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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING, a California non-
11 profit corporation, on behalf of itself;
DORENE GIACOPINI, an individual, on
12 behalf of herself and all others similarly
situated; STUART JAMES, an individual, on
13 behalf of himself and all others similarly
situated;

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 MOBILITY WORKS OF CALIFORNIA,
17 LLC., a California limited liability
corporation; and WMK, LLC., an Ohio limited
18 liability corporation;

19 Defendants.

CLASS ACTION

**COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND
DECLARATORY RELIEF FOR
VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND THE
UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

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I. INTRODUCTION

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2 1. Though Defendants Mobility Works of California, LLC and WMK, LLC
3 (collectively “MobilityWorks”) are among the country’s largest providers of wheelchair-
4 “accessible” vehicles, they maintain and enforce company-wide policies that discriminate against
5 people with disabilities who need hand controls or other adaptive devices in order to drive.
6 Specifically, MobilityWorks 1) refuses to install hand controls and other adaptive devices in the
7 vehicles it offers for rent, and 2) requires that customers who need such devices installed in
8 existing or newly-purchased personal vehicles undergo expensive “certifications” that are not
9 demanded of any non-disabled drivers.

10 2. As a result of MobilityWorks’ refusal to install hand controls and other adaptive
11 devices in its rental vans, people with disabilities who would otherwise be able to drive those
12 vans themselves must either depend on nondisabled drivers (thereby losing the freedom and
13 independence inherent in being able to drive their own rental vehicles), or forego using the
14 company’s rental services entirely. Similarly, as a result of MobilityWorks’ “certification”
15 requirements, people with disabilities who need hand controls and other adaptive devices
16 installed in existing or newly-purchased vehicles must complete a time consuming, expensive,
17 and completely-unnecessary process that is not imposed on anyone else.

18 3. Hand controls are adaptive devices that allow drivers to accelerate or brake using
19 their hands instead of their feet. They are needed by people with a wide range of disabilities, and
20 every major car rental company in the country—including Hertz, Avis, Enterprise, and Budget—
21 will install them in a variety of the vehicles that they rent, free of charge, and without requiring
22 any sort of “certification.” Yet MobilityWorks, despite its expertise in all aspects of vehicle
23 adaptation, is unwilling to do the same.

24 4. MobilityWorks offers “accessible” vans for rent at 11 locations throughout
25 California, and in 61 additional locations across the country. Each of these vehicles has been
26 modified to have lowered floors and automatic side- or rear-entry ramps, which allow people
27 who use wheelchairs to get into or out of them with relative ease. Few rental companies have
28 such vehicles in their inventory, making MobilityWorks an attractive option for people whose

1 disabilities make it difficult or impossible to enter unmodified automobiles. However, many
 2 drivers with disabilities who need hand controls and other adaptive equipment – including
 3 Plaintiffs Dorene Giacomini and Stuart James – are deterred from renting vehicles from
 4 MobilityWorks, because they know that the company will not install adaptive devices they need
 5 in order to drive independently. Others are deterred from purchasing vehicles with hand controls
 6 or other adaptive equipment from MobilityWorks (or from using MobilityWorks to install such
 7 equipment) because of the burdensome, costly, and unnecessary “certification” procedures that
 8 the company requires.

9 5. Some people with disabilities, including Plaintiff Giacomini, have had to forgo
 10 trips entirely as a result of MobilityWorks’ policy of refusing to install hand controls in its rental
 11 vehicles. For example, Ms. Giacomini was forced to skip her cousin’s wedding in Florida
 12 because the MobilityWorks location nearby would not install hand controls in any of the vehicles
 13 it offered for rent.

14 6. Plaintiff Giacomini and Plaintiff James are both planning to purchase new
 15 accessible vehicles in the next year, but are deterred from purchasing vehicles from
 16 MobilityWorks because of the company’s policy of requiring drivers with disabilities who need
 17 hand controls and other adaptive equipment to complete a burdensome “certification” process.

18 7. MobilityWorks’ business depends on people with disabilities, who are its target
 19 customers and primary source of profits. However, despite the company’s purported focus on
 20 “serving the disabled community,”¹ their policies of refusing to provide hand controls in rental
 21 vehicles and demanding superfluous “certifications” do just the opposite—restricting the ability
 22 of individuals with mobility disabilities to drive independently. These policies violate the
 23 Americans with Disabilities Act and state disability access laws.

24 8. Plaintiffs contacted MobilityWorks, asking that it commit to ending these
 25 discriminatory policies and practices on a company-wide basis. MobilityWorks did not respond,
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 28 ¹ *About*, MOBILITY WORKS, <https://www.mobilityworks.com/about/> (last visited August 13, 2018)

1 leaving Plaintiffs and members of the proposed class no choice but to file this class action
2 lawsuit.

3 **II. JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

4 9. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief, brought pursuant to the Title
5 III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12182, *et seq.* and the Unruh
6 Civil Rights Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51, *et seq.* (“Unruh Act”).

7 10. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
8 §§ 1331 and 42 U.S.C. § 12188 for claims arising under the ADA.

9 11. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ claims arising under the
10 Unruh Act pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

11 12. This Court has jurisdiction to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
12 §§ 2201 and 2202.

13 13. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§
14 1391(b)-(c), as MobilityWorks does substantial business within this district, and this is the
15 district in which the majority of events and omissions giving rise to the named Plaintiffs’ claims
16 occurred.

17 14. Because the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs’ claims occurred in San
18 Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties, the intradistrict assignment should be to either
19 the Northern District’s San Francisco Division or its Oakland Division. L.R. Civ. 3-2(c-d).

20 **III. PARTIES**

21 15. Plaintiff Stuart James is a California resident who lives in Alameda, California,
22 not far from MobilityWorks’ Oakland location. Mr. James uses a manual wheelchair as a result
23 of his disability, and needs hand controls or pedal extenders to drive a car. Mr. James is currently
24 deterred from using MobilityWorks’ van rental service (in Oakland, or elsewhere) as a result of
25 Defendants’ discriminatory refusal to install hand controls in rental vehicles. Mr. James is also
26 currently deterred from purchasing an accessible vehicle through MobilityWorks, or taking
27 advantage of their equipment-installation services, because of MobilityWorks’ discriminatory
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1 policy of requiring people with disabilities who need hand controls or other accessible equipment
2 to undergo expensive “certification” courses that are not required by any law.

3 16. Plaintiff Dorene Giacomini is a California resident who lives in Contra Costa
4 County, not far from MobilityWorks’ Oakland location. Ms.Giacomini uses both motorized and
5 manual wheelchairs as a result of her mobility disability, and needs hand controls to drive a car.
6 Ms.Giacomini is currently deterred from using MobilityWorks’ van rental service (in Oakland, or
7 elsewhere) as a result of Defendants’ discriminatory refusal to install hand controls in rental
8 vehicles. Ms. Giacomini is also currently deterred from purchasing an accessible vehicle through
9 MobilityWorks, or taking advantage of their equipment-installation services, because of the
10 company’s discriminatory policy of requiring people with disabilities who need hand controls or
11 other accessible equipment to undergo expensive “certification” courses that are not required by
12 any law.

13 17. Organizational Plaintiff Community Resources for Independent Living (“CRIL”)
14 is a nonprofit disability rights advocacy and support organization located in Hayward, California.
15 Its mission is to help Alameda County residents with all types of disabilities live independently,
16 advocate for themselves, and access services, programs, activities, and accommodations.

17 18. CRIL has expended substantial resources and had its mission frustrated as a result
18 of MobilityWorks’ discriminatory practices. For example, due to the lack of fully-accessible
19 rental options for drivers with disabilities – a lack exacerbated by Defendants’ discriminatory
20 practices, detailed herein – CRIL has recently expended significant staff time and resources to
21 procure and refurbish two wheelchair-accessible vans with hand controls, which it now makes
22 available for rent. The work of maintaining these vehicles and ensuring that they are consistently
23 available and in good working order also occupies significant staff time. CRIL hopes that these
24 vehicles help offset the dearth of fully-accessible rental options in the area, and increase the
25 independence of local people with disabilities. However, CRIL is not in the business of renting,
26 selling, or maintaining accessible vehicles, and cannot hope to match the inventory or geographic
27 scope of MobilityWorks.
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1 19. In addition to the above, CRIL has board members and volunteers who travel as
2 part of their work with or on behalf of the organization, and who have disabilities that require
3 them to use hand controls to operate rental cars. This includes Plaintiff Giacopini, who is the
4 current President of CRIL’s Board of Directors. MobilityWorks’ failure to offer options for
5 drivers with disabilities who need hand controls or other assistive devices has resulted in CRIL
6 and its board members and volunteers having to expend additional time and resources finding
7 suitable rental cars or alternative accessible means of transportation, when engaging in work that
8 requires travel. For example, on more than one occasion CRIL Board President Dorene
9 Giacopini has wanted to rent an accessible MobilityWorks van to travel to Sacramento or
10 elsewhere for CRIL-related work, but she has been prevented from doing so, and has had to find
11 and arrange alternative transportation, as a result of the company’s discriminatory refusal to
12 install hand controls.

13 20. Defendant WMK, LLC is a limited liability company incorporated in the State of
14 Ohio by William M. Koebnitz. WMK, LLC does business under the registered trade name
15 “MobilityWorks,” and offers wheelchair-accessible vans for short- and long-term rental. It owns,
16 operates, and/or maintains (either directly, or through its affiliates and subsidiaries) 72
17 showroom locations in 24 states. Its principal office is located at 4199 Kinross Lakes Parkway,
18 Suite 300 in Richfield, Ohio, and its President is William M. Koebnitz, Chief Executive Officer
19 of MobilityWorks.

20 21. Defendant Mobility Works of California, LLC is a limited liability company
21 incorporated in the State of California that offers wheelchair-accessible vans for short- and long-
22 term rental. It owns, operates, and/or maintains eleven showroom locations throughout
23 California, including a showroom located at 1822 Embarcadero, in Oakland. Its principal office
24 is located at 4199 Kinross Lakes Parkway, Suite 300 in Richfield Ohio, and its manager is
25 William M. Koebnitz, Chief Executive Officer of MobilityWorks.

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IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

22. MobilityWorks rents vehicles equipped with ramps and wheelchair lifts to members of the general public at 11 showroom locations in California, including one at 1822 Embarcadero in Oakland.

23. Defendant WMK, LLC and its affiliates or subsidiaries own, operate, or maintain a total of 72 such showrooms nationwide, and offer vehicles equipped with ramps and wheelchair lifts for rent through each.

24. For an additional fee, MobilityWorks will also deliver rental vans to airports and other locations, allowing customers to rent vans even if they cannot get to a local showroom.

25. MobilityWorks requires all would-be rental car drivers to have a current drivers' license and proof of insurance, and the company offers rental customers "[p]rofessional demonstration" of the use of its rental vans and accessible equipment as a matter of course.² Indeed, "one on one training on how to use the equipment" is included with all wheelchair van rentals, at no additional cost.³

26. MobilityWorks also offers a wide selection of adaptive equipment for purchase and installation in vehicles that it sells, or that its customers already own, including mechanical and electronic hand controls.

27. However, MobilityWorks refuses as a matter of policy to install hand controls and related adaptive equipment in its rental vehicles.

28. As a result of MobilityWorks' practice of refusing to install hand controls for use by rental drivers, Plaintiffs and other individuals with mobility disabilities who need hand controls must either arrange for someone else to drive them, thereby sacrificing independence and privacy; or not rent from MobilityWorks at all.

² *Rentals*, MOBILITY WORKS, <https://www.mobilityworks.com/Wheelchair-Vans-for-Rent/> (last visited August 13, 2018)

³ *Rates and Fees*, MOBILITY WORKS, <https://www.mobilityworks.com/wheelchair-vans-for-rent/rates-and-fees/> (last visited, August 13, 2018).

1 29. MobilityWorks also discriminates against people with disabilities who attempt to
2 purchase vehicles from the company, or to use its installation services.

3 30. Before MobilityWorks will install hand controls or other adaptive devices in a
4 newly-purchased or existing personal vehicle, it requires people with disabilities who need such
5 equipment to undergo expensive “certification courses.” Such courses can take hours to
6 complete, and cost people with disabilities \$400 or more.

7 31. MobilityWorks does not require non-disabled drivers, who do not need hand
8 controls or other adaptive equipment installed in their vehicles, to take such courses. Thus,
9 nondisabled drivers can purchase a vehicle from MobilityWorks (or use its installation services)
10 without the significant extra cost – in terms of both time and money – that these courses entail.

11 **A. Plaintiff James’ Experiences with MobilityWorks’ Discriminatory Practices**

12 32. Plaintiff Stuart James has a mobility disability, and uses a manual wheelchair.

13 33. Mr. James is the current Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living
14 (CIL), which was founded in 1972 and which serves as the model for over 400 other independent
15 living centers worldwide.

16 34. Mr. James has been licensed to drive since 1986. Between 1986 and 2001 he
17 drove exclusively with hand controls. Since 2001 he has preferred to drive with pedal extenders⁴
18 in his personal vehicles, but he still relies on hand controls when operating a rental car. He is,
19 like most drivers, fully insured.

20 35. Mr. James has driven across the country three times, and considers driving for
21 both work and pleasure to be among his most cherished activities. The simple adaptive devices
22 described above allow him to travel where he wants when he wants, without having to rely on
23 anyone else for assistance—a degree of freedom and independence that drivers without
24 disabilities might take for granted, but that, for Mr. James and others, is nothing less than life-
25 changing.

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28 ⁴ Pedal extenders attach to a car’s existing break or gas pedals, and allow people who could not otherwise reach the pedals to break and accelerate using their feet.

1 36. Mr. James thus finds it especially troubling that MobilityWorks – a company
2 supposedly dedicated to serving people with disabilities – will not install hand controls in its
3 rental vehicles, and requires people with disabilities who need adaptive equipment in their own
4 vehicles to complete a time consuming, expensive, and completely-unnecessary “certification”
5 process.

6 37. In approximately September of 2016, Mr. James tried to purchase pedal extenders
7 from MobilityWorks for use in his 2017 Chrysler Pacifica. MobilityWorks representatives
8 refused to install the pedal extenders Mr. James needed. In an effort to get *some* adaptive
9 equipment installed on his new vehicle, so that he could drive it, Mr. James next asked
10 MobilityWorks to install hand controls. However, company representatives informed him that
11 they would not install these controls unless he passed a \$400 hand control “certification” course.

12 38. Because Mr. James had never before heard of such a requirement, he went in
13 person to the DMV to ask whether it was real. He was told that it was not: he had a valid
14 California drivers’ license, and was thus good to go as far as the State of California was
15 concerned.

16 39. Ultimately, Mr. James was forced to travel all the way to the Ability Center in
17 Sacramento, which installed pedal extenders in his van without requiring any certification. Mr.
18 James could have avoided the unnecessary expenditure of money and time that this trip entailed,
19 had MobilityWorks been willing to install the accessible devices he needed without requiring a
20 “certification” course.

21 40. Mr. James is planning to purchase a new accessible vehicle within the next year,
22 and he is particularly interested in the “BraunAbility MXV Ford Crossover” that MobilityWorks
23 sells. However, he is currently deterred from making this purchase by MobilityWorks’ policy of
24 requiring people with disabilities who need hand controls or other adaptive equipment to
25 complete costly and unnecessary “certification” courses.

26 41. Mr. James is also affected by MobilityWorks’ refusal to install hand controls in
27 rental vehicles. He travels frequently – both for pleasure, and as part of his work as CIL’s
28 Executive Director – and in many cases would like to be able to rent an accessible van from

1 MobilityWorks once he arrives at his destination. Mr. James also would have used
 2 MobilityWorks' rental services on at least two occasions over the past three years, when injuries
 3 made it impossible for him to get into or out of his personal vehicle. However, he has been
 4 deterred from doing so by the company's refusal to install hand controls in its rental vehicles.
 5 Without such controls, Mr. James simply cannot use MobilityWorks' rental services.

6 **B. Plaintiff Giacopini's Experiences With MobilityWorks' Discriminatory**
 7 **Practices**

8 42. Plaintiff Dorene Giacopini has a mobility disability and uses either motorized or
 9 manual wheelchairs.

10 43. Ms. Giacopini has been licensed to drive in California for 41 years. She learned to
 11 drive using hand controls in 1990, and has relied on them when driving rental cars for the past 28
 12 years. She, like Mr. James, is fully insured.

13 44. Like Mr. James, Mrs. Giacopini considers driving with adaptive devices – and the
 14 freedom and independence that such driving provides – to be a source of great joy.

15 45. Ms. Giacopini owns a wheelchair-accessible van with hand controls, but for many
 16 trips she would prefer to drive a newer and more reliable rental van.

17 46. Ms. Giacopini has attempted to rent an accessible van with hand controls from
 18 MobilityWorks several times—either because her own vehicle had broken down, or because she
 19 wanted to use a rental vehicle for a longer trip. Each time, she has been told that the company
 20 will not install hand controls on rental vehicles, allegedly for “liability reasons.” She has
 21 received the same answer regardless of whether she calls an individual dealership (such as the
 22 Oakland location) or the company's national toll-free number for vehicle rentals.

23 47. On more than one occasion, Ms. Giacopini has had to forego travel because of
 24 MobilityWorks' refusal to rent vehicles with hand controls. For instance, in August of 2015 she
 25 called the company's toll-free rental number to inquire about renting an accessible vehicle with
 26 hand controls from one of its Florida locations, so that she could drive to her cousin's wedding
 27 near Fort Lauderdale. She was again informed that MobilityWorks would not install hand
 28 controls on its rental vehicles. Because Ms. Giacopini could not rent a vehicle that she could

1 drive (and because she had no one who could drive her in a rental vehicle *without* hand controls),
2 she was forced to skip her cousin's wedding entirely.

3 48. In the time since, Ms. Giacomini has repeatedly spoken with MobilityWorks
4 representatives regarding their refusal to install hand controls in rental vehicles. However, the
5 company's position has not changed. Indeed, when Ms. Giacomini told the manager of
6 MobilityWorks' Oakland dealership that state and federal law *required* rental companies to
7 provide hand controls, she was informed that the company would just discontinue rental service
8 entirely if it were forced to install them.

9 49. Were it not for MobilityWorks' discriminatory refusal to install hand controls in
10 its rental vans, Ms. Giacomini would have used the company's rental services for several trips,
11 including a trip to a funeral in Los Angeles in November of 2013; a trip to see the total solar
12 eclipse in Oregon in August of 2017; and a trip to the Ashland Shakespeare festival in Oregon in
13 February and March of this year; and a trip to Los Angeles over this past Labor Day weekend.
14 However, Ms. Giacomini has been deterred from using MobilityWorks for any of these trips,
15 because of its policy of not installing hand controls in rental vans.

16 50. Ms. Giacomini will undoubtedly continue to be impacted by this discriminatory
17 policy in the future: she travels frequently, and for much of this travel – including for an
18 upcoming trip to Connecticut for a relative's wedding – she would like to be able to use
19 MobilityWorks' rental services. However, because of the company's refusal to install hand
20 controls in rental vehicles, she cannot do so.

21 51. Prior to filing this suit, Ms. Giacomini contacted MobilityWorks asking that it
22 reconsider and change its policy and practice of refusing to install hand controls in rental
23 vehicles, but she received no response.

24 52. Ms. Giacomini is planning to buy a new car within the next year because her
25 current van, which has over 120,000 miles on it, is increasingly unreliable. She would like to be
26 able to purchase this new vehicle from MobilityWorks, to take advantage of the company's
27 extensive selection. However, she is deterred from doing so because of the company's policy of
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1 making people with disabilities who need hand controls complete costly and unnecessary
2 “certification” courses as a prerequisite of installation.

3 V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

4 53. Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs
5 Giacomini and James bring this action on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly
6 situated. The Class consists of all persons with disabilities who need hand controls or other
7 adaptive devices to operate a vehicle, and who have been or are deterred from purchasing or
8 renting a vehicle from MobilityWorks, or using the company’s installation services, as a result of
9 the conduct alleged herein.

10 54. Plaintiffs Giacomini and James are unable to state the precise number of potential
11 members of the proposed Class. However, as of 2016, an estimated 4.1% of non-institutionalized
12 Californians between the ages of 21 and 64 (roughly 945,900 individuals) had ambulatory
13 disabilities that made walking or climbing stairs seriously difficult or impossible.⁵ Even if only a
14 minute fraction of such individuals were members of Plaintiffs’ proposed Class, it would still
15 number in the thousands. Thus, members of Plaintiffs’ proposed Class are sufficiently numerous
16 and geographically-diverse that joinder is impracticable.

17 55. Common questions of fact and law predominate, in that Plaintiffs Giacomini and
18 James and putative class members have all been and/or are being denied their civil right to full
19 and equal enjoyment of Defendants’ goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and
20 accommodations as a result of the policies and practices described herein that discriminate
21 against drivers with disabilities who utilize hand controls or other adaptive devices.

22 56. Plaintiffs Giacomini and James’ claims are typical of, and not antagonistic to, the
23 claims of all other members of the Class. Defendants’ discriminatory actions, alleged herein,
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25 ⁵ Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2017). 2016 Disability Status Report:
26 California. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Yang-Tan Institute (YTI), *available at*
27 www.disabilitystatistics.org; *see also* American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community
28 Survey 2016 Subject Definitions at 60-61, available at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/subject_definitions/2016_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf (defining “ambulatory difficulty”).

1 have harmed Plaintiff Giacomini, Plaintiff James, and members of the proposed class in ways that
 2 are either identical or substantially similar. Plaintiffs Giacomini and James, by advancing their
 3 claims, will also advance the claims of all other similarly-situated individuals.

4 57. Plaintiffs Giacomini and James are adequate class representatives because they are
 5 directly impacted by Defendants' failure to ensure that people with disabilities have full and
 6 equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations
 7 offered by MobilityWorks. The interests of the Plaintiffs Giacomini and James are not
 8 antagonistic, or in conflict with, the interests of the class as a whole, and there are no material
 9 conflicts between Plaintiff Giacomini or Plaintiff James' claims and those of absent class
 10 members that would make class certification inappropriate.

11 58. The attorneys representing the class are highly trained, duly qualified, and very
 12 experienced in representing plaintiffs in civil rights class actions for injunctive relief.

13 59. Defendants have acted and/or failed to act on grounds generally applicable to the
 14 class as a whole, thereby making appropriate final declaratory and injunctive relief with respect
 15 to the class as a whole.

16 60. References to Plaintiffs shall include Plaintiff Giacomini, Plaintiff James,
 17 organizational Plaintiff CRIL, and each member of the class, unless otherwise indicated.

18 **VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
 19 **Violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act**
 20 **(42 U.S.C. §§ 12181 *et seq.*)**

21 61. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all foregoing and subsequent allegations as
 22 though fully set forth herein.

23 62. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the full
 24 and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations
 25 of places of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182.

26 63. More specifically, Title III prohibits entities that own, operate, lease, or lease to
 27 places of public accommodation from denying an individual or class of individuals with
 28 disabilities the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities,

1 privileges, advantages, or accommodations of that entity. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(i); 28
2 C.F.R. § 36.202(a).

3 64. Title III also prohibits entities that own, operate, lease, or lease to places of public
4 accommodation from affording an individual or class of individuals with disabilities the
5 opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or
6 accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals. 42 U.S.C.
7 § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii); 28 C.F.R. § 36.202(b).

8 65. Mobility Works owns or operates numerous vehicle sale and rental locations in
9 California, which are places of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. §§ 12181(7)(E-F) (listing
10 “travel services” and “other sales or rental establishments” as places of public accommodation).

11 66. By depriving people with disabilities who need hand controls of the opportunity
12 to rent wheelchair-accessible vehicles that they can drive independently, MobilityWorks is
13 denying them the full and equal enjoyment of its goods and services that Title III requires.

14 67. MobilityWorks’ policy of requiring people with disabilities who need adaptive
15 devices to take “certification” courses that nondisabled patrons do not need to take also violates
16 Title III – both because it denies people with disabilities the full and equal enjoyment of the
17 company’s goods and services, and because it functions as an eligibility criterion that screens out
18 or tends to screen out” people with disabilities, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(i).

19 68. This “certification” requirement is also a standard, criteria, or method of
20 administration that has the effect of discriminating on the basis of disability, in violation of 42
21 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(D).

22 69. It is a further violation of Title III for entities that own, operate, lease, or lease to
23 places of public accommodation to fail to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices,
24 or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities,
25 privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the
26 modification would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods, services, facilities, privileges,
27 advantages, or accommodations. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii); 28 C.F.R. § 36.302(a).

28

1 70. By refusing to modify its policies, practices, and procedures so as to provide
2 hand controls in rental vehicles when they are needed and requested, and so as to waive its
3 unnecessary “certification” requirement, MobilityWorks has violated (and is continuing to
4 violate) this reasonable modification requirement.

5 71. MobilityWorks has failed to take the necessary steps to provide full and equal
6 access to patrons with mobility impairments, and its violations of the ADA are ongoing. Unless
7 the Court enjoins Defendants from continuing to engage in these unlawful practices, Plaintiffs
8 will continue to suffer irreparable harm.

9 72. As a result of MobilityWorks’ wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs are entitled to
10 injunctive relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(2), requiring MobilityWorks to remedy the
11 discrimination.

12 73. Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of attorneys’ fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §
13 12188.

14 **VII. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
15 **Violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act**
16 **(California Civil Code §§ 51, et seq.)**

17 74. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding
18 and subsequent paragraphs of this Complaint.

19 75. The Unruh Civil Rights Act (“the Unruh Act”) guarantees, among other things,
20 that people with disabilities are entitled to “full and equal accommodations, advantages,
21 facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever” within
22 the jurisdiction of the state of California. Cal. Civ. Code § 51(b).

23 76. MobilityWorks is a business establishment within the jurisdiction of the state of
24 California, and as such is obligated to comply with the provisions of the Unruh Act.

25 77. Defendants have violated the Unruh Civil Rights in that the conduct alleged
26 herein constitutes a violation of various provisions of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities
27 Act and its implementing regulations, as set forth above. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 51(f).

28 78. Therefore, Plaintiffs and members of the putative class are entitled to injunctive
relief remedying this discrimination pursuant to California Civil Code § 52. Unless the Court

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1 enjoins Defendants from continuing to engage in these unlawful practices, Plaintiffs and other
2 members of this putative class will continue to suffer irreparable harm.

3 79. Plaintiffs are entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing
4 this action. Cal. Civ. Code § 52.

5 **VIII. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
6 **Declaratory Relief**

7 80. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each of the preceding allegations as if fully set
8 forth herein.

9 81. An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties in that
10 Plaintiffs contend, and are informed and believe that Defendants deny, that by engaging in the
11 conduct described herein Defendants have violated the Americans with Disabilities Act 42
12 U.S.C. §§ 12182, *et seq.*, and the Unruh Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51 *et seq.*

13 82. A judicial declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time in order that each
14 of the parties may know their respective rights and duties and act accordingly.

15 **IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

16 Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs respectfully request the following relief:

17 1. An order certifying this case as a class action, and appointing Plaintiffs Giacomini
18 and James as representatives of the Class and Plaintiffs' counsel as Class Counsel;

19 2. A declaration that the acts and practices of MobilityWorks as set forth herein
20 unlawfully discriminate against Plaintiffs and members of the Class;

21 3. An order enjoining MobilityWorks from violating the Americans with Disabilities
22 Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act;

23 4. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper to ensure that
24 individuals who use hand controls and other adaptive devices are able to use MobilityWorks'
25 sale, rental, and installation service on a basis that is full and equal to that which is available to
26 other members of the general public; and

27 83. An award of Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees, costs and expenses incurred in the filing
28 and prosecution of this action, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 12188; California Civil Code §
52(a); and the California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATES
2001 CENTER STREET, FOURTH FLOOR
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704-1204
(510) 665-8644

1 Dated: September 25, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

2
3 By: _

DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATES

4 

5 _____
Sean Betouliere

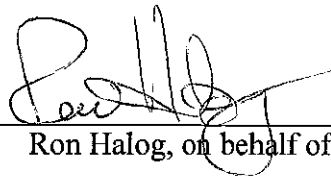
6 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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9 _____
Dorene Giacopini, Plaintiff

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12 _____
Stuart James, Plaintiff

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15 _____
Ron Halog, on behalf of Plaintiff CRIL

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DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATES
2001 CENTER STREET, FOURTH FLOOR
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704-1204
(510) 665-8644

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, a California non-profit corporation, on behalf of itself; DORENE GIACOPINI, and individual, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated; STUART JAMES, an individual, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Disability Rights Advocates, 2001 Center St, 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

DEFENDANTS

MOBILITY WORKS OF CALIFORNIA, LLC, a California limited liability corporation; and WMK, LLC., an Ohio limited liability corporation

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.

Attorneys (If Known)

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

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
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)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

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

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, HABEAS CORPUS, OTHER, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

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-Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. Section 12182

Brief description of cause: Discrimination on the basis of Plaintiffs' mobility disabilities.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$ JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 10/01/2018

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

s/ Sean Betouliere

Print

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), 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.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
 - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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.
 - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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-CAND 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 clerk(s) 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 six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
 - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. 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-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- 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: [MobilityWorks Facing Class Action Over Alleged Refusal to Install Hand Controls on Wheelchair-Accessible Rental Vans](#)
