

BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Our File No.: 112946

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Matthew Leavens, individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Datamax Corporation d/b/a Interstate Credit Collections,

Defendant.

Docket No:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

BARSHAY | SANDERS PLLC
100 GARDEN CITY PLAZA, SUITE 500
GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530

Matthew Leavens, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as “*Plaintiff*”), by and through the undersigned counsel, complains, states and alleges against Datamax Corporation d/b/a Interstate Credit Collections (hereinafter referred to as “*Defendant*”), as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action seeks to recover for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (“FDCPA”).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d).

3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this Judicial District.

4. At all relevant times, Defendant conducted business within the State of New York.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Matthew Leavens is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.

6. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

7. On information and belief, Defendant Datamax Corporation d/b/a Interstate Credit Collections, is a North Carolina Corporation with a principal place of business in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

8. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

9. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

10. Defendant alleges Plaintiff owes a debt (“the Debt”).

11. The Debt was primarily for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a “debt” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

12. Sometime after the incurrence of the Debt, Plaintiff fell behind on payments owed.

13. Thereafter, at an exact time known only to Defendant, the Debt was assigned or otherwise transferred to Defendant for collection.

14. In its efforts to collect the debt, Defendant contacted Plaintiff by letter (“the Letter”) dated December 13, 2016. (“**Exhibit 1.**”)

15. The Letter was the initial written communication Plaintiff received from Defendant.

16. The Letter is a “communication” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

17. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) provides that it is a violation of the FDCPA to fail to disclose in the initial written communication with the consumer that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

18. The Letter fails to contain the disclosure required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11).

19. Defendant's failure to include the disclosure required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) is a violation of the FDCPA.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

20. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendant, while attempted to collect a consumer debt, failed to advise the consumer in the initial written communication that Defendant was attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

21. This action seeks a finding that Defendant's conduct violates the FDCPA, and asks that the Court award damages as authorized by 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

22. Defendant regularly engages in debt collection.

23. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendant, while attempted to collect a consumer debt, failed to advise the consumer in the initial written communication that Defendant was attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

24. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Common questions of law or fact raised by this class action complaint affect all members of the Class and predominate over any individual issues. Common relief is therefore sought on behalf of all members of the Class. This class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

25. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, and a risk that any adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would, as a practical matter, either be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class not party to the adjudication, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Defendant has acted in a manner applicable to the Class as a whole such that declaratory relief is warranted.

26. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. The management of the class action proposed is not extraordinarily difficult, and the factual and

legal issues raised by this class action complaint will not require extended contact with the members of the Class, because Defendant's conduct was perpetrated on all members of the Class and will be established by common proof. Moreover, Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in actions brought under consumer protection laws.

JURY DEMAND

27. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of this action by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

- a. Certify this action as a class action; and
- b. Appoint Plaintiff as Class Representative of the Class, and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel; and
- c. Find that Defendant's actions violate the FDCPA; and
- d. Grant damages against Defendant pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and
- e. Grant Plaintiff's attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and
- f. Grant Plaintiff's costs; together with
- g. Such other relief that the Court determines is just and proper.

DATED: October 24, 2017

BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

By: /s/ Craig B. Sanders

Craig B. Sanders, Esq.
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Fax: (516) 706-5055
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Our File No.: 112946

INTERSTATE CREDIT COLLECTIONS
711 COLISEUM PLAZA COURT
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27106
(336) 777-3524
NC DEPT. OF INSURANCE PERMIT # 100785

DEC 13 2016

MATTHEW LEAVENS
35 CONTINENTAL DR
CENTEREACH NY 11720

ACCOUNT#: [REDACTED] 9837
RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Balance: 228.54

Dear MATTHEW LEAVENS

You recently had contact with our office concerning your account with PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION.

Federal law requires that we provide you with the following notice pertaining to the above referenced account.

Federal law requires that we inform you that unless you notify this 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 at 711 Coliseum Plaza Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27106 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 judgement 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.

Sincerely,

336-777-3524 / 800-325-4013

FORM LTR #125

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 NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MATTHEW LEAVENS</p> <p>(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>SUFFOLK</u> <i>(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)</i></p> <p>(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)</p> <p>BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC 100 Garden City Plaza, Ste 500, Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 203-7600</p> | <p>DEFENDANTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DATAMAX CORPORATION D/B/A INTERSTATE CREDIT COLLECTIONS</p> <p>County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>FORSYTH</u> <i>(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)</i></p> <p>NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.</p> <p>Attorneys (If Known)</p> |
|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p>II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)</p> | <p>III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)</p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="width:30%;">Citizen of This State</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="radio"/> 1</td> <td style="width:30%;">Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="radio"/> 4</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="radio"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td><input type="radio"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State</td> <td><input type="radio"/> 5</td> <td><input type="radio"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td><input type="radio"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td><input type="radio"/> 6</td> <td><input type="radio"/> 6</td> </tr> </table> | Citizen of This State | <input type="radio"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | Citizen of Another State | <input type="radio"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="radio"/> 5 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="radio"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 6 |
| Citizen of This State | <input type="radio"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="radio"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="radio"/> 5 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="radio"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

| CONTRACT | TORTS | FORFEITURE/PENALTY | BANKRUPTCY | OTHER STATUTES | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 110 Insurance <input type="radio"/> 120 Marine <input type="radio"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="radio"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="radio"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="radio"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="radio"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="radio"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="radio"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="radio"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="radio"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 196 Franchise | <p>PERSONAL INJURY</p> <input type="radio"/> 310 Airplane <input type="radio"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="radio"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="radio"/> 340 Marine <input type="radio"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="radio"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="radio"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice | <p>PERSONAL INJURY</p> <input type="radio"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <p>PERSONAL PROPERTY</p> <input type="radio"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="radio"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="radio"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="radio"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability | <input type="radio"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="radio"/> 690 Other | <input type="radio"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="radio"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <p style="text-align: center;">PROPERTY RIGHTS</p> <input type="radio"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="radio"/> 830 Patent <input type="radio"/> 840 Trademark | <input type="radio"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="radio"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="radio"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="radio"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="radio"/> 450 Commerce <input type="radio"/> 460 Deportation <input type="radio"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input checked="" type="radio"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="radio"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="radio"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="radio"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="radio"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="radio"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="radio"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="radio"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="radio"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="radio"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes |
| <p>REAL PROPERTY</p> <input type="radio"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="radio"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="radio"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="radio"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="radio"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="radio"/> 290 All Other Real Property | <p>CIVIL RIGHTS</p> <input type="radio"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="radio"/> 441 Voting <input type="radio"/> 442 Employment <input type="radio"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="radio"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="radio"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="radio"/> 448 Education | <p>PRISONER PETITIONS</p> <p>Habeas Corpus:</p> <input type="radio"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="radio"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="radio"/> 530 General <input type="radio"/> 535 Death Penalty <p>Other:</p> <input type="radio"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="radio"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="radio"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="radio"/> 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement | <p>LABOR</p> <input type="radio"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="radio"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="radio"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="radio"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="radio"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="radio"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act | <p>SOCIAL SECURITY</p> <input type="radio"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="radio"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="radio"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="radio"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="radio"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) | |
| | | | <p>IMMIGRATION</p> <input type="radio"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="radio"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions | <p>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</p> <input type="radio"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="radio"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609 | |

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 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 - Transfer
 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 15 USC §1692

Brief description of cause: 15 USC §1692 Fair Debt Collection Practices Act Violation

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. **DEMAND \$** _____

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See Instructions)

JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE November 8, 2017 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s Craig B. Sanders

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I, Craig B. Sanders, counsel for Plaintiff, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

- monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more of its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that " A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

1. Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County: NO
2. If you answered "no" above:
 - a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? YES
 - b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County? _____

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.
 Yes No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?
 Yes (If yes, please explain) No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: /s Craig B. Sanders

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| Matthew Leavens, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated |) | |
| _____ |) | |
| <i>Plaintiff(s)</i> |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | Civil Action No. |
| |) | |
| Datamax Corporation d/b/a Interstate Credit Collections |) | |
| _____ |) | |
| <i>Defendant(s)</i> |) | |

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*
Datamax Corporation d/b/a Interstate Credit Collections
711 Coliseum Plaza Court
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27106

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:

BARSHAY SANDERS PLLC
100 GARDEN CITY PLAZA, SUITE 500
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

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

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Consumer Claims Datamax Corporation Failed to Identify Itself as a Debt Collector](#)
