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

CHERYL KOBLESKI, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CENTRAL COLLECTION CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Case No.: 17-cv-260

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded

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 Cheryl Kobleski 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 Defendant sought to collect from her a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes.

5. Defendant Central Collection Corporation ("CCC") is a debt collection agency with its principal place of business located at 3055 N. Brookfield Road, Suite 31, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045.

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

With respect to the Plaintiff and the Class, CCC is a debt collector as defined in
 15 U.S.C. § 1692a and Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3).

FACTS

8. On or about November 1, 2016, CCC mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as <u>Exhibit A</u>.

9. 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.

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

11. <u>Exhibit A</u> states the following at the top of the letter:

Account Number:	10/31/2016
Client Name:	920.71
Total Due:	\$0.00

12. Similarly, <u>Exhibit A</u> repeats the same language at the bottom of the letter:

Account Number: 10/31/2016 Client Name: 920.71 Total Due: \$0.00

13. <u>Exhibit A is false, misleading and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer.</u>

14. <u>Exhibit A</u> does not identify the name of the creditor. Instead it states that the "Client Name" is "920.71."

15. The unsophisticated consumer would have no idea to what creditor "970.71" refers.

16. <u>Exhibit A</u> also does not clearly identify the "Total Due."

17. The unsophisticated consumer would have no idea why CCC had sent a collection letter seeking to collect "\$0.00," and which includes "a demand for payment in full today."

18. Plaintiff's counsel had to conduct research of Plaintiff's file to determine, from other communications, that CCC is apparently collecting a medical debt on behalf of "Allergic Diseases S.C."

19. Medical debts are incurred for personal, family or household purposes.

20. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."

21. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(a) specifically prohibits "The false representation of—the character, amount, or legal status of any debt."

22. 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."

23. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.

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

25. Plaintiff had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including travel 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>.

26. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *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).

27. 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").

<u>COUNT I – FDCPA</u>

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

29. The name of the creditor and the "Total Due" on <u>Exhibit A</u> are facially confusing to the unsophisticated consumer.

30. It is not possible to determine how or why CCC would send a letter attempting to collect zero dollars.

31. Either CCC has misrepresented that interest has been added to the debt when it actually has not been added, and thus also misrepresented the amount of the debt, or CCC has misrepresented the interest rate. Either misrepresentation violates the FDCPA.

32. CCC violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(a), and 1692e(10).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

33. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a Class, consisting 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) in which the "Name of Client" field is populated with a number, (d) and where the "Total Due" is "\$0.00," (e) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (f) between February 24, 2016 and February 24, 2017, inclusive, (g) that was not returned by the postal service.

34. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.

35. 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 Defendant complied with 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.

36. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

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

JURY DEMAND

39. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff 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 24, 2017

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: <u>/S/ John D. Blythin</u> Shpetim Ademi (SBN 1026973) John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105) Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944) Denise L. Morris (SBN 1097911) 3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110 (414) 482-8000 (414) 482-8001 (fax) sademi@ademilaw.com jblythin@ademilaw.com meldridge@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A

Case 2:17-cv-00260 Filed 02/24/17 Page 1 of 2 Document 1-1



3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 • Brookfield, WI 53045 (262) 754-2222 • centralcollectioncorp.com

November 1, 2016

Cheryl L Kobleski 6647 W Robinwood Ln Franklin WI 53132-9027 Account Number: Client Name: Total Due: 10/31/2016 920.71 \$0.00

Scan the barcode below to make a payment online



This is a demand for payment in full today.

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

Please: Remit payment directly to our office only.

For your convenience, the following payment options are available:

- 1) Check, Cashier's Check, or Money Order by US Mail
- 2) Visa, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx or Electronic Check by phone
- 3) Visa, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx or Electronic Check through our secure payment website portal at centralcollectioncorp.com

*** Please detach the lower portion and return with your payment *** 473-DNCENT10-5F-09/22/16



3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 Brookfield WI 53045-3336 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE
CARD HOLDER NAME
SIGNATURE
AMOUNT PAID

IF YOU WISH TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, CHECK ONE AND FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW.

Account Number: 10/31/2016 Client Name: 920.71 Total Due: \$0.00

Central Collection Corporation 3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 Brookfield WI 53045-3336

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Cheryl L Kobleski 6647 W Robinwood Ln Franklin WI 53132-9027

November 1, 2016



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the civi	rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the Unit Locket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.) 1 X in the appropriate Box: Green Bay Division	upplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except I States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose Milwaukee Division	of initiating
I. (a)	PLAINTIFFS CHERYL KOBLESKI	DEFENDANTS CENTRAL COLLECTION CORPORATION	
(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 LAND INVOLVED.	THE
(c)	Attomey's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)	
	Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110 (414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482-8001-Facsimile		
	ASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) S. Government 2 3 Federal Question	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Def PTF DEF PTF OUT OF THE OFFENSION OF PTF	fendant)

Citizen of This State

Citizen of Another State

Citizen or Subject of a

Foreign Country

1 1 1

3 3 Foreign Nation

2

Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State 2 Incorporated and Principal Place

of Business In Another State

□ 5 **□** 5

6 6

DEF

2 U.S. Government

Plaintiff

Defendant

4 Diversity

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

(U.S. Government Not a Party)

(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

CONTRACT	TORTS		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
 CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJURY 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 970 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 985 Property Damage Proty Damage 985 Property Damage 930 Other Repetitions 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	FORFETTORE/FENALTY 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 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 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 465 Other Immigration Actions	BANKROFICY 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS \$20 Copyrights \$30 Patent \$40 Trademark \$61 H1A (1395f) \$62 Black Lung (923) \$63 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) \$64 SSID Title XVI \$65 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS \$70 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) \$71 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	 OTHER STATUTES 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 Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) I Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from another district (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation 7 Magistrate Judge from Magistrate Judge ment						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq Brief description of cause: Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P	IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: ☑ Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTOR	NEY OF RECORD			
February 24, 20 ²	17	s/ John D. Bl				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY						
RECEIPT # A	Case 2:17-cv-	00260 Filed 02/	24/17 P age 1 of 2	- Document 1-2	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

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CHERYL KOBLESKI	
Plaintiff	

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v.

Civil Action No. 17-cv-260

CENTRAL COLLECTION CORPORATION

Defendant

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) CENTRAL COLLECTION CORPORATION c/o JOHN L DEHRING 558 PEWAUKEE RD., UNIT A PEWAUKEE, WI 53072

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received 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 plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: John D. Blythin

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP 3620 E. LAYTON AVE. 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.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 17-cv-260

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

	This summons for (name	e of individual and title, if any)			
was rec	ceived by me on (date)				
	□ I personally served t	he summons on the individual a	t (place)		
	on (<i>date</i>) ;			; or	
	□ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (<i>name</i>)				
, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there				les there,	
	on (<i>date</i>) , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or				
	□ I served the summons on (name of individual), who				
	designated by law to ac	ccept service of process on beha	lf of (name of organization)		
			on (<i>date</i>)	; or	
	□ I returned the summons unexecuted because				
	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.				
Date:			Server's signature		
			Printed name and title		
			Server's address		

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Save As...

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Claims Central Collection Corporation Violated FDCPA</u>