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

KEANNA GOCHET, Individually and on Behalf	Case No.: 18-cv-260
of All Others Similarly Situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
Plaintiffs,	
vs.	
CREDIT BUREAU OF NAPA COUNTY, INC. d/b/a CHASE RECEIVABLES,	Jury Trial Demanded ) )
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"), and the Wisconsin Consumer Act, Chapters 421-427, Wisconsin Statutes (the "WCA").

#### **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, 1337 and 1367. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendants directed their collection efforts into the District.

#### **PARTIES**

- 3. Plaintiff Keanna Gochet is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).
- 4. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), in that Defendants sought to collect from her a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes.
- 5. Plaintiff is also a "customer" as defined in the Wisconsin Consumer Act, Wis. Stat. § 421.301(17), in that she engaged in consumer transactions.

- 6. Defendant Credit Bureau of Napa County, Inc. ("Chase Receivables") is a foreign business corporation with its principal place of business located at 165 Passaic Avenue, Suite 200, Fairfield, NJ 07004. It does business under the fictitious or trade name "Chase Receivables."
- 7. Chase Receivables is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.
- 8. Chase Receivables is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes.
- 9. Chase Receivables is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a and Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3).

#### **FACTS**

- 10. On or about December 13, 2017, Chase Receivables mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed to "MONTGOMERY WARDS DMS." A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.
- 11. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.
- 12. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form debt collection letter, used by Defendant to attempt to collect alleged debts.
- 13. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is the first letter that Chase Receivables sent to Plaintiff regarding the alleged debt referenced in <u>Exhibit A</u>.
- 14. Exhibit A contains the following debt validation notice that the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a), requires that debt collectors mail alleged debtors along with, or within five days of, the initial communication:

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

#### Exhibit A.

15. Immediately below the validation notice, <u>Exhibit A</u> includes the following text:

If you would like to submit a dispute you can call us at 877-256-2510 or send it by mail to:

CHASE RECEIVABLES 1247 BROADWAY SONOMA CA 95476-7503 877-256-2510

Sincerely, Laura Dye

#### Exhibit A.

- 16. The statement in <u>Exhibit A</u> that the consumer can submit a dispute by telephone conflicts with the consumer's statutory rights, and is false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer.
  - 17. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) states:
    - (a) Notice of debt; contents

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing—

. . .

- (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector;
- 18. To trigger verification rights, the debtor must provide the debt collector with written notification that there is a dispute. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4).

19. Upon receiving a *written* dispute from the consumer within the 30-day debt validation period, the FDCPA requires the debt collector to contact the creditor and obtain verification of the debt before conducting any further collection efforts. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b):

#### (b) Disputed debts

If the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period described in subsection (a) that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, or that the consumer requests the name and address of the original creditor, the debt collector shall cease collection of the debt, or any disputed portion thereof, until the debt collector obtains verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment, or the name and address of the original creditor, and a copy of such verification or judgment, or name and address of the original creditor, is mailed to the consumer by the debt collector. Collection activities and communications that do not otherwise violate this subchapter may continue during the 30-day period referred to in subsection (a) unless the consumer has notified the debt collector in writing that the debt, or any portion of the debt, is disputed or that the consumer requests the name and address of the original creditor. 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.

20. Exhibit A confusingly directs the debtor to notify Chase Receivables about disputes without informing the consumer that the dispute must be communicated in writing in order to trigger verification. See Osborn v. Ekpsz, LLC, 821 F.Supp.2d 859, 868, 870 (S.D. Tex. Sept. 26, 2011) (collecting cases and concluding that "[e]very district court to consider the issue has held that a debt collector violates §1692g(a) by failing to inform consumers that requests under subsections(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be made in writing."); see also, McCabe v. Crawford & Co., 272 F. Supp. 2d 736, 743-44 (N.D. III. July 8, 2003) (omitting the words "in writing" from the validation notice conflicted with and overshadowed the consumer's statutory right to trigger verification); Chandler v. Eichel, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 156168, at \*9 (S.D. Ind. Sept. 25, 2017); Crafton v. Law Firm of Levine, 957 F.Supp.2d 992, 998 (E.D. Wis. July 9, 2013); Bicking v. Law Offices of Rubenstein & Cogan, 783 F.Supp.2d 841, 845 (E.D. Va. May 5, 2011); Welker

- v. Law Office of Daniel J. Horowitz, 699 F.Supp.2d 1164, 1170 (S.D. Cal. 2010); Beasley v. Sessoms & Rogers, P.A., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 52010 (E.D. N.C. Mar. 1, 2010); Nero v. Law Office of Sam Streeter, P.L.L.C., 655 F.Supp.2d 200, 206 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 10, 2009); Chan v. N. Am. Collectors, Inc., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13353, at \*16 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 24, 2006); Grief v. Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP, 217 F.Supp.2d 336, 340 (E.D.N.Y. Aug. 19, 2002); Carroll v. United Compucred Collections, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25032, at \*28 (M.D. Tenn. Nov. 15 2002).
- 21. The instruction, which is offset and easily read, would confuse and mislead consumers who wish to dispute debts into believing that an oral dispute is equivalent to a dispute made in writing. *See Camacho v. Bridgeport Fin., Inc.*, 430 F.3d 1078, 1082 (9th Cir. 2005) ("The plain meaning of § 1692g is that debtors can trigger the rights under subsection (a)(3) by either an oral or written "dispute," while debtors can trigger the rights under subsections (a)(4) and (a)(5) only through written dispute.").
- 22. Chase Receivables' language contradicts, overshadows and confuses the 15 U.S.C. § 1692g notice.

#### The FDCPA

23. The FDCPA states that its purpose, in part, is "to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(e). It is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there is a valid debt. *Mace v. Van Ru Credit Corp.*, 109 F.3d 338 (7th Cir. 1997); *Baker v. G.C. Services Corp.*, 677 F.2d 775, 777 (9th Cir. 1982); *McCartney v. First City Bank*, 970 F.2d 45, 47 (5th Cir. 1992). The FDCPA broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods; conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor; and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the

collection of a debt; it also requires debt collectors to give debtors certain information. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692d, 1692e, 1692f and 1692g.

- 24. The Seventh Circuit has held that whether a debt collector's conduct violates the FDCPA should be judged from the standpoint of an "unsophisticated consumer." *Avila v. Rubin,* 84 F.3d 222, 227 (7th Cir. 1996); *Gammon v. GC Services, LP,* 27 F.3d 1254, 1257 (7th Cir. 1994). The standard is an objective one—whether the plaintiffs or any class members were misled is not an element of a cause of action. *Bartlett v. Heibl,* 128 F.3d 497, 499 (7th Cir. 1997). "The question is not whether these plaintiffs were deceived or misled, but rather whether an unsophisticated consumer would have been misled." *Beattie v. D.M. Collections Inc.,* 754 F. Supp. 383, 392 (D. Del. 1991).
- 25. Because it is part of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq., the FDCPA should be liberally construed in favor of the consumer to effectuate its purposes. Cirkot v. Diversified Fin. Services, Inc., 839 F. Supp. 941, 944 (D. Conn. 1993).

The [Consumer Credit Protection] Act is remedial in nature, designed to remedy what Congressional hearings revealed to be unscrupulous and predatory creditor practices throughout the nation. Since the statute is remedial in nature, its terms must be construed in liberal fashion if the underlying Congressional purpose is to be effectuated.

N.C. Freed Co. v. Board of Governors, 473 F.2d 1210, 1214 (2d Cir. 1973).

26. Statutory damages are recoverable for violations, whether or not the consumer proves actual damages. *Baker*, 677 F.2d at 780-1; *Woolfolk v. Van Ru Credit Corp.*, 783 F. Supp. 724, 727 and n. 3 (D. Conn. 1990); *Riveria v. MAB Collections, Inc.*, 682 F. Supp. 174, 177 (W.D.N.Y. 1988); *Kuhn v. Account Control Tech.*, 865 F. Supp. 1443, 1450 (D. Nev. 1994); *In re Scrimpsher*, 17 B.R. 999, 1016-7 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. 1982); *In re Littles*, 90 B.R. 669, 680 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1988), *aff'd as modified sub nom. Crossley v. Lieberman*, 90 B.R. 682 (E.D. Pa. 1988), *aff'd*, 868 F.2d 566 (3d Cir. 1989).

27. 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."); Lorang v. Ditech Fin. LLC, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 169286, at \*6 (W.D. Wis. Oct. 13, 2017) ("the weight of authority in this circuit is that a misrepresentation about a debt is a sufficient injury for standing because a primary purpose of the FDCPA is to protect consumers from receiving false and misleading information."); Qualls v. T-H Prof'l & Med. Collections, Ltd., 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 113037, at \*8 (C.D. Ill. July 20, 2017) ("Courts in this Circuit, both before and after Spokeo, have rejected similar challenges to standing in FDCPA cases.") (citing "Hayes v. Convergent Healthcare Recoveries, Inc., 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 139743 (C.D. Ill. 2016)); Long v. Fenton & McGarvey Law Firm P.S.C., 223 F. Supp. 3d 773, 777 (S.D. Ind. Dec. 9, 2016) ("While courts have found that violations of other statutes . . . do not create concrete injuries in fact, violations of the FDCPA are distinguishable from these other statutes and have been repeatedly found to establish concrete injuries."); 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).

- 28. 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").
- 29. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits a debt collector from using "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."
- 30. 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."
  - 31. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) states:
    - a) Notice of debt; contents

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the

- consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing—
- (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector;
- 32. The debt collector must make the 15 U.S.C. § 1692g disclosures in a non-confusing manner. *Bartlett v. Heibl*, 128 F.3d 497, 500 (7th Cir. 1997); *Miller v. McCalla*, *Raymer, Padrick, Cobb, Nichols, & Clark, L.L.C.*, 214 F.3d 872, 875 (7th Cir. 2000); *Janetos v. Fulton Friedman & Gullace, LLP*, 825 F.3d 317, 317-18 (7th Cir. 2016).
- 33. While *Miller* addressed a debt collector's obligation to provide the amount of the debt under 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), the Seventh Circuit has held that the standards for claims under § 1692e and § 1692g are the same. *McMillan v. Collection Professionals, Inc.*, 455 F.3d 754, 759 (7th Cir. 2006):

We cannot accept the district court's view that claims brought under § 1692e or § 1692f are different from claims brought under § 1692g for purposes of Rule 12(b)(6) analysis. Whether or not a letter is 'false, deceptive, or misleading' (in violation of § 1692e) or 'unfair or unconscionable' (in violation of § 1692f) are inquiries similar to whether a letter is confusing in violation of § 1692g. After all, as our cases reflect, the inquiry under §§ 1692e, 1692g and 1692f is basically the same: it requires a fact-bound determination of how an unsophisticated consumer would perceive the letter.

#### The WCA

- 34. The Wisconsin Consumer Act ("WCA") was enacted to protect consumers against unfair, deceptive, and unconscionable business practices and to encourage development of fair and economically sound practices in consumer transactions. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(2).
- 35. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has favorably cited authority finding that the WCA "goes further to protect consumer interests than any other such legislation in the country,"

and is "probably the most sweeping consumer credit legislation yet enacted in any state." *Kett* v. *Community Credit Plan, Inc.*, 228 Wis. 2d 1, 18 n.15, 596 N.W.2d 786 (1999) (citations omitted).

- 36. To further these goals, the Act's protections must be "liberally construed and applied." Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1); see also § 425.301.
- 37. "The basic purpose of the remedies set forth in Chapter 425, Stats., is to induce compliance with the WCA and thereby promote its underlying objectives." *First Wisconsin Nat'l Bank v. Nicolaou*, 113 Wis. 2d 524, 533, 335 N.W.2d 390 (1983). Thus, private actions under the WCA are designed to both benefit consumers whose rights have been violated and also competitors of the violators, whose competitive advantage should not be diminished because of their compliance with the law.
- 38. To carry out this intent, the WCA provides Wisconsin consumers with an array of protections and legal remedies. The Act contains significant and sweeping restrictions on the activities of those attempting to collect debts. *See* Wis. Stats. § 427.104.
- 39. The Act limits the amounts and types of additional fees that may be charged to consumers in conjunction with transactions. Wis. Stats. § 422.202(1). The Act also provides injured consumers with causes of action for class-wide statutory and actual damages and injunctive remedies against defendants on behalf of all customers who suffer similar injuries. *See* Wis. Stats. §§ 426.110(1); § 426.110(4)(e). Finally, "a customer may not waive or agree to forego rights or benefits under [the Act]." Wis. Stat. § 421.106(1).
- 40. Consumers' WCA claims under Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1) are analyzed using the same methods as claims under the FDCPA. Indeed, the WCA itself requires that the court analyze the WCA "in accordance with the policies underlying a federal consumer credit protection act," including the FDCPA. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1).

- 41. Further, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held that WCA claims relating to debt collection are to be analyzed under the "unsophisticated consumer" standard. *Brunton v. Nuvell Credit Corp.*, 785 N.W.2d 302, 314-15. In *Brunton*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court explicitly adopted and followed the "unsophisticated consumer" standard, citing and discussing *Gammon v. GC Servs. Ltd. P'ship*, 27 F.3d 1254, 1257 (7th Cir. 1994). *Id.*
- 42. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(g) states that a debt collector may not: "Communicate with the customer or a person related to the customer with such frequency of at such unusual hours or in such a manner as can reasonably be expected to threaten or harass the customer."
- 43. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(h) states that a debt collector may not: "Engage in other conduct . . . in such a manner as can reasonably be expected to threaten or harass the customer."
- 44. The failure to effectively convey a customer's validation rights can reasonably be expected to harass the customer. *See* Wis. Admin. Code DFI-Bkg § 74.16(9) ("Oppressive and deceptive practices prohibited.") (prohibiting licensed Collection Agencies from engaging in conduct that "can reasonably be expected to threaten or harass the customer, including conduct which violates the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act"); *see also Flood v. Mercantile Adjustment Bureau, LLC*, 176 P.3d 769, 776 (Colo. Jan. 22, 2008) (communicating that a consumer's rights would be preserved through oral communication effectively misleads the consumer into delaying the transmission of the consumer's written request for the verifying documentation, thereby causing the loss of valuable consumer rights violated state statute forbidding harassing, abusive, misleading, and unfair debt collection practices).

#### COUNT I – FDCPA

45. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

- 46. Exhibit A instructs the consumer that "if you would like to submit a dispute you can call us at 877-256-2510 or send it by mail," which fails to inform the unsophisticated consumer that she must raise the dispute in writing in order to effectively trigger her rights to require the debt collector to provide verification of the debt or cease its attempts to collect the debt.
- 47. An oral, telephonic dispute would not invoke the consumer's rights under 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).
  - 48. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10), and 1692g.

#### **COUNT II -- WCA**

- 49. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
  - 50. <u>Exhibit A</u> misinforms the unsophisticated consumer as to her rights.
- 51. The failure to effectively convey a customer's validation rights can reasonably be expected to harass the customer.
  - 52. Defendant violated Wis. Stat. §§ 427.104(1)(g) and 427.104(1)(h).

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 53. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of a Class.
- 54. The Class consists of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent a collection letter in the form represented by Exhibit A to the complaint in this action, (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (d) where the letter was sent between February 20, 2017 and February 20, 2018, (e) and was not returned by the postal service.

55. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. Upon information and

belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.

56. There are questions of law and fact common to the members of the class, which

common questions predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members.

The predominant common question is whether the Defendants complied with the FDCPA and

WCA.

57. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on

the same factual and legal theories.

58. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class members.

Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in consumer credit and debt collection abuse cases.

59. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute.

Individual cases are not economically feasible.

**JURY DEMAND** 

60. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

the Class and against Defendant for:

i. actual damages;

ii. statutory damages;

iii. attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and

iv. such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: February 20, 2018

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

13

By: /s/ John D. Blythin

John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)
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# **EXHIBIT A**



CHASE RECEIVABLES 1247 BROADWAY SONOMA CA 95476-7503

Office Hours: M-TH 8:00am - 8:00pm EST Fri - 8:00am - 5:30pm EST

Date: Creditor: Creditor Account #: Account #: TOTAL BALANCE:

December 13, 2017 MONTGOMERY WARDS - DMS 5290 3846 \$87.43

Dear KEANNA GOCHET.

THIS DEBT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THIS OFFICE FOR COLLECTION. THE RECORDS OF THE ABOVE NAMED CREDITOR SHOW THAT THIS DEBT IS \*PAST DUE\*

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR REPUTATION BY TREATING PEOPLE WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AND COURTESY.

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

If you would like to submit a dispute you can call us at 877-256-2510 or send it by mail to:

CHASE RECEIVABLES 1247 BROADWAY SONOMA CA 95476-7503 877-256-2510

Sincerely, Laura Dye

You have 6 payment options:

- 1. Send us a check. Make all checks payable to MONTGOMERY WARDS DMS and send to the payment address above.
- 2. Pav via a Credit Card.
- 3. Pay via Western Union-(City Code = Chase Receivables, Score CA.)
- 4. Pay via the web www.chaserec.com PIN#
- 5. Use 877-256-2510 and one of our representatives will be happy to assist you.
- 6. Electronic Check Payments can be done over the phone.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

132269-CHR301-AF-693

Toll Free Number: 877-256-2510

Office Hours:

M-TH 8:00am - 8:00pm EST

Fri - 8:00am - 5:30pm EST

CHASE RECEIVABLES 1247 BROADWAY SONOMA CA 95476-7503

NOTICE DATE

**PAY THIS AMOUNT** 

ACCOUNT #

12/13/17

\$87.43

3846

Send Payments and Correspondence to:

KEANNA GOCHET 3540 N 15TH ST MILWAUKEE WI 53206-2301

CHASE RECEIVABLES 1247 BROADWAY SONOMA CA 95476-7503 



#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

Place an X in the appropriate Box:	Green Bay Division	<u> </u>	Milwaukee Division	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS		
KEANNA GOCHET		CREDIT BUI	REAU OF NAPA C	OUNTY, INC.
(b) County of Residence of First Liste	red Plaintiff Milwaukee S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	County of Residence o	f First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	ONLY)
		NOTE: IN LAND	CONDEMNATION CASES, US	
			NVOLVED.	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and		Attorneys (If Known)		
Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Layton (414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482-80				
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION	(Place an "X" in One Box Only)	(For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
<u> </u>	eral Question U.S. Government Not a Party)		TF DEF  1	PTF DEF incipal Place 4 4
Defendant	versity  Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and F of Business In A	· –
t)	•	Citizen or Subject of a  Foreign Country	3 Groeign Nation	6 6 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "				
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
120 Marine	lane Product   362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1	610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other  LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 465 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/DIWW (405(g))   864 SSID Title XVI   865 RSI (405(g))   FEDERAL TAX SUITS   870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)   871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	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   895 Freedom of Information Act   900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice   950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	n 3 Remanded from 4 F	Reopened another (speci		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief of	description of cause: ion of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and W	/isconsin Consumer Act		
_	HECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION INDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:  ☑ Yes ☐ No
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See	e instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATTORN	VEY OF RECORD		
February 20, 2018	s/ John D. Bly	thin		

- <sup>AMOUNT</sup> Case <del>2:18-cv-0026</del>0-DEJ File<del>d 02/20/18</del> Page 1-<del>of 2 Docu</del>ment 1-2

#### 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

		)
WEADING C	OCHET	) )
KEANNA G		
Plaintiff	(s)	) C' '1 A '' N 10 260
V.		) Civil Action No. 18-cv-260
		)
CREDIT BUREAU OF N.	APA COUNTY, INC.	)
Defendar	t(s)	_
	SUMMON	S IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)	CREDIT BUREAU OF I c/o InCorp Services, Inc. 5716 Corsa Ave., Suite 1 Westlake Village, CA 91	10
A lawsuit has been file	ed against you.	
the United States or a United 12(a)(2) or (3) – you must see	States agency, or an offerve on the plaintiff an a	on you (not counting the day you receive it) – or 60 days if you are ficer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. nswer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the on must be served on the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, whose
If you fail to respond,	•	Ill be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
You also must file your answe	r or motion with the cou	rt.
		STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT
Date:		
		Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 18-cv-260

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

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

received by me on (date)	·		
☐ I personally served	I the summons and the attached com	aplaint on the individual at (place):	
		On (date)	; or
☐ I left the summons	and the attached complaint at the ir	ndividual's residence or usual place of a	bode with (name
	, a p	erson of suitable age and discretion who	o resides there,
on (date)	, and mailed a copy	to the individual's last known address; of	or
☐ I served the summ	ons and the attached complaint on (r	name of individual)	
who is designated by l	aw to accept service of process on b	pehalf of (name of organization)	
		on (date)	; or
$\Box$ I returned the sum	mons unexecuted because		; or
	mons unexecuted because		; or
☐ Other (specify):			; or
Other (specify):  My fees are \$		for services, for a total of \$	
Other (specify):  My fees are \$	for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for the formation is the following that this information is the following that the following the following that the following th	for services, for a total of \$ rue.	
Other (specify):  My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for the formation is the following that this information is the following that the following the following that the following th	for services, for a total of \$	
Other (specify):  My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for the formation is the following that this information is the following that the following the following that the following th	for services, for a total of \$ rue.	
Other (specify):  My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for travel and \$ for the formation is the following that this information is the following that the following the following that the following th	for services, for a total of \$ rue.  Server's signature	

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: <u>Chase Receivables Accused of Attempting to Trick Consumers Out of Debt Dispute Protections</u>