal to all unpaid compensation, declaratory and injunctive relief, and reasonable attorney's fees and expenses of litigation, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court:

- (a) Take jurisdiction of this matter;
- (b) Permit this case to proceed as a FLSA collective action under 29 U.S.C. § 216 for Defendant's workers, past and present, who elect to participate in this action by filing proper written notice with the Court;
- (c) Grant a trial by jury as to all matters properly triable to a jury;
- (d) Award to Plaintiff all unpaid regular compensation, and liquidated damages in an amount equal to all unpaid regular compensation;
- (e) Award to Plaintiff and to each member of the opt-in class payment for each overtime hour worked in the three years preceding the filing of this Complaint, calculated at one and one-half times the normal rate,

liquidated damages equaling 100% of overtime due each class

member, and prejudgment interest on all amounts owed, as required

by the FLSA;

(f) Issue a declaratory judgment that all employees employed prior to

November 2017 (or such other date as the evidence may show as the

date on which Defendant began to compensate their employees with

overtime) are covered by the provisions of the FLSA and that

Defendant failed to comply with the requirements of the FLSA;

(g) Award Plaintiff the costs of his personal property which was

confiscated by Defendant;

(h) Award Plaintiff his costs and expenses of litigation, including an

award of reasonable attorney's fees.

(i) Award such other further relief this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff herein requests a trial by jury of all issues in this action.

Dated this 13th day of November 2017.

PANKEY & HORLOCK, LLC

By: /s/ Larry A. Pankey

Larry A. Pankey

Georgia Bar No. 560725

Attorneys for Plaintiff

1441 Dunwoody Village Parkway

Suite 200

Atlanta, Georgia 30338-4122 Telephone: 770-670-6250 Facsimile: 770-670-6249

Email: <u>LPankey@PankeyHorlock.com</u>

CERTIFICATION OF FONT SIZE

Pursuant to Local rule 5.1C of the Local Rules of the United States District

Court for the Northern District of Georgia, I, Larry A. Pankey, Esq., of Pankey &

Horlock, LLC, attorney for Plaintiff, George Berry, hereby certify that the

foregoing Complaint is typewritten in MS Word using Times New Roman font,

fourteen (14) point type.

Dated this 13th day of November 2017.

PANKEY & HORLOCK, LLC

By: /s/ Larry A. Pankey

Larry A. Pankey

Georgia Bar No. 560725

Attorneys for Plaintiff

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

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 NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

r r										
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS George Berry				DEFENDANTS Holtkamp Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Gwinnett (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Gwinnett (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Larry A. Pankey, Esq 770-670-6250 Pankey & Horlock, LLC				Attorneys (If Known)						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	-		ш с	TIZENSHIP OF P	DINCIPA	I PADTIES.	/Plane on "V" in O	P C	an Diamet	
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2 U.S. Government Defendant			Citiz	Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State				1 5	5	
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(Excludes Veterans)	340 Marine 345 Marine Product	Injury Product Liability	Mark Co.	LABOR	SOCIAL	SECURITY	☐ 480 Consume			
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability	.TY	☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act ☐ 720 Labor/Management Relations ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act ☐ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))		- 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange - 890 Other Statutory Actions - 891 Agricultural Acts - 893 Environmental Matters - 895 Freedom of Information - Act - 896 Arbitration			
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□ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	□ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 441 Voting ■ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 448 Education	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	□ 46	Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	or Do □ 871 IRS— 26 U	s (U.S. Plaintiff sfendant) —Third Party SC 7609	Act/Revie Agency D 950 Constituti State State	ecision onality o	-	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	LFLSA 29 U.S.C. S	Section 201, et seq.	e filing <i>(1</i>	Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless di	versity):				
VII. REQUESTED IN ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.			T D	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes						
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE ,			DOCKE	T NUMBER				
DATE 11/13/2017		SIGNATURE OF AFT	ORNEY O	OF RECORD						
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT #AN	10UNT	APPLYING IFP	Ď	JUDGE		MAG. JUD	OGE			

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Former Holtkamp Heating & Air Conditioning Employee Seeks Allegedly Unpaid Wages