# BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 Email: *ConsumerRights@BarshaySanders.com Attorneys for Plaintiff* Our File No.: 113354

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Rhonda Mingo, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Docket No:

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT** 

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

EOS CCA, Inc.,

Defendant.

Rhonda Mingo, 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 EOS CCA, Inc. (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.

BARSHAY | SANDERS PLLC 100 GARDEN CTY PLAZA, SUITE 500 GARDEN CTY, NEW YORK 11530 4. At all relevant times, Defendant conducted business within the State of New York.

#### **PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff Rhonda Mingo is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Erie County, New York.

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

7. On information and belief, Defendant EOS CCA, Inc., is a Massachusetts Corporation with a principal place of business in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

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**

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

13. In its efforts to collect the debt, Defendant contacted Plaintiff by letter ("the Letter") dated September 10, 2016. ("<u>Exhibit 1</u>.")

14. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff received from Defendant.

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

## FIRST COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e

16. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

17. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e prohibits a debt collector from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

18. While § 1692e specifically prohibits certain practices, the list is non-exhaustive, and does not preclude a claim of falsity or deception based on any non-enumerated practice.

19. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) prohibits the threat to take any action that cannot legally be

taken or that is not intended to be taken.

20. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) prohibits the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.

21. The City of Buffalo, pursuant to Ordinance Chapter 140, requires anyone doing collecting in the city to have a Collection Agency License.

22. The possession of a license is required even if the debt collector's principal place of business is outside the City limits.

23. Plaintiff is a resident of the City of Buffalo, New York.

24. Defendant sent the Letter to Plaintiff's Buffalo residence.

25. Upon information and belief, Defendant does not possess a Buffalo Collection Agency License.

26. As such, Defendant violated § 1692e by using a false, deceptive and misleading representation in its attempt to collect a debt.

## SECOND COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e

27. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

28. Plaintiff's debt was incurred pursuant to a contract between Plaintiff and the creditor.

29. N.Y.C.P.L.R. § 5001(a) provides that interest shall be recovered upon a sum awarded because of a breach a contract.

30. An award of interest under § 5001 is mandatory.

31. N.Y.C.P.L.R. § 5001(b) provides that interest shall be computed from the earliest ascertainable date the cause of action existed.

32. The creditor, and any assignee or successor-in-interest, possessed a guaranteed right to interest on the Debt from, at the latest, September 10, 2016.

33. As such, the amount stated in the Letter was subject to the accrual of interest.

34. The Letter failed to disclose that the amount stated may increase due to interest.

35. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failure, violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

# CLASS ALLEGATIONS

#### Case 1:17-cv-00545 Document 1 Filed 06/15/17 Page 4 of 5

36. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all persons similarly situated in the City of Buffalo from whom Defendant attempted to collect a consumer debt without a required Buffalo Collection Agency License, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

37. 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.

38. Defendant regularly engages in debt collection.

39. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendant attempted to collect delinquent consumer debts without a required Buffalo Collection Agency License.

40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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

43. 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: June 14, 2017

#### **BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC**

By: <u>/s/ David M. Barshay</u> David M. Barshay, Esq. 100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 dbarshay@barshaysanders.com *Attorneys for Plaintiff* Our File No.: 113354

~ ; ;	Case 1:17-cv-00545 I DATE: 09/10/16	Document 1-1	Filed 06/15/17	Page 1 of 1	
	35A Rust Lane Boerne, TX 78006-8202				EOS CCA View Blvd Ste 130 ochester NY 14623 (877) 544-8110 (585) 283-6319
	ID. NO: 2938 0138 1 AT 'A-01-2WC-A 1414111111111111111111111111111111111		կպ <b>կկկկկ</b> կկրկ EOS CCA PO BOX 31131 ROCHEST <b>E</b> R N	،ال،اساساا(۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱۱	լիսերդուլու

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

AS A RESULT OF NON-PAYMENT, THE ABOVE MENTIONED ACCOUNT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO OUR OFFICE FOR RESOLUTION.

UNLESS YOU NOTIFY THIS OFFICE WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THIS NOTICE THAT YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THIS DEBT OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, THIS OFFICE WILL ASSUME THIS DEBT IS VALID. IF YOU NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM RECEIVING THIS NOTICE THAT YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THIS DEBT OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, THIS OFFICE WILL OBTAIN VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT OR OBTAIN A COPY OF A JUDGMENT AND MAIL YOU A COPY OF SUCH JUDGMENT OR VERIFICATION. IF YOU REQUEST OF THIS OFFICE IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THIS NOTICE THIS OFFICE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR, IF DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT CREDITOR.

COLLECTOR: ROUTE ASSIGNED

CREDITOR	REFERENCE	ACCT#	AMOUNT OWED
SRA MEDICAL IMAGING LLC SRA MEDICAL IMAGING LLC	7052 0202	2938 2939	16.00 105.00
	ΤΟΤΑ	L:	121.00

\*\*\*\* ANY CHECK RETURNED FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDS OR ACCOUNT CLOSED WILL BE ASSESSED A \$20.00 PROCESSING FEE.

OFFICE HOURS	(EST):	MONDAY	-	THURSDAY	8:00	AM	-	9:00 PN	A
	· · ·			FRIDAY	8:00	AM	-	5:00 PM	Л
				SATURDAY	8:00	AM	۴	12:00 PM	Λ

New York City Dept of Consumer Affairs License #0960830. You may contact our office at the toll free number above during the hours noted and speak to David Weydt or any available representative.

\*\*THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT BY A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY This fax was received by GFI FAXmaker fax server. For more information, visit: http://www.gfi.com

# Case 1:17-cv-00545 Poetro Chief Control Case 1:17-cv-00545 Page 1 of 1

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.)* 

purpose of initiating the civil do I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	cket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTI	ONS ON NEXT PAGE OF T	THIS FOR	M.) DEFENDAN	rs				
RHONDA MINGO				EOS CCA, INC.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff ERIE (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>PLYMOUTH</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCAT				ION OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC 100 Garden City Plaza, Ste 500, Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 203-7600				Attorneys (If Known		T OF LAND INVO	LVED.		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPA	L PARTIES (			
O 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff • 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)				or Diversity Cases Only)     and One Box for Defendant)       PTF     DEF     PIF     DEF       izen of This State     O 1     O 1     Incorporated or Principal Place     O 4     O 4       of Business In This State					
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant				of Business In Another State					O 5 O 6
				preign Country	0, 0,	T ofeigh Wation		0 0	00
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			FC	DRFEITURE/PENALTY	BAN	KRUPTCY	OTHER	STATUTI	ES
<ul> <li>O 110 Insurance</li> <li>O 120 Marine</li> <li>O 130 Miller Act</li> <li>O 140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>O 150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>O 151 Medicare Act</li> <li>O 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)</li> <li>O 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>O 160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>O 190 Other Contract</li> <li>O 195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>O 196 Franchise</li> </ul> <b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <ul> <li>O 210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>O 220 Foreclosure</li> <li>O 245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>O 290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	TORTS           PERSONAL INJURY         PERSONAL INJURY           0 310 Airplane         O 365 Personal Injury -           0 315 Airplane Product         Product Liability           1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		Y         O         625           O         690           TY         O         710           O         720         0           O         720         0           O         751         0           O         791         0           S         O         791           O         462         0	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ) Other LABOR	<ul> <li>0 422 Appea</li> <li>0 423 With 28 US</li> <li><b>PROPE</b></li> <li>0 820 Copyi</li> <li>0 830 Paten</li> <li>0 840 Trade</li> <li><b>SOCIAI</b></li> <li>0 861 HIA (</li> <li>0 862 Black</li> <li>0 863 DIW(</li> <li>0 864 SSID</li> <li>0 865 RSI (a)</li> </ul> <b>FEDER</b> 0 870 Taxes or Do 0 871 IRS—26 U	0 422 Appeal 28 USC 158       0 375 False Claims A         0 422 Appeal 28 USC 157       0 400 State Reaport         28 USC 157       0 410 Antitrust         0 422 Appeal 28 USC 157       0 400 State Reaport         28 USC 157       0 410 Antitrust         0 422 Appeal 28 USC 157       0 410 Antitrust         28 USC 157       0 410 Antitrust         0 423 Withdrawal       0 430 Banks and Ban         28 USC 157       0 410 Antitrust         0 430 Banks and Ban       0 450 Commerce         0 830 Patent       0 460 Deportation         0 840 Trademark       0 460 Caster Influ         0 861 HIA (1395ff)       0 865 RSI (405(g))         0 864 SSID Title XVI       0 890 Cher Statutory         0 865 RSI (405(g))       0 895 Freedom of Inf Act         0 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)       0 899 Administrative         0 871 IRS—Third Party       26 USC 7609         26 USC 7609       0 950 Constitutionalit			ment g ed and ions dities/ ctions tters nation ccedure peal of
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in • 1 Original O 2 Remo Proceeding Court	oved from State O 3 Rem	nanded from C vellate Court	4 Reinsta Reop		er District	O 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer		Multidistric Litigation - Direct File	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N: (Enter U.S. Civil Statute u 15 USC §1692 – Fair Deb		a numb	• Previous Bankru er and judge for any assoc a separate attachment if neo	iated bankruptcy				
VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS UNDER RULE 23		DI	EMAND \$	JU	CHECK YES onl RY DEMAND:		n complair O No	nt:
IX. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(S) (See Instructions)	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
X. This Case (check one b	oox) 🛛 Is not a refiling of a	previously dismissed action	n 🗆	is a refiling of case num	ber	previously dismiss	ed by Judge		

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s David M. Barshay

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

# **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

for the

## WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Rhonda Mingo, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated	) ) )	
Plaintiff(s)	)	
	)	Civil Action No.
V.	)	
	)	
EOS CCA, Inc.	)	
Defendant(s)	)	

## SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) EOS CCA, Inc. 700 Longwater Drive Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

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: <u>EOS CCA Sued Over Allegedly Illegal Collection Practices</u>