UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Kendra Foster, on behalf of herself)	
and others similarly situated,)	Case No.
)	
Plaintiff,)	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
)	I T'ID II
V.)	Jury Trial Demanded
Okinus, Inc.,)	
Defendant.)	

Nature of this Action

- 1. Kendra Foster ("Plaintiff") brings this class action against Okinus, Inc. ("Defendant") under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227.
- 2. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant routinely violates 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by using an automatic telephone dialing system to place non-emergency calls to numbers assigned to a cellular telephone service, without prior express consent.

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 4. Venue is proper before this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) as the acts and transactions giving rise to Plaintiff's action occurred, in part, in this district, and as Defendant transacts business in this district.

Parties

- 5. Plaintiff is natural person who at all relevant times resided in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 6. Defendant is a corporation with a principal address in Pelham, Georgia.

- 7. Defendant "offers alternative financing under a lease purchase transaction to consumers for the purposes of obtaining furniture, consumer electronics, household appliances and jewelry[.]" http://www.okinus.com/terms-of-use/
- 8. Defendant's self-identified former Director of Technology states that he "[i]mplemented a Cisco auto dialer for [Defendant's] collections department resulting in significant increases in productivity." https://www.linkedin.com/in/alan-brand-34951424 (Alan Brand, IT Director of Information Technology Okinus, Inc., March 2015 August 2016).
- 9. Many individuals claim to have received calls on their cellular telephone numbers, from a number associated with Defendant, after informing the caller it had reached a wrong number:
 - "[S]omeone calls on a semi-regular looking for someone that is not associated with my telephone number, I have told them there is no one at this number by that name, but they continue to call. Please stope [sic] call me." http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-229-294-4575 (Calvin Johnson 13 Jul 2012) (last visited October 18, 2016);
 - "Called me every time about a person that I dont know named Reynaldo Vazquez." http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-229-294-4575 (Marta Rivera 22 Mar 2011) (last visited October 18, 2016);
 - "I have recieved [sic] calls from this number for a miss veronica. I have told them over and over that she no longer has this phone number and to stop calling me. http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-229-294-4575 [sic] they call at least once per day." (Donna 17 Sep 2012) (last visited October 18, 2016);
 - "They Keep calling my phone for a Lenorris Crabb that no longer works for Glass-Ratner! Annoyed!!!!!!!!! Been calling my phone for 2 months[.]" http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-229-294-4575 (Tinker Bell 14 Nov 2012) (last visited October 18, 2016);
 - "Okinus Furniture Lease Comp Have called me, x's and I've said wrong # Ppl act like they're slow seriously Guess u don't need a degree to b a collector right?" https://callsreported.com/2292944575.calls.reported (Post by Guest, 2015-11-21 05:30:57 2292944575 (last visited October 18, 2016).

Factual Allegations

- 10. Months after Plaintiff obtained a new cellular telephone number—(404) 382-XXXX—Defendant began placing calls to it.
- 11. For example, in addition to other calls, Defendant placed at least three calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number on November 2, 2016.
- 12. Defendant placed some, if not all of its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, from (229) 294-4575.
- 13. Upon information and good faith belief, and in light of the frequency, number, nature, and character of the calls, Defendant placed its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number by using an automatic telephone dialing system.
- 14. Upon information and good faith belief, and in light of the frequency, number, nature, and character of the calls, Defendant placed its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number by using equipment which has the capacity (i) to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator, and (ii) to dial such numbers.
- 15. Upon information and good faith belief, and in light of the frequency, number, nature, and character of the calls, Defendant placed its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number by using (i) an automated dialing system that uses a complex set of algorithms to automatically dial consumers' telephone numbers in a manner that "predicts" the time when a consumer will answer the phone and a person will be available to take the call, or (ii) equipment that dials numbers and, when certain computer software is attached, also assists persons in predicting when a sales agent will be available to take calls, or (iii) hardware, that when paired with certain software, has the capacity to store or produce numbers and dial those numbers at random, in sequential order, or from a database of numbers, or (iv) hardware, software, or equipment that the

FCC characterizes as a predictive dialer through the following, and any related, reports and orders, and declaratory rulings: *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 17 FCC Rcd 17459, 17474 (September 18, 2002); *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 18 FCC Rcd 14014, 14092-93 (July 3, 2003); *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 23 FCC Rcd 559, 566 (Jan. 4, 2008); *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, FCC 15-72 (adopted June 18, 2015 and released July 10, 2015).

- 16. Plaintiff answered more than one of Defendant's calls to her cellular telephone number.
- 17. On at least one occasion Plaintiff spoke with Defendant, informed it that she was not the individual Defendant intended to reach by placing calls to her cellular telephone number—an individual named Tanisha Henry—and asked Defendant to stop placing calls to her cellular telephone number.
- 18. In fact, in the face of one of Defendant's argumentative calls, Plaintiff offered to forward her driver's license to Defendant to prove she was not Tanisha Henry.
- 19. Defendant, nonetheless, continued to place calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
 - 20. Plaintiff is not, nor was, one of Defendant's customers.
 - 21. Plaintiff does not have, nor had, a business relationship with Defendant.
 - 22. Plaintiff did not provide Defendant with her cellular telephone number.
- 23. Plaintiff did not give Defendant prior express consent to place calls to her cellular telephone number by using an automatic telephone dialing system.

- 24. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant placed its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number for non-emergency purposes.
- 25. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant placed its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number voluntarily.
- 26. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant placed its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number under its own free will.
- 27. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant had knowledge that it was using an automatic telephone dialing system to place its calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 28. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant intended to use an automatic telephone dialing system to place the calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 29. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant maintains business records that show all calls it placed to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 30. Plaintiff suffered actual harm as a result Defendant's calls in that she suffered an invasion of privacy, an intrusion into her life, and a private nuisance.
- 31. As well, Defendant's calls at issue depleted or consumed, directly or indirectly, cellular telephone minutes for which Plaintiff paid a third party.
- 32. Moreover, Defendant's calls at issue unnecessarily tied up Plaintiff's cellular telephone line.
- 33. Upon information and good faith belief, Defendant, as a matter of pattern and practice, uses an automatic telephone dialing system to place calls to telephone numbers assigned to a cellular telephone service.

Class Allegations

34. Plaintiff brings this action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and as a representative of the following class:

All persons and entities throughout the United States (1) to whom Okinus, Inc., placed, or caused to be placed, calls (2) directed to a number assigned to a cellular telephone service, (3) by using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice, (4) during the four years preceding the date of this complaint, (5) absent prior express consent—in that the called party was not the intended recipient.

- 35. The proposed class specifically excludes any entity in which Defendant has or had a controlling interest, all officers and agents of Defendant, and all persons related to or within the third degree of consanguinity or affection to any of the foregoing individuals.
- 36. Upon information and belief, the members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all of them is impracticable.
- 37. The exact number of the members of the class is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, and can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery.
- 38. The members of the class are ascertainable because the class is defined by reference to objective criteria.
- 39. In addition, the class is ascertainable because, upon information and belief, cellular telephone numbers, names, and addresses of the members of the class can be identified in business records maintained by Defendant and by third parties.
- 40. There exists a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact that affect the members of the class.
 - 41. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class.
- 42. As it did for all members of the class, Defendant used an automatic telephone dialing system to place calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, without prior express consent,

and in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227.

- 43. Plaintiff's claims, and the claims of the members of the class, originate from the same conduct, practice and procedure on the part of Defendant.
- 44. Plaintiff's claims are based on the same theory as are the claims of the members of the class.
 - 45. Plaintiff suffered the same injuries as each of the members of the class.
 - 46. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the class.
- 47. Plaintiff's interests in this matter are not directly or irrevocably antagonistic to the interests of the members of the class.
 - 48. Plaintiff will vigorously pursue the claims of the members of the class.
 - 49. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced and competent in class action litigation.
 - 50. Plaintiff's counsel will vigorously pursue this matter.
- 51. Plaintiff's counsel will assert, protect, and otherwise represent the members of the class.
- 52. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the class predominate over questions that may affect individual class members.
 - 53. Issues of law and fact common to all members of the class are:
 - a. Defendant's violations of the TCPA;
 - b. The existence of Defendant's identical conduct;
 - Defendant's use of an automatic telephone dialing system as defined by the TCPA;
 and
 - d. The availability of statutory penalties.

- 54. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this matter.
- 55. If brought and prosecuted individually, the claims of the members of the class would require proof of the same material and substantive facts.
- 56. The pursuit of separate actions by individual members of the class would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members of the class, and could substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
- 57. The pursuit of separate actions by individual members of the class could create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, which might establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant.
- 58. These varying adjudications and incompatible standards of conduct, in connection with presentation of the same essential facts, proof, and legal theories, could also create and allow the existence of inconsistent and incompatible rights within the class.
- 59. The damages suffered by each individual member of the class may be relatively small; thus, the expense and burden to litigate each of their claims individually make it difficult for the members of the class to redress the wrongs done to them.
- 60. The pursuit of Plaintiff's claims, and the claims of the members of the class, in one forum will achieve efficiency and promote judicial economy.
 - 61. There will be little difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.
- 62. Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the members of the class, making final declaratory or injunctive relief appropriate.

Count I Violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii)

- 63. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every factual allegation included in paragraphs 1-62.
- 64. Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by using an automatic telephone dialing system to place non-emergency calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, absent prior express consent.

Trial by Jury

65. Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Determining that this action is a proper class action;
- b) Designating Plaintiff as a class representative under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23;
- c) Designating Plaintiff's counsel as class counsel under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23;
- d) Adjudging and declaring that Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii);
- e) Enjoining Defendant from continuing to place calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number and to the cellular telephone numbers of class members;
- f) Awarding Plaintiff and the class damages under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- g) Awarding Plaintiff and the class treble damages under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3);
- h) Awarding Plaintiff and the class reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- i) Awarding Plaintiff and the members of the class any pre-judgment and postjudgment interest as may be allowed under the law; and

j) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Date: November 29, 2016

/s/Shireen Hormozdi Shireen Hormozdi

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Counsel for Plaintiff and the proposed class

*to seek admission pro hac vice

$_{ m JS44~(Rev.~1/13~NDGA)}$ Case 1:16-cv-04406-TCB1 $_{ m IV}$ Ppcup entri-striled 11/29/16 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)		
Kendra Foster, on behalf of herself) and others similarly situated,		Okinus, Inc.		
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF (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, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NU E-MAIL ADDRESS) Shireen Hormozdi 1770 Indian Trail Lilburn Road Suite 175 Norcross, GA 30093 Tel: 800.994.9855 Fax: 866.929.2434 shireen@norcrosslawfirm.com	UMBER, AND	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)		CE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT) (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY) PLF DEF		
1 U.S. GOVERNMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY) 2 U.S. GOVERNMENT US 4 DIVERSITY (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)	1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3	CITIZEN OF THIS STATE 4 4 INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE 5 INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY 6 6 6 FOREIGN NATION		
	REINSTATED OR REOPENED	TRANSFERRED FROM 5 ANOTHER DISTRICT (Specify District) 6 MULTIDISTRICT 7 FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE JUDGMENT		
V. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47	UNLESS DIVERSI			
(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)				
1. Unusually large number of parties.	6. Pi	roblems locating or preserving evidence		
2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.	7. Pe	ending parallel investigations or actions by government.		
3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex	8. M	fultiple use of experts.		
4. Greater than normal volume of evidence.	9. N	Need for discovery outside United States boundaries.		
5. Extended discovery period is needed.	10. I	Existence of highly technical issues and proof.		
CONTINUED ON REVERSE				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AMOUNT \$	APPLA	YING IFP MAG. JUDGE (IFP)		
JUDGE MAG. JUDGE		RE OF SUIT CAUSE OF ACTION		

(Referral)

VI. NATURE OF SUIT 16-CV-04406-TCB Document 1-1 Filed 11/29/16 Page 2 of 2

CONTRACT - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT 152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (Excl. Veterans) 153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS CONTRACT - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 110 INSURANCE 120 MARINE 130 MILLER ACT 140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT 151 MEDICADE ACT	CIVIL RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 441 VOTING 442 EMPLOYMENT 443 HOUSING/ ACCOMMODATIONS 444 WELFARE 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS 445 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Employment 446 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Other 448 EDUCATION IMMIGRATION - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION 465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS	SOCIAL SECURITY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY			
□ 151 MEDICARE ACT □ 160 STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS □ 190 OTHER CONTRACT □ 195 CONTRACT PRODUCT LIABILITY □ 196 FRANCHISE REAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK □ 210 LAND CONDEMNATION □ 220 FORECLOSURE □ 230 RENT LEASE & EJECTMENT □ 240 TORTS TO LAND □ 245 TORT PRODUCT LIABILITY □ 290 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY TORTS - PERSONAL INJURY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK □ 310 AIRPLANE □ 315 AIRPLANE □ 315 AIRPLANE □ 315 AIRPLANE □ 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY □ 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER □ 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY □ 340 MARINE □ 345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY	PRISONER PETITIONS - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 463 HABEAS CORPUS - Alien Detainee 510 MOTIONS TO VACATE SENTENCE 530 HABEAS CORPUS 535 HABEAS CORPUS 540 MANDAMUS & OTHER 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed Pro se 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed Pro se 556 CIVIL DETAINEE: CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT PRISONER PETITIONS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed by Counsel 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed by Counsel FORFEITURE/PENALTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 625 DRUG RELATED SEIZURE OF PROPERTY 21 USC 881 690 OTHER	OTHER STATUTES - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 375 FALSE CLAIMS ACT 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT 430 BANKS AND BANKING 450 COMMERCE/ICC RATES/ETC. 460 DEPORTATION 470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS 480 CONSUMER CREDIT 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS 895 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES 899 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT / REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISION OTHER STATUTES - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 410 ANTITRUST 850 SECURITIES / COMMODITIES / EXCHANGE			
□ 350 MOTOR VEHICLE □ 355 MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT LIABILITY □ 360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY □ 362 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL MALPRACTICE □ 365 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY □ 367 PERSONAL INJURY - HEALTH CARE/ PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT LIABILITY □ 368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY TORTS - PERSONAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK □ 370 OTHER FRAUD □ 371 TRUTH IN LENDING □ 380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE □ 385 PROPERTY DAMAGE PRODUCT LIABILITY BANKRUPTCY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK □ 422 APPEAL 28 USC 158 □ 423 WITHDRAWAL 28 USC 157	LABOR - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 710 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT 720 LABOR/MGMT. RELATIONS 740 RAILWAY LABOR ACT 751 FAMILY and MEDICAL LEAVE ACT 790 OTHER LABOR LITIGATION 791 EMPL. RET. INC. SECURITY ACT PROPERTY RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 820 COPYRIGHTS 840 TRADEMARK PROPERTY RIGHTS - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 830 PATENT	OTHER STATUTES - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK \$\Begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc			
	.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND \$				
VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY JUDGE DOCKET NO.					
1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER 2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME ISSUE OF THE SAME O	OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN A SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDE BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO	AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT. ED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT. D WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME REVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):			
/s/Shireen Hormozdi	Novom	hor 20, 2016			

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Okinus Hit with TCPA Class Action Over Use of Autodialer