UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

BETHANY DAVIS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-V.-

TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS, INC. and JOHN DOES 1-25,

Defendant.

Plaintiff Bethany Davis (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Davis"), a Georgia resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, Mason Law Group, P.C., against Defendant Transworld Systems, Inc. (hereinafter "Defendant" or "Transworld"), 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 Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("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, 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.</u> <u>§ 1331</u> and <u>15 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1692 et. seq</u>. The Court also has pendent jurisdiction over all State law claims in this action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1367(a)</u>.

4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C.</u> <u>§ 1391(b)(2)</u>.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Georgia 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

7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Georgia, County of Cobb, residing at 4256 Worth Street NW, Acworth, GA 30101.

8. Transworld Systems, Inc. is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in <u>15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6)</u> and used in the FDCPA with an address at 9525 Sweet Valley Drive, Valley View, OH 44125.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant 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.

Defendant is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15
 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

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

11. Plaintiff brings 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 Georgia;
 - b. to whom Transworld Systems, Inc. sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
 - c. that including false disclosures that interest, fees and costs are continuously accruing, or in the alternative, the creditor/and or Defendant has made the decision to waive accruing interest and fees, and would accept the amount stated on the collection letter as payment in full;
 - 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 (21) 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.

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

16. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff 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 Plaintiff is 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.
- c. <u>Typicality</u>: The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiff 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 Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor her 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, Plaintiff 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 April 27, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Advantage Dental Inc.

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22. The Advantage Dental Inc. obligation arose out of a transactions in which money, property, insurance or services were the subject of the transaction. Specifically Plaintiff allegedly incurred dental services which were primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

23. The alleged Advantage Dental, Inc. obligation is a "debt" as defined by15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).

24. Advantage Dental, Inc. is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(4).

25. Advantage Dental, Inc., or a subsequent owner of the Advantage Dental,Inc. debt, contracted the Defendant to collect the alleged debt.

26. Defendant 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 – April 27, 2017 Collection Letter

27. On or about April 27, 2017, Defendant sent the Plaintiff a collection notice (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Advantage Dental Inc. See

Exhibit A.

- 28. The top of the letter states "Current Balance Due: \$147.75"
- 29. Seven paragraphs later, the letter reads:

"The account balance may be periodically increased due to the addition of accrued interest or other charges, as provided in the agreement with the original creditor, or as otherwise provided by applicable law." 30. 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.

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

32. Plaintiff incurred an informational injury as Defendant deceptively failed to divulge whether or not the account was accruing interest, whether it was being collected or whether interest was being waived.

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

<u>COUNT I</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e *et seq*.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

- 37. Defendant violated §1692e :
 - a. As 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).

38. 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.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

39. 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 Bethany Davis, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant Transworld Systems, Inc., as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Jonathan B. Mason, 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: April 23, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

MASON LAW GROUP, P.C.

/s/ Jonathan B. Mason By: Jonathan B. Mason, Esq. GA Bar No. 475659 1100 Peachtree St. NE, Ste 200 Atlanta, GA 30309 Phone: (404) 920-8040 Fax: (404) 920-8039 jmason@atlshowbizlaw.com *Attorneys For Plaintiff*

Certificate of Compliance With Local Rule 7.1D

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1D, the undersigned counsel certifies that this

document has been prepared using Times New Roman 14-point font.

DATED, this 23rd day of April

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jonathan B. Mason

Jonathan B. Mason, Esq. GA Bar No. 475659 **Mason Law Group, P.C.** 1100 Peachtree St., NE Ste 200 Atlanta, GA 30309 Phone: 404-920-8040 Fax 404-920-8039 jmason@atlshowbizlaw.com Case 1:18-cv-01722-LMM-JFK Document 1-1 Filed 04/23/18 Page 1 of 2

EXHIBIT A

2012
((S).

We have previously notified you about the above-referenced account(s) which remain(s) impaid. We hope that you are now in a better position to pay the above account(s).

To assure proper credit, please return the bottom portion of this letter, or a copy thereof, with your payment. Mail payment to the address listed below.

To discuss the account(s), please call 866-576-8284

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

Calls to or from this company may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance

CREDITOR: ADVANTAGE DENTAL INC 123 MARBLE MILL RD & MARIETTA, GA 30060

The account balance may be periodically increased due to the addition of accrued interest or other charges, as provided in the accement with the original creditor, or as otherwise provided by applicable law.

You may also make payment by visiting us on-line at www.transworldpayments.com. Your unique registration code is 07 21911576.22189893.1046

If you have an income tax refund, perhaps you can use the proceeds to pay this account.

Office Hours: Nam-9pm Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm Friday, 8am-12pm Saturday (ET).

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT (MAKE SURE ADDRESS SHOWS THROUGH WINDOW)

Our Account #	Current Balance Due
9893	\$147.75
BETHANY DAVIS	
Payment Amount	
S	
к, л Ж	
Make Payment To	
Transworld Systems Inc.	
P.O. Box 15520	
Wilmington DF 198505520	

Check here if your address has changed and print your new address in the space provided below

> Wilmington, DE 198505520

JS44 (Rev. 11/16 NDGA) ase 1:18-cv-01722-LMM-dftill Covers file 04/23/18 Page 1 of 2

The JS44 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 is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)		DEFENDANT(S)		
Bethany Davis, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,		Transworld Systems, Inc. and JOHN DOES 1-25		
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF Cobb (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT		
(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS)		ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)		
Jonathan B. Mason, Esq. Mason Law Group, P.C. 1100 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30309 404.920.8040 jmason@atlshowbizlaw.cor	n			
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)		ZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES N "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT) (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)		
1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PLAINTIFF 3 FEDERAL QUESTION (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY) 2 U.S. GOVERNMENT DEFENDANT 4 DIVERSITY (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)	PLF DEF PLF DEF 1 1 1 CITIZEN OF THIS STATE 4 4 INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE 2 2 CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE 5 5 INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE 3 3 CITIZEN OF SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY 6 6 FOREIGN NATION			
IV. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X "IN ONE BOX ONLY) I ORIGINAL 2 REMOVED FROM 3 REMANDED FROM PROCEEDING 2 REMOVED FROM APPELLATE COURT	4 REINSTATED REOPENED	DR 5 ANOTHER DISTRICT (Specify District) MULTIDISTRICT 7 FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE TRANSFER JUDGMENT		
MULTIDISTRICT 8 LITIGATION - DIRECT FILE				
V. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE - DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY) 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq. Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") - Defendant sent Plaintiff a misleading and deceptive collection letter in violation of the FDCPA.				
(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)				
1. Unusually large number of parties.	6. Prob	lems locating or preserving evidence		
2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.	7. Pending parallel investigations or actions by government.			
3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex	_	iple use of experts.		
 4. Greater than normal volume of evidence. 5. Extended discovery period is needed. 	_	d for discovery outside United States boundaries. ence of highly technical issues and proof.		
CONTINUED ON REVERSE				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AMOUNT \$	APPI YING	TEP MAG IUDGE (IEP)		

NATURE OF SUIT

CAUSE OF ACTION

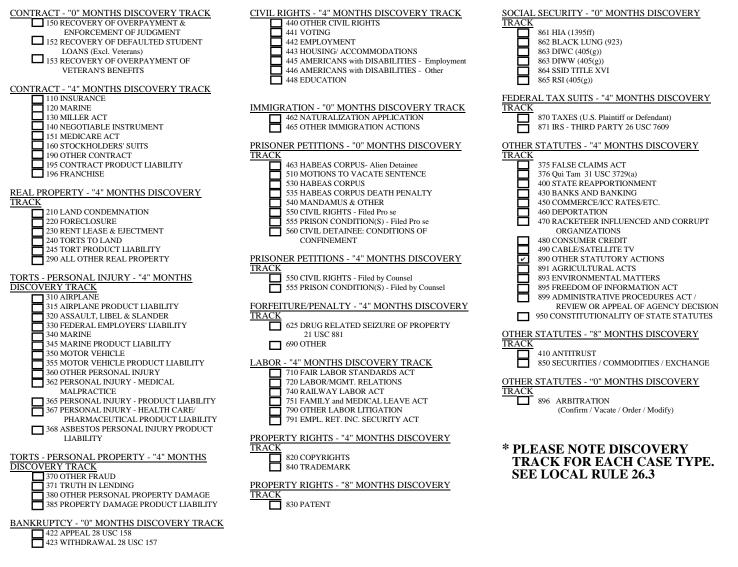
JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

(Referral)

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VI. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)



VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

└ CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND \$______ JURY DEMAND └ YES □ NO (CHECK YES <u>ONLY</u> IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)

VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY

JUDGE_

DOCKET NO._

CIVIL CASES ARE DEEMED RELATED IF THE PENDING CASE INVOLVES: (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)

- □ 1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- □ 2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- □ 3. VALIDITY OR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 4. APPEALS ARISING OUT OF THE SAME BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME BANKRUPTCY JUDGE,
- **5.** REPETITIVE CASES FILED BY <u>PRO SE</u> LITIGANTS.
- 6. COMPANION OR RELATED CASE TO CASE(S) BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY FILED (INCLUDE ABBREVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):

☐ 7. EITHER SAME OR ALL OF THE PARTIES AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN CASE NO. DISMISSED. This case ☐ IS ☐ IS NOT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.

, WHICH WAS

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Transworld Systems Collection Letter Failed to Disclose Whether Interest was Accruing, Lawsuit Claims</u>