#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

Christopher Christian, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

-v.-

Waypoint Resource Group, LLC And John Does 1-25,

Defendant(s).

Civil Action No: 3:18cv00089

#### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Christopher Christian (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Christian"), a Virginia resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through his attorneys, Meridian Law, LLC, against Defendant Waypoint Resource Group, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Waypoint") individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

#### **INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Congress enacted the FDCPA in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. §1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs,

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and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws...[we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).

2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." Id. § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws ·were inadequate~ id § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. Id. § 1692k.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1331</u>, <u>15 U.S.C. § 1692</u> et. seq. and <u>28 U.S.C. § 2201</u>. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1367(a)</u>.

4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. \$ 1391(b)(2) as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Virginia consumers under§ 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and

6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory and injunctive relief.

#### PARTIES

Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Virginia, County of Hanover, residing at 8214
 Pleasant Grove Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Waypoint Resource Group, LLC is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in <u>15</u>
 <u>U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6)</u> and used in the FDCPA with an address at 301 Sundance Pkwy, Round Rock, TX 78681.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant Waypoint is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

10. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ.P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).

12. The Class consists of:

- a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Virginia;
- b. to whom Waypoint Resource Group, LLC sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
- c. that included deceptive statements regarding the debt and consumers rights;
- d. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (2l) days after the filing of this action.

13. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.

14. Excluded from the Plaintiff Classes are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate

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families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.

15. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Classes, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibits A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692g.

16. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes defined in this complaint. The Plaintiffs have retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiffs nor their attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

17. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:

- a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiff Classes defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
- b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Classes and those questions predominance over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is \whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e and §1692g.

- c. <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Classes have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. <u>Adequacy:</u> The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs have no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiffs are committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiffs have also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.

18. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff Classes predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy. 19. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

20. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

21. Some time prior to February 13, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Comcast Communications.

22. The Comcast Communications obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes. Specifically the transaction involved cable and internet services which Plaintiff used for personal and household services

23. The alleged Comcast Communications obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).

24. Comcast Communications is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(4).

25. Comcast Communications contracted the Defendant Waypoint to collect the alleged debt.

26. Defendant Waypoint collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.

#### Violation I – February 13, 2017 Collection Letter

27. On or about February 13, 2017, Defendant Waypoint sent the Plaintiff a collection letter and settlement offer (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Comcast Communications. See "Letter" attached hereto as Exhibit A.

28. When a debt collector solicits payment from a consumer, it must, within five days of an initial communication

(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 the 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. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

29. The FDCPA further provides 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 shall cease collection . . . until the debt collector obtains verification of the debt . . . and a copy of such verification is mailed to the consumer by the debt collector." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).

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30. The February 13<sup>th</sup> Letter included the "g notice," statements even though it was not a first letter.

31. This is deceptive to the consumer as it deceives the Plaintiff to believe the validation rights exists, when in fact they do not, and further may ignore the settlement based on this mistaken belief.

32. Further the top of the letter states:

Total Principal Balance:	\$502.10
Total Interest Balance:	\$0.00
Total Penalty Charges:	\$0.00
Total Fees/Costs:	\$0.00
Total Balance Due:	\$502.10

33. Three paragraphs later the letter states "If you do not satisfy the terms and conditions of this settlement agreement, accrued interest or collection costs that occur during this time may be added to the current total balance indicated on this notice."

34. The second page of the letter states "Because your account may accrue interest, late charges and other charges which vary from day to day, the amount required to pay your account in full on the day we receive your payment may be greater than the amount stated here."

35. Defendant is aware that during the collection of this debt the balance will not vary at all and stating that it may increase is merely a deceptive collection tactic.

36. This language is confusing to Plaintiff since it is unclear as to whether or not the account was actually accruing interest.

37. This language was only added by Defendant to coerce Plaintiff into making payment in order to avoid additional interest, costs and fees, when in reality there would be no additional fees added.

38. Plaintiff incurred an informational injury as he was given deceptive and false information about his alleged debt increasing, in order to coerce him to pay the debt.

39. As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

#### **COUNT I**

#### VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT\_15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

40. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

41. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

42. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

43. Defendant violated §1692e :

- a. The Letter it is open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate.
- b. By making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10), specifically that the debt could increase, when the Defendant was aware it would not.

44. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

#### <u>COUNT II</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692g et seq.

45. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

46. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.

47. Pursuant to 15 USC §1692g, a debt collector:

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 the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within 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 thirtyday period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name

and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

48. The Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1692g, by including a "g notice," when it was not the first letter, and deceptively telling the consumer he has specific rights which no longer exist.

49. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692g et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

#### DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

50. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Christopher Christian, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant Waypoint Resource Group, LLC as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying

Plaintiff as Class representative, and Aryeh E. Stein, Esq. as Class Counsel;

- 2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- 3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;

5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: February 8, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

#### **MERIDIAN LAW, LLC**

<u>/s/Aryeh E. Stein</u> Aryeh E. Stein VA Bar No. 45895 600 Reisterstown Rd, Ste 700 Baltimore, MD 21208 astein@meridianlawfirm.com *Local Counsel For Plaintiff* 

#### **RC LAW GROUP, PLLC**

<u>/s/ Yaakov Saks</u> Yaakov Saks, Esq. 285 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 ysaks@rclawgroup.com Lead Counsel for Plaintiff Pro Hac Vice to be submitted Case 3:18-cv-00089-HEH Document 1-1 Filed 02/08/18 Page 1 of 3 PageID# 13

# EXHIBIT A

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#### L Filed 02/00/10 Paye 2 01 5 PayerD# 1

Account Information as c	of the date of this letter:
Client Name:	Comcast Communications
Original Creditor:	Comcast Communications
<b>Total Principal Balance:</b>	\$502.10
Total Interest Balance:	\$0.00
Total Penalty Charges:	\$0.00
Total Fees/Costs:	\$0.00
Total Balance Due:	\$502.10

#### 02/13/17

Dear Christop Christian,

Our client, Comcast Communications, has authorized us to reduce your debt in the amount of \$326.37 if you will agree to make a one-time payment in the amount of \$326.37 in order to settle your account in full. If you agree, please return your payment within 30 days from the date of this letter along with the attached payment coupon to the address indicated.

Upon receipt of the agreed upon payment and provided that it is honored by your financial institution, your account will be considered settled in full. Failure to receive your payment by the agreed upon date, or failure of your financial institution to honor your payment will result in this agreement becoming null and void.

In addition, if you do not satisfy the terms and conditions of this settlement agreement, accrued interest or collection costs that occur during this time may be added to the current total balance indicated on this notice.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions about your account or need additional information, please call us toll free at (866)447-4163 for assistance.

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

As we explained in our initial letter to you on 12/29/2016, which was sent when your account was first placed with Waypoint:

"Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt and mail you a copy of such verification. If you request this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

Although you have right to dispute the validity of the debt within this thirty day period, we may report information about your account to credit bureaus. Late payments, missed payments, or other defaults on your account may be reflected in your credit report. If you notify us that you dispute your debt, we will cease reporting your debt to the credit bureaus until your debt is verified."

Sincerely, Waypoint Resource Group LLC

Waypoint Account #: 111066

7305/00003653/00000013

#### NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE AND/OR ADDITIONAL PAGE(S) FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WAYP/WP5IF0FF///0000249399			
	WAY	POINT CONTACTS	
For account related assistance, please call: (866)447-4163	Send mail to: Waypoint Resource Group LLC PO Box 8588 Round Rock, TX 78683-8588	You can pay online at: my.waypoint.com	Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday: 12:00PM - 9:00PM CST Wednesday - Friday: 7:00AM - 4:00PM CST Our office is closed on Sundays.

Waypoint Resource Group LLC PO Box 8588 Round Rock, TX 78683-8588

ACCOUNT INFORMATION		
Client Name:	Comcast Communications	
Total Balance Due:	\$502.10	

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Christop Christian 8214 Pleasant Grove Rd Mechanicsville, VA 23116

## high high

PO Box 1081 San Antonio, TX 78294-1081 As of the date of this letter, your total account balance is \$502.10 and is due in full. Because your account may accrue interest, late charges and other charges which vary from day to day, the amount required to pay your account in full on the day we receive your payment may be greater than the amount stated here. If you pay the amount stated here, additional amounts may still be due after we receive your payment. In that event, we will notify you of any remaining balance due. We encourage you to call us prior to making a payment intended to pay your account in full.

Detach and include this payment coupon with your payment instrument. 02/13/17

111066

Mailing Address: Waypoint Resource Group PO Box 1081 San Antonio, TX 78294-1081

Amount of Payment enclosed:

Please be sure to include your account number on the payment instrument and make payable to: Waypoint Resource Group

#### JS 44 (Rev. 06/17) Case 3:18-cv-00089-HEH Count 12 Filed 02/08/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID# 16

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.)* 

L (a) PLAINTIFFS Christopher Christian, ind situated	dividually and on beha	If of all others simil	arly DEFENDANT Waypont Resource	${f S}$ ce Group, LLC and John I	Does 1-25
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Hanover (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 THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Meridian Law, LLC 600 Reisterstown Rd, Sta 443-326-6011			Attorneys (If Known	)	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✗ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			PTF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Pr of Business In T	
□ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh)	ip of Parties in Item III)		2   2   Incorporated and F of Business In A	Another State
			Citizen or Subject of a foreign Country	<b>3 3</b> Foreign Nation	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		aly)	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. 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 <b>REAL PROPERTY</b> □ 210 Land Condemnation         □ 220 Foreclosure         □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment         □ 245 Tort Product Liability         □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR         □       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         □       370 Other Fraud         □       371 Truth in Lending         □       380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability         ■       PRISONER PETITION         ■       463 Alien Detainee         □       510 Motions to Vacata Sentence         □       530 General         □       535 Death Penalty         Other:       540 Mandamus & Oth         □       550 Civil Rights         □       550 Prison Condition         □       560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	Y       □       625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881         □       690 Other         1       ■	□       422 Appeal 28 USC 158         □       423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157         ■       ROPERTY RIGHTS         □       820 Copyrights         □       830 Patent         □       835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application         □       840 Trademark         ■       SOCIAL SECURITY         □       861 HIA (1395ff)         □       862 Black Lung (923)         □       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         896 Arbitration         899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision         950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)				
	te Court	Appellate Court	(specij	her District Litigation fy) Transfer	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN 15 USC Sect. 16 Brief description of ca	92 et seq. Fair Deb			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: ★ Xes □No
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	<b>E(S)</b> (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE 02/07/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF AT Aryeh E. Stein	TORNEY OF RECORD		
	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUE	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.
Enderstand the plaintiff of the United States are under 28 U.S.C. 1221, when we provide the 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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- 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 – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- 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>Waypoint Resource Group Facing FDCPA Lawsuit Over Potentially Misleading Collection Letter</u>