Case 2:17-cv-02227-LDD Document 1 Filed 05/16/17 Page 1 of 14 CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

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.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Terry McCants					DEFENDANTS			
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(b) County of Residence of	First Listed Pl	aintiff <u>F</u>	Philadelphia		County of Residence		_	
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							INVOLVED.	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Alexander R. Ferrante, E. Gold & Ferrante, P.C.		d Telephone)	Number)		Attorneys (If Kn	iown)		
261 Old York Road, Suite	526, Jenki	ntown, PA	19046					
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☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault,		Pharmaceutical			PRO	PERTY RIGHTS	450 Commerce
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☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 360 Other P	ersonal	Property Damage		40 Railway Labor Act	🗇 865 R	SI (405(g))	☐ 893 Environmental Matters
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	15 usc	J.S. Civil Sta 1681	atute under which you a	re filing (Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unles	s diversity):	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief des	cription of ca credit repo						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.			N D	DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND:				
VIII. RELATED CASI				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· .	JOHN DEWAND.	
IF ANY		tructions):	JUDGE			DOC	KET NUMBER	
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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- **L(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.Cv.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 NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity.)

- citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: 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 clerk(s) 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 six 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

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.

- 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 actual dollar amount 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.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE 1	MANAGEMENT.I	TRACK DESIG	NATION F	ORM		
herself and allothers situated consumer	six, larly	Classif	chan (CIVIL ACTION	1	
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In accordance with the Civplaintiff shall complete a C filing the complaint and ser side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant the plaintiff and all other pto which that defendant below.	Case Management To the a copy on all defer event that a defence that shall, with its first a carties, a Case Manage	rack Designation and ants. (See § 1 lant does not an appearance, subgement Track D	n Form in all :03 of the pl gree with the mit to the cl	l civil cases at th an set forth on the plaintiff regar erk of court and	ne time one reverseding said	of se id
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(b) Social Security – Cases and Human Services de	requesting review or enying plaintiff Soci	of a decision of al Security Ben	the Secretar efits.	y of Health	()
(c) Arbitration – Cases req	uired to be designat	ed for arbitratio	n under Loc	al Civil Rule 53	.2. ()
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management cases.)			•		()
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Telephone

FAX Number

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

Case 2:17-cv-02227 Department 1 Trived 05/16/17 Page 5 of 14

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to assignment to appropriate calendar.	0!
Address of Plaintiff: McCants - 1619 E. Julpe ho	orken Street Phila. PA 19138
Address of Defendant: Revenue Group - 78011. no	-Kley Industrial Parkuis Su-ted
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Philadelphilade (Use Reverse Side For)	A Clevelan 2,0H 44
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation a	and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)	
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	Yes No.
Case Number:Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one y	ear previously terminated action in this court? Yes No
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior action in this court?	suit pending or within one year previously terminated
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier r	Yes No No
terminated action in this court?	Yes No
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	ts case filed by the same individual?
	Yes D Not
CIVIL: (Place ✔ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. Marine Personal Injury
5. D Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. Civil Rights	7. Products Liability
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
11. V All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) (Please specify)	
ARBITRATION CERTI (Check Appropriate Ca counsel of record do hereby certify	ctegory) y:
☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and b \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	pelief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
DATE: 5/c5/2017	45381
Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if ther	Attorney I.D.# te has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or w	vithin one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 5(15/2017 C)	45381
Attorney act aw	Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TERRY MCCANTS, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated consumers,)	Case No.:
Plaintiff,)	
vs.)	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
REVENUE GROUP,)	
Defendant.)	
	_)	

Plaintiff, Terry McCants (hereinafter "Plaintiff") alleges:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action for damages arising from Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA").

JURSIDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 15 U.S.C. §1692k (d).
- 3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C §1391(b)

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff is a natural person, who at all relevant times has resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is a "consumer" as the phrase is defined and applied under 15 U.S.C. §1692(a) of the FDCPA.

- 5. Defendant is a corporation doing business in the State of Pennsylvania, with its corporate headquarters located at 780 Hinckley Industrial Parkway Suite 200 Cleveland, Ohio 44109.
- 6. Defendant is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined and applied under 15 U.S.C. §1692(a) of the FDCPA in that they regularly attempt to collect on debts primarily incurred for personal, family or household purposes.

FACTUAL STATEMENT

- 7. The FDCPA was enacted to prevent debt collectors from engaging in abusive tactics in order to collect debts from generally unsophisticated consumers.
- 8. One type of conduct in particular which Congress sought to prevent is the pursuit by debt collectors in collecting extra fees from the consumer.
- 9. On a date better known by Defendant, Plaintiff incurred a debt from hiring pest control services.
- 10. Personal pest control debts are "debts" as that term is used and defined under the FDCPA.
- 11. In attempt to collect this debt from Plaintiff, Defendant mailed Plaintiff a dunning letter on November 27, 2017.
- 12. The letter informed Plaintiff of the following: "NO FEE TO PAY ONLINE."
- 13. The letter also informed Plaintiff: "All credit card and check by phone payments are subject to a \$4.95 convenience fee."
- 14. Seeking to collect an incidental convenience fee in connection with the collection of a debt where underlying state law does not provide for such a fee, or where the underlying contract does not permit such fees, is a violation of the FDCPA.
- 15. Pennsylvania law does not expressly authorize a convenience fee for payments by phone.

- 16. Further, upon information and belief, the contract between Plaintiff and the original creditor does not expressly authorize a \$4.95 service charge as Defendant seeks here.
- 17. Given that the charge is only sought for phone payments, it is clear that the charge is a convenience fee as opposed to a processing fee.
- 18. By falsely implying that Defendant is legally allowed to seek a \$4.95 convenience fee, and by attempting to collect an illegal convenience fee, Defendant's letter violates the FDCPA.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

The Class

- 19. Plaintiff brings this as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.
- 20. Plaintiff seeks certification of the following classes, initially defined as follows:

<u>The Class:</u> All consumers with a Pennsylvania address that have received collection letters from Defendant concerning debts used primarily for personal, household, or family purposes within one year prior to the filing of this complaint seeking to collect a \$4.95 convenience fee.

21. Excluded from the Class is Defendant herein, and any person, firm, trust, corporation, or other entity related to or affiliated with the defendant, including, without limitation, persons who are officers, directors, employees, associates or partners of Defendant.

Numerosity

- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant has sent collections letters in attempt to collect a debt to hundreds if not thousands of consumers throughout the Pennsylvania, each of which violates the FDCPA. The members of the Class, therefore, are believed to be so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
- 23. The letters sent by Defendant, and received by the Class, are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."

24. The exact number and identities of the Class members are unknown at this time and can only be ascertained through discovery. Identification of the Class members is a matter capable of ministerial determination from Defendant's records.

Common Questions of Law and Fact

25. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominates over any questions affecting only individual Class members. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation: (i) whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA; (ii) whether the Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the conduct of Defendant; (iii) whether the Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendants wrongdoing and, if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and (iv) whether the Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.

Typicality

26. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff's Class defined in this complaint have claims arising out of the Defendants common uniform course of conduct complained of herein. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, and Plaintiff has no interests adverse or antagonistic to the interests of other members of the Class.

Protecting the Interests of the Class Members

- 27. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the Class members' interests, in that the Plaintiff's counsel is experienced and, further, anticipates no impediments in the pursuit and maintenance of the class action as sought herein.
- 28. Neither the Plaintiff nor his counsel have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.

Proceeding Via Class Action is Superior and Advisable

- 29. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted, this being specifically envisioned by Congress as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA, as codified by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692(k).
- 30. The members of the Class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action.
- 31. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties.
- 32. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff's Class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
- 33. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify one or more classes only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).
- 34. A class action will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment also will permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.
- 35. Absent a class action, the Class members will continue to suffer losses borne from Defendants breaches of Class members' statutorily protected rights as well as monetary damages,

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thus allowing and enabling: (a) Defendants conduct to proceed and; (b) Defendants to further enjoy the benefit of its ill-gotten gains.

Defendants have acted, and will act, on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate a final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq.

- 36. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in the above paragraphs and incorporates them as if specifically set forth at length herein.
- 37. Defendant's false and deceptive representations to Plaintiff violate the below provisions of the FDCPA.
- 38. Section 1692e provides:

§ 1692e. False or misleading representations

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section: . . .

- (2) The false representation of--
 - (A) the character, amount, or legal status of any debt; or
 - (B) any services rendered or compensation which may be lawfully received by any debt collector for the collection of a debt.

Principality of the Co.

- (10) The use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.
- 39. Section 1692f provides:

§ 1692f. Unfair Practices

(1) The collection of any amount (including any interest, fee, charge, or expense incidental to the principal obligation) unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Terry McCants, respectfully requests that this Court do the following for the benefit of Plaintiff:

- A. Certify the class described herein and appoint Plaintiff as Lead Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's Counsel as Lead Counsel;
- B. Enter judgment against Defendant for statutory damages, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) and (B), in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Plaintiff and each member of the class;
- C. Provide injunctive relief in the form of stopping Defendant from seeking illegal fees from consumer;
- D. Award costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)3;
- E. Grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

40. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Dated this 15th of May, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/ Alexander R. Ferrante
Alexander R. Ferrante, Esq.
Gold & Ferrante, P.C.
261 Old York Road, Suite 526
Jenkintown, PA 19046

47 Cie

RevenueGroup

4780 Hinckley Industrial Parkway, Suite 200 Cleveland OH 44109

November 27, 2016

Fax: (216) 763-2152

COLLECTION NOTICE

This is an attempt to collect a debt.

Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.



PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payments by Internet

www.revenuegroup.com

NO FEE TO PAY ONLINE

Payments by mail
Please send to the address below

Reference Creditor	Account Numb	r Service Date Balance
40963602 ROLLINS CORPORATION - (ORKIN PEST CONTROL 1	0303 \$131.44

The accounts listed above have been referred to our office for collections. We urge	NOV TO THE REPORT OF THE PARTY	
you to send payment in full or contact this office at 800-291-4986.	AMOUNT DUE:	\$131.44
L		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

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, 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.

All credit card and check by phone payments are subject to a \$4.95 convenience fee.

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IONCAPI013000

To ensure proper credit, enclose the bottom portion of this letter with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

PO Box 93983 Cleveland OH 44101-5983 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Reference #:	40963602
Amount:	\$131.44

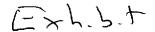
ACA
INTERNATIONAL
TRANSCIPRING OF GREAT

November 27, 2016

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REVENUE GROUP
PO Box 93983
Cleveland OH 44101-5983

ŭ n	FILL OUT BELOW FOR CREDIT CARD PAYS CARD NUMBER PLUS 3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE (on back of card)	WENTS.
		EXP. DATE
	CARDHOLDER NAME	AMOUNT \$
	CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE	Antonio de la companio de al ajuga, esparante



ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Revenue Group in Hot Water Over Debt Collection Practices