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

BARBARA LAKKARD, Individually and on	) Case No.: 17-cv-1070
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,	) CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
Plaintiff,	)
VS.	)
CENTRAL COLLECTION CORPORATION,	<ul><li>) Jury Trial Demanded</li><li>)</li></ul>
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 Barbara Lakkard 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 Plaintiff a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes, namely a medical debt.

- 5. Defendant Central Collection Corporation ("Central Collection") is a debt collection agency with its principal offices at 3055 N. Brookfield Road, Suite 31, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045.
- 6. Central Collection is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.
- 7. Central Collection is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes. Central Collection is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

### **FACTS**

- 8. Plaintiff obtained medical services from "Bell Ambulance Inc." ("Bell") in 2016.
- 9. On or about September 28, 2016, Central Collection mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed to Bell with an account number ending in 7430. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.
- 10. 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.
- 11. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form debt collection letter used by Central Collection to attempt to collect alleged debts.
- 12. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is the first written communication that NCC sent to Plaintiff regarding the alleged debt to which <u>Exhibit A</u> refers.
- 13. <u>Exhibit A</u> contains the debt validation notice that the FDCPA requires to be included with the initial written communication to the consumer. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.
  - 14. Exhibit A states "Total Due: \$1,503.64."

- 15. On or about November 15, 2016, Central Collection mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding the same alleged debt, allegedly owed to Bell with an account number ending in 7430. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as <u>Exhibit B</u>.
- 16. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit B</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.
- 17. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit B</u> is a form debt collection letter used by State Collection to attempt to collect alleged debts.
  - 18. Exhibit B states "Total Due: \$1513.69."
- 19. On or about January 25, 2017, Central Collection mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding the same alleged debt, allegedly owed to Bell with an account number ending in 7430. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as <a href="Exhibit C">Exhibit C</a>.
- 20. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit C</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.
- 21. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit C</u> is a form debt collection letter used by State Collection to attempt to collect alleged debts.
  - 22. Exhibit A states "Total Due: \$1528.29."
- 23. On or about March 13, 2017, Central Collection mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding the same alleged debt, allegedly owed to Bell with an account number ending in 7430. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit D.
- 24. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit D</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.
- 25. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit D</u> is a form debt collection letter used by State Collection to attempt to collect alleged debts.

- 26. Exhibit D states "Total Due: \$1537.55."
- 27. <u>Exhibits A-D</u> refer to the same ambulance services. The different "Total Due" on each letter is not a consequence of any additional services that Bell supposedly provided.
- 28. <u>Exhibits A-D</u> do not include any explanation of why the "Total Due" is increasing.
- 29. When the amount of the debt varies day to day, the debt collector should avoid confusion by including explanatory language in the letter. *See Miller v. McCalla, Raymer, Padrick, Cobb, Nichols, & Clark, L.L.C.*, 214 F.3d 872, 876 (7th Cir. 2000) ("As of the date of this letter, you owe \$ [the exact amount due]. Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive your check, in which event we will inform you before depositing the check for collection. For further information, write the undersigned or call 1-800-[phone number]."); *see also Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin. Servs.*, 362 F.3d 944, 949 (7th Cir. 2004); *Fields v. Wilber Law Firm, P.C.*, 383 F.3d 562, 565-66 (7th Cir. 2004)..
  - 30. No such safe harbor language was used in Exhibits A-D.
- 31. The statements are material because the unsophisticated consumer may pay the amount listed on one of the debt collection letters, but the payment would not actually resolve the debt. The unsophisticated consumer would have no way of knowing if the debt was resolved because Exhibits A-D fail to explain what amount Credit Control is actually collecting.
  - 32. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibits A-D.
  - 33. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused by Exhibits A-D.
  - 34. Plaintiff had to spend time and money investigating Exhibits A-D.

- 35. Plaintiff 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 Exhibits A-D.
- 36. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. 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).

- 37. 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").
- 38. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."
- 39. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(a) specifically prohibits "The false representation of— the character, amount, or legal status of any debt.
- 40. 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."
- 41. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f generally prohibits "unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt."

### COUNT I - FDCPA

- 42. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 43. The Total Due in <u>Exhibits A-D</u> is confusing. The amount of the debt appears to vary day to day, but no *Miller* safe harbor language is provided to inform the unsophisticated consumer of that fact or how to obtain the correct amount owed.

- 44. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused as what the amount of the debt actually is.
  - 45. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(a), 1692e(10) and 1692f.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 46. Plaintiff defines the class as (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent collection letters by Defendant, (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (d) in which the Total Due increases over time but no explanatory language is provided, (e) between August 2, 2016 and August 2, 2017, inclusive, (f) that was not returned by the postal service.
- 47. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.
- 48. 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 <u>Exhibits A-D</u> violate the FDCPA.
- 49. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.
- 50. 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.
- 51. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute. Individual cases are not economically feasible.

### **JURY DEMAND**

52. 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: August 3, 2017

### **ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP**

By: /s/ John Blythin
Shpetim Ademi (SBN 1026973)
John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)
Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944)
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**

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

September 28, 2016

BARBARA LAKKARD 1333 W Granada St Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53221-5100 Account Number: Client Name: Total Due: 7430 Bell Ambulance Inc \$1,503.64

Scan the barcode below to make a payment online



The account for the above named client has been placed with Central Collection Corporation for collection activity.

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 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.

This Collection Agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org.

If paid in full to this office, all collection activity will be stopped.

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.

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

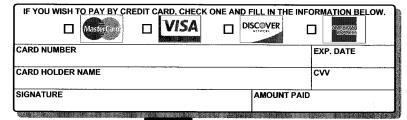
\*\*\* Please detach the lower portion and return with your payment \*\*\*

152-DNCENT10-1F-09/22/16



3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 Brookfield WI 53045-3336 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 28, 2016



Account Number: 7430 Client Name: Bell Ambulance Inc

Total Due: \$1,503.64

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0008120024000355203553221510004---Y1C1DD94C2 152 BARBARA LAKKARD 1333 W Granada St Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53221-5100



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



## Exhibit B

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

November 15, 2016

Barbara Lakkard 1333 W Granada St Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53221-5100 Account Number: Client Name: Total Due: 7430 Bell Ambulance Inc \$1,513.69

Scan the barcode below to make a payment online



We have not received a response from you regarding the account listed above. We would like to work with you in resolving this unpaid account. Please call or send payment in full.

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

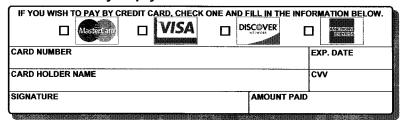
\*\*\* Please detach the lower portion and return with your payment \*\*\*

46-DNCENT10-2F-09/22/16



3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 Brookfield WI 53045-3336 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 15, 2016



Account Number: 7430 Client Name: Bell Ambulance Inc Total Due: \$1,513.69

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0008120024000928832353221510004---Y1C7BC94D9 46 Barbara Lakkard

1333 W Granada St Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53221-5100



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



12345678-000046-01-1-AA

## Exhibit C

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

January 25, 2017

Barbara Lakkard 1333 W Granada St Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53221-5100 Account Number: Client Name: Total Due: See Account List on Reverse Side See Account List on Reverse Side

\$1,528.29

Scan the barcode below to make a payment online



Your payment has not been received. We have attempted to work with you regarding this unpaid balance. If there is a problem, please call us to resolve this matter.

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

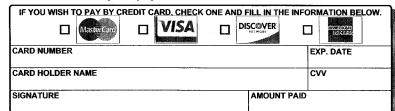
\*\*\* Please detach the lower portion and return with your payment \*\*\*

1689-DNCENT10-4F-09/22/16



3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 Brookfield WI 53045-3336 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 25, 2017



Account Number: See Account List on Reverse Side Client Name: See Account List on Reverse Side

Total Due: \$1,528.29

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Barbara Lakkard 1333 W Granada St Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53221-5100



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



ACCOUNT/DEBTOR # CLIENT TOTAL 7430 Bell Ambulance Inc 1528.29

TOTAL

# Exhibit D

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

March 13, 2017

Barbara Lakkard 150 W Centennial Dr Apt 209 Oak Creek WI 53154-7539

Account Number: Client Name: Total Due:

See Account List on Reverse Side See Account List on Reverse Side

\$1,537.55

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
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx or Electronic Check through our secure payment website portal at centralcollectioncorp.com

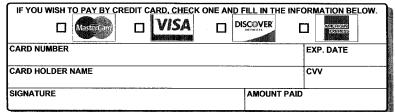
\*\*\* Please detach the lower portion and return with your payment \*\*\*

36-DNCENT10-5F-09/22/16



3055 N Brookfield Rd, Suite 31 Brookfield WI 53045-3336 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March 13, 2017



Account Number: See Account List on Reverse Side Client Name: See Account List on Reverse Side

Total Due: \$1,537.55

0008120024002413222253154753959---Y1D6A6CBC4 36

Barbara Lakkard 150 W Centennial Dr Apt 209 Oak Creek WI 53154-7539



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



ACCOUNT/DEBTOR # CLIENT
7430 Bell Ambulance Inc

TOTAL 1537.55

### **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 Milwaukee Division							
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS			
BARBARA LAKKARD		CENTRAL C	CENTRAL COLLECTION CORPORATION				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			NOTE: IN LAND	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.			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	e, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)				
	3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 531 ne (414) 482-8001-Facsimile	10					
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not	a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only)  P Citizen of This State	TF DEF  1			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizenship of		Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and I of Business In A			
			Citizen or Subject of a  Foreign Country	3 Foreign Nation			
IV. NATURE OF SUI	(Place an "X" in One Box Only)		Poteign Country				
CONTRACT	TORTS	İ	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES		
□ 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 □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	□ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine P □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability □ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability □ 360 Other Personal Injury	362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 2ERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability 2ERSONER PETITIONS 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty	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	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		
☑ 1 Original ☐ 2 R	tate Court Ap	pellate Court	Reopened another (specific		Judgment		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq	e:	ing (Do not cite jurisdiction	ai statutes uniess diversity):			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A UNDER F.R.C.P. 23		DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:  ☑ Yes ☐ No		
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	(See instructions):	JDGE		DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTORN					
February 6, 201	7 s	/ John D. Blytl	hin				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							

- MAG JUDGE - Ca<del>se 2:17-cv-01</del>070 Filed <del>00/03/17 P</del>age 1 of <del>2 Pocume</del>nt 1-5

#### 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

BARBARA LAI	KKARD	)		
Plaintiff		)		
v.		)	Civil Action No. 17-cv-1070	
CENTRAL COLLECTION	I CODDOD A TION	)		
Defendant		)		
Dejenuuni				
	SUMMONS IN	A CIV	VIL ACTION	
To: (Defendant's name and address)	CENTRAL COLLECTION O c/o JOHN L DEHRING 558 PEWAUKEE RD UNIT PEWAUKEE, WI 53072		DRATION	
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 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110  (414) 482-8000-Telephone				
If you fail to respond, j You also must file your answer		entere	d against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.	
			CLERK OF COURT	
Date:			Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk	
			Signature of Clerk of Deputy Clerk	

Civil Action No. 17-cv-1070

### PROOF OF SERVICE

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

	This summons for (nat	me of individual and title, if any)			
was re	ceived by me on (date)				
	☐ I personally served	d the summons on the individua	al at (place)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence o	r usual place of abode with (name)		
		, a perso	n of suitable age and discretion who resid	des there,	
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy t	to the individual's last known address; or		
	☐ I served the summe	ons on (name of individual)		,	who is
	designated by law to	accept service of process on be	chalf of (name of organization)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I returned the sum	mons unexecuted because			; or
	☐ Other ( <i>specify</i> ):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00	
	I declare under penalt	y of perjury that this information	on is true.		
Date:			Server's signature		
			server's signature		
			Printed name and title		
			The same and the		
			Server's address		
			Deiver a muresa		

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>Consumer Sues Central Collection Corp. Over 'Misleading' Debt Notices</u>