UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE DIVISION

JENNIFER GAJEWSKI and LUISA AVILES,)	Case No.: 18-cv-180
Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly) Situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
) Plaintiffs, v.	Jury Trial Demanded
ENHANCED RECOVERY COMPANY, LLC,	
) Defendant.	

INTRODUCTION

1. This class action seeks redress for collection practices that violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (the "FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The court has jurisdiction to grant the relief sought by the Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant directed its collection efforts into the District.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Jennifer Gajewski is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).

4. Plaintiff Luisa Aviles is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).

5. Plaintiffs are each a "consumer" as defined in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), in that Defendant sought to collect from them a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family, or household purposes.

6. Defendant Enhanced Recovery Company, LLC ("Enhanced") is a debt collection agency with its principal offices located at 8014 Bayberry Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32256.

7. Enhanced is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.

8. Enhanced is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family, or household purposes. Enhanced is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

FACTS

Gajewski letter

9. On or about February 6, 2017, Enhanced mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff Gajewski regarding an alleged debt owed to "Comenity Capital Bank" ("Comenity"). A copy of this letter is attached to this Complaint as <u>Exhibit A</u>.

10. The alleged debt referenced in <u>Exhibit A</u> was a PayPal credit account, and the alleged debt was incurred for personal, family, or household purposes.

11. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Gajewski inserted by computer.

12. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form debt collection letter used by Enhanced to attempt to collect alleged debts.

13. <u>Exhibit A</u> was the first letter Enhanced sent to Gajewski regarding this alleged debt.

14. Enhanced's letter as a whole is confusing and misleading to the unsophisticated consumer.

15. <u>Exhibit A states</u>: **Balance**: \$1,743.56

16. Exhibit A also states:

At this time you have a total outstanding balance of \$1,743.56. To get your account out of delinquency and put in good standing you must pay \$252.00. Your payment must be received by 02/28/2017 to prevent this account from entering the next stage of delinquency.

17. <u>Exhibit A</u> is confusing to the unsophisticated consumer. It is unclear whether Enhanced is collecting the entire \$1,743.56 balance or just the \$252.00 that is represented as being the amount required to get the account out of delinquency.

18. The alleged debt or debts here is an unsecured credit account. Upon information and belief, Enhanced and Comenity would accept any payment of any amount at any time.

19. It is not unusual for banks to hire a debt collector to collect only the "past due" amount, *i.e.* missed payments and fees, of a credit card balance rather than the whole balance. The Seventh Circuit held in *Barnes v. Advanced Call Ctr. Techs., LLC*, 493 F.3d 838, 840 (7th Cir. 2007), that "only the past due amount, the amount owed [to the debt collector], can be the 'amount of the debt' under § 809(a)(1)." Whichever number Enhanced is truly collecting, it need only state that amount in the letter.

20. The different amounts on <u>Exhibit A</u> render <u>Exhibit A</u> confusing to the unsophisticated consumer, who would not be able to determine, or would be confused as to, which amount Enhanced was actually attempting to collect.

21. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the \$252.00 actually represents the "past due" amount according to the terms of the underlying credit agreement, or a completely arbitrary amount.

22. Additionally, the consequences of a failure to pay this amount and the account "entering the next stage of delinquency" are completely unclear.

23. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused by the threat that non-payment by February 28, 2017 would result in the account "entering the next stage of delinquency." That language can have any number of meanings, including but not limited to closing the account, increasing collection efforts, or filing a lawsuit.

24. The ambiguity is coercive. It is intended to make the consumer forego her validation rights and pay immediately.

Aviles letter

25. On or about March 1, 2017, Enhanced mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff Aviles regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed to "Sprint." A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as <u>Exhibit B</u>.

26. Upon information and belief, the alleged debt that Enhanced was attempting to collect was a cell phone service account, used only for personal, family or household purposes.

27. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit B</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Aviles inserted by computer.

28. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit B</u> is a form debt collection letter used by Enhanced to attempt to collect alleged debts.

29. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit B</u> is the first written communication that Enhanced sent to Aviles regarding the alleged debt to which <u>Exhibit B</u> refers.

30. <u>Exhibit B</u> contains the following text:

Federal Validation Notice: Pursuant to 15 U.S.C./1692g(a), take notice that:

1. The amount of the claimed debt is the amount stated in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

2. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed is in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

3. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after your receipt of this notice, the debt will be assumed to be valid by us.

4. If you notify our office below in writing within (30) days of your receipt of this notice that the debt, or any portion thereof is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment that may be of record against you. We will mail the verification or copy of the judgment to you.

5. Upon your written request to this office within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor listed in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

31. The above language in <u>Exhibit B</u> is the debt validation notice that the FDCPA requires to be included with the initial written communication to the consumer. 15 U.S.C. 1692g.

32. If Exhibit B was actually mailed on March 1, 2017, it would have been received

on, or after, March 4, 2017.

33. If <u>Exhibit B</u> was received on March 4, 2017, the consumer would have until April

3 to mail out a request for validation. Chauncey v. JDR Recovery Corp., 118 F.3d 516 519 (7th

Cir. 1997) (consumer triggers verification rights by mailing out written notice of dispute on

thirtieth day after receiving validation notice).

34. <u>Exhibit B</u> also contains the following settlement offer:

Our records indicate that your balance with Sprint remains unpaid; therefore your account has been placed with ERC for collection efforts. We are willing to reduce your outstanding balance by offering discounted options.

We are not obligated to renew this offer.

This letter serves as notification that your delinquent account may be reported to the national credit bureaus.

Option 1: Pay the settlement of \$279.71, please remit by April 05, 2017.

Option 2: Pay the settlement of \$298.36, payable in 2 monthly payments of \$149.18.

Option 3: Pay the settlement of \$317.01, payable in 3 monthly payments of \$105.67.

Payment of the offered settlement amount will stop collection activity on this matter. We will inform Sprint once the payment(s) is/are posted. Payment of the settlement amount will not restore your service with Sprint. If you wish to reestablish service with Sprint at a future date, Sprint may require partial or full payment of your remaining balance at that time, according to Sprint's credit policy.

35. The offer in <u>Exhibit B</u> requests that the consumer "please remit by April 05, 2017."

36. The offer in Exhibit B states that "We are not obligated to renew this offer."

37. The settlement offer in Exhibit B is confusing to the unsophisticated consumer because it requires that the consumer tender a payment within the validation period or shortly thereafter, but does not explain how the validation notice and settlement "deadline" fit together. *Bartlett v. Heibl*, 128 F.3d 497, 500 (7th Cir. 1997) ("In the typical case, the letter both demands payment within thirty days and explains the consumer's right to demand verification within thirty days. These rights are not inconsistent, but by failing to explain how they fit together the letter confuses.").

38. Alongside the statement that "We are not obligated to renew this offer," the unsophisticated consumer would understand the request to "please remit by April 05, 2017" to be an expiration date, after which the settlement is no longer available.

39. Any consumer, unsure whether a payment received after April 5, 2017 would actually settle the debt, would feel compelled to allow for an extra two or three days for mailing and ERC processing to ensure they were able to take advantage of the settlement offer in Exhibit <u>B</u> and that the payment would not be processed as a partial payment on the full balance.

40. Thus, any consumer who wished to take advantage of the settlement offer in Exhibit B would feel compelled to mail out payment on or before March 31, 2017.

41. The 30-day validation period identified in <u>Exhibit B</u> would end before the consumer would feel compelled to mail out a payment to take advantage of the settlement offer in <u>Exhibit B</u> before it expires. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

42. Assuming the consumer sought verification at or near the end of the statutorily mandated 30-day validation period, there would be no way for ERC to provide verification in time for the consumer to tender payment in acceptance of the settlement offer.

43. The unsophisticated consumer, realizing that the debt could not be verified before the settlement offer in <u>Exhibit B</u> expired and that ERC was not obligated to renew the offer would be unsure how, or whether, she could seek verification of the debt but accept the settlement offer if the debt could be verified.

44. The statement that a debt collector is "not obligated to renew" an offer tracks safe-harbor language that was created by the Seventh Circuit, which is meant to signal to the unsophisticated consumer that the offer may not *actually* expire on the expiration date because renewal of the offer is, at the very least, a possibility. *Evory v. RJM Acquisitions Funding L.L.C.*, 505 F.3d 769, 776 (7th Cir. 2007).

45. Where the Seventh Circuit prescribes safe-harbor language, this language is not "blessed" as generally acceptable---rather, the Seventh Circuit has made it clear that its safe-harbor language applies only in the specific "type" of case addressed in the opinion and that the language must be properly tailored to the circumstances. *See Boucher v. Fin. Sys. of Green Bay*, 2018 U.S. App. LEXIS 1094, at *17 ("debt collectors cannot immunize themselves from FDCPA liability by blindly copying and pasting the *Miller* safe harbor language without regard for whether that language is accurate under the circumstances."); *Evory*, 505 F.3d at 775-76 ("we think the *present concern* can be adequately addressed . . ."); *Bartlett v. Heibl*, 128 F.3d 497, 501 (7th Cir. 1997) ("We commend this redaction as a safe harbor for debt collectors who want to avoid liability for the kind of suit Bartlett has brought and now won" is important. We are not certifying our letter

against challenges based on other provisions of the statute; those provisions are not before us."); *see also O'Chaney v. Shapiro and Kreisman, LLC*, 2004 U.S. Dist LEXIS 5116, at *13 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 25, 2004) (rejecting the argument that a debt collector could avoid liability for use of safe harbor language where the Seventh Circuit expressly limited the reach of the language to different claims).

46. In the context of an initial settlement letter, the unsophisticated consumer, believing that the foregoing of validation rights is a material aspect of the settlement offer, would understand the language that the debt collector is "not obligated to renew" to mean that the debt collector would most likely *not* renew the offer, since the debtor would no longer have validation rights to bargain away.

47. Because the settlement offer in <u>Exhibit B</u>, as a practical matter, expires before the validation period, there is an apparent contradiction between the settlement offer and the validation notice.

48. <u>Exhibit B</u> does not explain how, or even whether, a consumer may request verification of the debt and accept the settlement offer if the debt is verified.

49. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused about whether the settlement offer in Exhibit B would require her to forego her rights to validate the debt.

50. The unsophisticated consumer would not know whether requesting verification of the debt would be interpreted as a rejection of the settlement offer.

51. The unsophisticated consumer, wishing to take advantage of the settlement offer as long as it could be verified, might tender her payment to accept the settlement offer along with the notice of dispute.

52. The unsophisticated consumer would also not know whether or how she could receive her money back from Defendant if Defendant is unable to verify the debt or if the debt actually is not valid.

53. Moreover, when a consumer mails a dispute along with a payment that was intended to accept a settlement offer, it is unclear whether the FDCPA requires a debt collector to return the consumer's payment. *See Bailey v. TRW Receivables Management Services, Inc.*, 1990 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19638, *7-8 (D. Haw. Aug. 16, 1990) ("There is nothing in the statute which indicates that a debt collector is not required to provide verification where a consumer requests it after paying the debt."); *Sambor v. Omnia Credit Servs.*, 183 F. Supp. 2d 1234, 1243 (D. Haw. Feb. 5, 2002) ("Because the debt collector in *Bailey* had already collected the debt, there was no collection to 'cease' pending validation. In *Bailey*, keeping the consumer's money was tantamount to continuing collection activity.").

54. The unsophisticated consumer may unwittingly reject a settlement offer by tendering the settlement payment along with her dispute letter. If the acceptance of a settlement offer is a continuing attempt to collect a debt, *see Sambor*, 183 F. Supp. 2d at 1243, the debt collector would need to return the settlement payment pending verification of the debt.

55. Because the debt collector may be legally obligated to return the consumer's settlement payment pending verification of the debt, the expiration date would lapse before the consumer had effectively made the settlement payment. By the time the debt collector verified the debt, the consumer would have missed her chance to settle the debt even though she attempted to tender a payment before the expiration date.

56. Moreover, although the unsophisticated consumer would not realize it, the debt collector need not even verify the debt as long as it ceases further attempts to collect the debt. *See Jang v. A.M. Miller & Assocs.*, 122 F.3d 480, 483 (7th Cir. 1997).

57. Thus, the purpose and effect of providing a settlement offer with a letter containing the validation notice is to discourage the unsophisticated consumer from seeking verification.

58. Defendant did not include effective explanatory language in Exhibit B, see, eg. Bartlett, 128 F.3d 497, 501-02 (7th Cir. 1997).

59. Any explanatory language should make clear whether a dispute will extend the settlement offer while the debt collector is in the process of complying with its obligation to verify the debt.

60. Plaintiffs were confused by Exhibit A and Exhibit B.

61. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused by Exhibit A and Exhibit B.

62. Plaintiffs had to spend time and money investigating <u>Exhibit A</u> and <u>Exhibit B</u> and the consequences of any potential responses to <u>Exhibit A</u> and <u>Exhibit B</u>.

63. Plaintiffs had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including traveling to counsel's office by car and its related expenses, including but not limited to the cost of gasoline and mileage, to advise Plaintiff on the consequences of <u>Exhibit A</u> and <u>Exhibit B</u>.

64. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Pogorzelski v. Patenaude & Felix APC*, No. 16-C-1330, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89678 *9 (E.D. Wis. June 12, 2017) ("A plaintiff who receives misinformation from a debt collector has suffered the type of injury the FDCPA was intended to protect against."); *Spuhler v. State Collection Servs.*, No. 16-CV-1149, 2017

U.S. Dist. LEXIS 177631 (E.D. Wis. Oct. 26, 2017) ("As in Pogorzelski, the Spuhlers' allegations that the debt collection letters sent by State Collection contained false representations of the character, amount, or legal status of a debt in violation of their rights under the FDCPA sufficiently pleads a concrete injury-in-fact for purposes of standing."); Bock v. Pressler & Pressler, LLP, No. 11-7593, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81058 *21 (D.N.J. May 25, 2017) ("through [s]ection 1692e of the FDCPA, Congress established 'an enforceable right to truthful information concerning' debt collection practices, a decision that 'was undoubtedly influenced by congressional awareness that the intentional provision of misinformation' related to such practices, 'contribute[s] to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy,"); Quinn v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 16 C 2021, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 107299 *8-13 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 2016) (rejecting challenge to Plaintiff's standing based upon alleged FDCPA statutory violation); Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) ("When a federal statute is violated, and especially when Congress has created a cause of action for its violation, by definition Congress has created a legally protected interest that it deems important enough for a lawsuit."); Church v. Accretive Health, Inc., No. 15-15708, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 12414 *7-11 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); see also Mogg v. Jacobs, No. 15-CV-1142-JPG-DGW, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33229, 2016 WL 1029396, at *5 (S.D. Ill. Mar. 15, 2016) ("Congress does have the power to enact statutes creating legal rights, the invasion of which creates standing, even though no injury would exist without the statute," (quoting Sterk v. Redbox Automated Retail, LLC, 770 F.3d 618, 623 (7th Cir. 2014)). For this reason, and to encourage consumers to bring FDCPA actions, Congress authorized an award of statutory damages for violations. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a).

65. Moreover, Congress has explicitly described the FDCPA as regulating "abusive practices" in debt collection. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(a) - 1692(e). Any person who receives a debt collection letter containing a violation of the FDCPA is a victim of abusive practices. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(e) ("It is the purpose of this subchapter to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses").

66. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits debt collectors from making "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."

67. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) specifically prohibits the false representation of "the character, amount, or legal status of any debt."

68. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) specifically prohibits: "The use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer."

69. 15 U.S.C. 1692f generally prohibits the use of "any unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section."

70. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) states, in part:

(b) **Disputed debts**

Any collection activities and communication during the 30-day period may not overshadow or be inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt or request the name and address of the original creditor.

<u>COUNT I – FDCPA</u>

71. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

72. Count I is brought on behalf of Plaintiff Gajewski.

73. Enhanced represented the amount of the debt that Enhanced was attempting to collect in a confusing manner by stating multiple amounts that Enhanced was attempting to collect. Exhibit A.

74. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused as to whether Enhanced was attempting to collect only \$252.00 or the \$1,743.56 total balance.

75. Enhanced's conduct violates 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(a), 1692e(10), 1692(f) and 1692g(a)(1).

<u>COUNT II – FDCPA</u>

76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

77. Count II is brought on behalf of Plaintiff Aviles.

78. The expiration date listed for the settlement offer in <u>Exhibit B</u> conflicts with and overshadows the debt validation notice, in that <u>Exhibit B</u> does not explain how the debt collector would proceed if the consumer attempted to request verification of the debt and accept the settlement offer if the debt could be verified. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g; *Bartlett*, 128 F.3d at 500.

79. The expiration dates listed for the settlement offers in <u>Exhibit B</u> conflict with and overshadow the debt validation notice, in that the settlement offers require the consumer to tender payment during the validation period or shortly thereafter, but do not explain how the

validation notice and settlement "deadline" fit together. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g; *Bartlett*, 128 F.3d at 500.

80. <u>Exhibit B</u> is confusing, deceptive, and misleading to the unsophisticated consumer.

81. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10), 1692f and 1692g(b).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

82. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of two proposed classes.

83. Class I consists of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent a collection letter in the form represented by <u>Exhibit A</u> to the complaint in this action, (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family, or household purposes, (d) between January 30, 2017 and January 30, 2018, inclusive, (e) that was not returned by the postal service. Gajewski is the designated representative for Class I.

84. Class II consists of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent a collection letter in the form represented by <u>Exhibit B</u> to the complaint in this action, (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family, or household purposes, (d) between January 30, 2017 and January 30, 2018, inclusive, (e) that was not returned by the postal service. Aviles is the designated representative for Class II.

85. The classes are so numerous that joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, there are more than 50 members of each class.

86. There are questions of law and fact common to the members of the classes, which common questions predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members. The predominant common question is whether the Exhibits A and Exhibit B complied with 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692f, and 1692g.

87. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the respective class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

88. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class members. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in consumer credit and debt collection abuse cases.

89. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute. Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

90. Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and

the Class and against Defendant for:

- (a) actual damages;
- (b) statutory damages;
- (c) attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and
- (d) such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: February 1, 2018

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: /s/ John D. Blythin John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105) Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944) Jesse Fruchter (SBN 1097673) Ben Slatky (SBN 1106892) 3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110 (414) 482-8000 (414) 482-8000 (414) 482-8001 (fax) jblythin@ademilaw.com meldridge@ademilaw.com jfruchter@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A

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February 06, 2017

Creditor:

Balance:

Reference Of:

Comenity Capital Bank Account Number: D839 \$1,743.56 **Reference Number:** 1922 PayPal Credit Account

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

JENNIFER GAJEWSKI

Comenity Capital Bank has attempted to resolve your PayPal Credit Account without success. As a result, your account has been assigned to ERC to assist in resolving this matter. Bill Me Later is now called PayPal Credit.

At this time you have a total outstanding balance of \$1,743.56. To get your account out of delinguency and put in good standing you must pay \$252.00. Your payment must be received by 02/28/2017 to prevent this account from entering the next stage of delinquency.

We understand you may be facing some financial challenges at this time and we are committed to providing a personal payment arrangement that fits your needs. We may be able to reduce your interest rate or monthly payment required, please call us to discuss your options.

Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after your receipt of this notice, the debt will be assumed to be valid by us.



Telephone: (800) 427-5965 Toll Free. All calls are recorded and may be monitored for training purposes.

Send correspondence to: ERC, P.O. Box 57610, Jacksonville, FL 32241

Office Hours (Eastern Time): Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am-9:00 pm, Fri: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Sat: 10:00 am-2:00 pm

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. NOTICE - SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT NOTICES AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

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Please do not send correspondence to this address.

P.O. BOX 1259, Dept 98696
Oaks, PA 19456

U VISA	(nation)	BILLING ZIP
CARD NUMBER		
SIGNATURE	******	EXP. DATE
ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	PAYMENT AMOUNT
0839	\$1,743.56	a la

IF PAYING BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD, FILL OUT BELOW OR IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PLEASE REMIT TO ADDRESS BELOW.

February 06, 2017

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ERC P.O. Box 23870 Jacksonville, FL 32241-3870





OAK CREEK WI 53154-8019

Federal Validation Notice:

Pursuant to 15 U.S.C./1692g(a), take notice that:

1. The amount of the claimed debt is the amount stated in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

2. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed is in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

3. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after your receipt of this notice, the debt will be assumed to be valid by us.

4. If you notify our office below in writing within (30) days of your receipt of this notice that the debt, or any portion thereof is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment that may be of record against you. We will mail the verification or copy of the judgment to you.

5. Upon your written request to this office within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor listed in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

Federal Notice:

This is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Tennessee Residents:

This Collection Agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Minnesota Residents:

This Collection Agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

New York State Residents:

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number: 1394588.

North Carolina Residents:

North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit Number: 103967.

Utah Residents:

As required by Utah Law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

Our Corporate Address is: ERC

8014 Bayberry Road Jacksonville, FL 32256

Colorado Residents:

For information about the Colorado Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, see www.coag.gov/car or any successor web address.

A consumer has the right to request in writing that a Debt Collector or Collection Agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the Debt Collector or Collection Agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt. Local Address: 13111 E. Briarwood Ave. #340, Centennial, CO 80012, (303) 309-3839.

California Residents:

1. The State Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 AM or after 9 PM. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at: 1-877-FTC-HELP or <u>www.ftc.gov.</u>

2. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

Massachusetts Residents:

You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten (10) days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven (7) days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. If you wish to discuss this matter, please call us direct, between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM EST, at the telephone number listed on the front of this notice. Local Address: 49 Winter Street, Weymouth, MA 02118.

We at ERC specialize in assisting persons in different financial situations. If additional assistance is needed, please contact us.

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Exhibit B

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March 01, 2017 Creditor: **Original Creditor:** Account Number: Amount of Debt: **Reference Number:**

Sprint Sprint XXXXX8414 \$372.94 0552

YOU HAVE OPTIONS

LUISA AVILES

Our records indicate that your balance with Sprint remains unpaid; therefore your account has been placed with ERC for collection efforts. We are willing to reduce your outstanding balance by offering discounted options.

Option 1: Pay the settlement of \$279.71, please remit by April 05, 2017. Option 2: Pay the settlement of \$298.36, payable in 2 monthly payments of \$149.18. Option 3: Pay the settlement of \$317.01, payable in 3 monthly payments of \$105.67.

We are not obligated to renew this offer.

This letter serves as notification that your delinguent account may be reported to the national credit bureaus.

Payment of the offered settlement amount will stop collection activity on this matter. We will inform Sprint once the payment(s) is/are posted. Payment of the settlement amount will not restore your service with Sprint. If you wish to reestablish service with Sprint at a future date, Sprint may require partial or full payment of your remaining balance at that time, according to Sprint's credit policy.

Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after your receipt of this notice, the debt will be assumed to be valid by us.

View statements, pay your balance, and manage your account online at www.payerc.com.

Telephone: (800) 459-0815 Toll Free. All calls are recorded and may be monitored for training purposes.

Send correspondence to: ERC, P.O. Box 57610, Jacksonville, FL 32241

Office Hours (Eastern Time): Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am-11:00 pm, Fri: 8:00 am-10:00 pm, Sat: 8:00 am-8:00 pm

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. **NOTICE - SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT NOTICES AND CONSUMER RIGHTS**

Please do not send correspondence to this address.

P.O. BOX 1259, Dept 98696 Oaks, PA 19456

IF PAYING BY CF OR IF PAYING BY CHECK OR	REDIT OR DEBIT CARD, FILL O MONEY ORDER PLEASE REM	OUT BELOW IIT TO ADDRESS BELOW,
		BILLING ŻIP
CARD NUMBER		
SIGNATURE		EXP. DATE
REFERENCE NUMBER	AMOUNT OF DEBT	AMOUNT PAID
0552	\$372.94	\$

March 01, 2017

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98690 - 2123 LUISA AVILES 1700 E RIVER PARK CT APT 618 MILWAUKEE WI 53211-2776

ERC P.O. Box 23870 Jacksonville, FL 32241-3870





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Federal Validation Notice:

Pursuant to 15 U.S.C./1692g(a), take notice that:

1. The amount of the claimed debt is the amount stated in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

2. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed is in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

3. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after your receipt of this notice, the debt will be assumed to be valid by us.

4. If you notify our office below in writing within (30) days of your receipt of this notice that the debt, or any portion thereof is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment that may be of record against you. We will mail the verification or copy of the judgment to you.

5. Upon your written request to this office within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor listed in the letter on the reverse side of this notice.

Federal Notice:

This is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Tennessee Residents:

This Collection Agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Minnesota Residents:

This Collection Agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

New York State Residents:

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number: 1394588.

North Carolina Residents:

North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit Number: 103967.

Utah Residents:

As required by Utah Law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

Our Corporate Address is: ERC 2014 Revenue Road

8014 Bayberry Road Jacksonville, FL 32256

Colorado Residents:

For information about the Colorado Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, see <u>www.coag.gov/car</u> or any successor web address.

A consumer has the right to request in writing that a Debt Collector or Collection Agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the Debt Collector or Collection Agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt. Local Address: 13111 E. Briarwood Ave. #340, Centennial, CO 80012, (303) 309-3839.

California Residents:

1. The State Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 AM or after 9 PM. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at: 1-877-FTC-HELP or <u>www.ftc.gov.</u>

2. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

Massachusetts Residents:

You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten (10) days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven (7) days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. If you wish to discuss this matter, please call us direct, between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM EST, at the telephone number listed on the front of this notice. Local Address: 49 Winter Street, Weymouth, MA 02118.

We at ERC specialize in assisting persons in different financial situations. If additional assistance is needed, please contact us or visit our website.

CIVIL COVER SHEET

by l	local rules of court. This fo	the information contained h orm, approved by the Judicial NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REV	Conference of the Unite	ed States in S	the filing and service September 1974, is rec	of pleadings or other papers as r juired for the use of the Clerk of	equired by law, except as provided Court for the purpose of initiating
Pla	ce an X in the appropriate	Box: Gree	n Bay Division			Milwaukee Division	
I. ((a) PLAINTIFFS JENNIFER (GAJEWSKI and LU	JISA AVILES		defendants ENHANCEI	D RECOVERY COM	IPANY, LLC
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee (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 LAND INVOLVED.				
	Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP,	e, Address, and Telephone Numl 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, W ne (414) 482-8001-Facsimile			Attorneys (If Known)		
II.	BASIS OF JURISI	DICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)			PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
□ ¹	U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	Ì	or Diversity Cases Only) of This State	PTF DEF 1 1 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi	
2 2	2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens)	ip of Parties in Item III)		-	2 2 Incorporated and of Business In	Another State
					or Subject of a ign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation	
IV	<u>. NATURE OF SUI</u> CONTRACT	T (Place an "X" in One Box (Only) RTS	FOR	REITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
	 10 Insurance 20 Marine 30 Miller Act 40 Negotiable Instrument 50 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgmen 51 Medicare Act 52 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 53 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 60 Stockholders' Suits 90 Other Contract 95 Contract Product Liability 96 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 20 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 90 All Other Real Property 	t Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product	550 Civil Rights	$\begin{array}{c} & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ &$	Agriculture Other Food & Drug Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 Liquor Laws R.R. & Truck Airline Regs. Occupational Safety/Health Other LABOR Fair Labor Standards Act Labor/Mgmt. Relations Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act Other Labor Litigation Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION Naturalization Application Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee Other Immigration Actions	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIW (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	 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 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination Act 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
V. ☑ 1	I Original 🔲 2 R	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from 3 tate Court	Remanded from Appellate Court] 4 Reinst Reope	ned anot	sferred from her district cify) 6 Multidist Litigatior	
VI	. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq Brief description of c		are filing (I	Oo not cite jurisdictio	onal statutes unless diversity):	
VI	I. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.F	S IS A CLASS ACTION 2. 23	N DE	MAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint: : Ves No
VI	II. RELATED CAS IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	
	TE ebruary 1, 2010 R OFFICE USE ONLY	8	signature of at s/ John D.				
R	ECEIPT #	MOUNT 2:10 ov 00	APPLYING IEP		JUDGE	MAG. JU	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.C.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.

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; 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 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 clerks 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 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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

 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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

)))
JENNIFER GAJEWSKI and LUISA AVILES)
<i>Plaintiff(s)</i>)
V.) Civil Action No. 18-cv-180
))
ENHANCED RECOVERY COMPANY, LLC)
Defendant(s))

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

ENHANCED RECOVERY COMPANY, LLC 8014 BAYBERRY RD. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you receive it) – or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a)(2) or (3) – you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: John D. Blythin Ademi & O'Beilly, LLP

Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP 3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 18-cv-180

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(l))

This summons and the attached complaint for (name of individual and title, if any):

\Box I personally served	the summons and the attached con	mplaint on the individual at (place):				
		On (date)	; or			
\Box I left the summons	and the attached complaint at the	individual's residence or usual place of a	abode with (nan			
, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there						
on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or						
\Box I served the summa	ons and the attached complaint on	(name of individual)				
who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)						
On (date)						
\Box I returned the summ		; or				
□ Other (<i>specify</i>):						
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00			
I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information is	true.				
		Server's signature				
		server s signature				
		Printed name and title				

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Lawsuit Picks at Alleged Issues in Enhanced Recovery Company Debt Collection Letters