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

TROY NORTON, Individually and on Behalf of) Case No.: 18-cv-1601	
All Others Similarly Situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	
Plaintiff,)	
VS.)	
CLIENT SERVICES INC.,	Jury Trial Demanded	
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") and the Wisconsin Consumer Act, Chs. 421-427, Wis. Stats. (the "WCA").

JURISDICTION

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, 1337, and 1367. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant directed its collection efforts into the District.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff Troy Norton 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 him a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes.
- 5. Plaintiff is also a "customer" as defined in the WCA, Wis. Stat. § 421.301(17), in that the alleged debt arose from an agreement, or series of agreements, to defer payment.

- 6. Defendant Client Services, Inc. ("CSI") is a foreign business corporation with its principal offices located at 3451 Harry S. Truman Blvd, St. Charles, Missouri 63301.
- 7. CSI does substantial business in Wisconsin and maintains a registered agent for service of process in Wisconsin at Corporation Service Company, 8040 Excelsior Drive, Suite 400, Madison, Wisconsin 53717.
- 8. CSI is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.
- 9. CSI is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes.
- 10. CSI is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a and Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3).

FACTS

October 31, 2017 Letter

- 11. On or about October 31, 2017, CSI mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt owed to "Citibank, N.A." ("Citibank"). A copy of this letter is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A.
- 12. The alleged debt referenced in <u>Exhibit A</u> was associated with a "GOODYEAR" credit card account, and the alleged debt was incurred for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 13. The alleged credit card account debt is an open-end credit plan that is payable in installments, and any purchases made with the account were consumer credit transactions. *See* Wis. Stat. §§ 421.301(10) (defining "consumer credit transaction"); 421.301(15) (defining

"credit card"); 421.301(27) (defining "open-end credit plan"); 421.301(30) (defining "payable in

installments").

14. 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.

15. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form debt collection letter, used by

CSI to attempt to collect alleged debts.

16. Exhibit A is false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated

consumer as to the amount, character, and legal status of the alleged debt CSI is attempting to

collect from Plaintiff.

17. The header in Exhibit A contains the following:

RE: Citibank, N.A.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: XXXXXXXXXXXXXX8570

NEW BALANCE: \$927.56

MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE: \$290 REFERENCE NUMBER: \$3175

Exhibit A.

18. The body in Exhibit A contains the following settlement offer:

We are offering you a settlement amount of \$372.00, to settle this GOODYEAR account for less than balance due. This offer is valid until 11/20/2017. If payment of the offered settlement amount is not received in our office by this date, this offer will be withdrawn and will be deemed null and void. We are not obligated to renew this offer. If you are unable to pay the offered settlement amount by this due date, please contact our office for alternative payment options which may be available to you.

Exhibit A.

19. The body in Exhibit A also contains the following:

As of the date of this letter, the balance due is \$927.56. If on the date you make a payment, the balance due is greater because of interest or other charges, our office will honor the above settlement offer if received in our office by the above due date.

Exhibit A.

- 20. <u>Exhibit A</u> is false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer as to the amount, character, and legal status of the alleged debt. The consumer would have no way to know which amount was "due" as of the date of <u>Exhibit A</u>.
- 21. The header in Exhibit A states that the "New Balance" of the account is \$927.56 but that the "Minimum Payment Due" (*i.e.*, the portion of the balance comprising the installment payments actually *due* when Exhibit A was mailed) was only \$290.
- 22. However, the body of Exhibit A states: "As of the date of this letter, the balance due is \$927.56."
- 23. The statements that the "minimum payment due" is \$290 but the "balance due is \$927.56" are inherently contradictory, false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer.
- As a matter of law, the amount due cannot simultaneously be both the entire balance of the account and the minimum payment. Either the debt has been accelerated, and the entire balance is due, or it has not been accelerated, and only the minimum payment (*i.e.*, the past-due and current installments) is due. *See Machnik v. RSI Enters.*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160772, at *6 (E.D. Wis. Sept. 29, 2017) ("In the context of a debt, 'owing' an amount is distinguishable from the amount 'due.' For example, a debtor might 'owe' a certain amount on a loan, but only a portion of that amount will be 'due' at a particular time."); *see also, Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin. Servs.*, 362 F.3d 944, 947-48 (7th Cir. 2004) (debt collector violates the FDCPA by confusing consumer or misleading the consumer to believe it is collecting portions of the balance which "might not yet be due, let alone overdue.").
- 25. CSI compounds the confusing and misleading effect by offering to settle the "account" for \$372.00.

- 26. CSI further exacerbates the confusing and misleading effect by failing to state the amount CSI is attempting to collect on the payment remittance slip that is included with <u>Exhibit A</u>.
- 27. It is not unusual for banks to hire a debt collector to collect only the "past due" portions of a credit card account, *i.e.*, the missed payments of and fees, rather than the entire balance, and in fact may be improper for a bank to engage a third-party debt collector to attempt to collect portions of the account which are not yet due. *See Barnes v. Advanced Call Ctr. Techs., LLC*, 493 838, 840 (7th Cir. 2007) ("only the past due amount, the amount owed [to the debt collector] can be the 'amount of the debt' under § 809(a)(1).").
- 28. The different amounts that <u>Exhibit A</u> simultaneously alleges to be "due" render <u>Exhibit A</u> confusing and misleading to the unsophisticated consumer, who would be misled as to the amount CSI was actually attempting to collect.
- 29. Upon information and belief, Citibank had not accelerated the balance of Plaintiff's account as of the date of Exhibit A.
- 30. Upon information and belief, the statement that \$927.56 is "due" is a false and misleading representation about the amount, character, and legal status of the debt. The entire credit card balance was not "due" when CSI mailed <u>Exhibit A</u> to Plaintiff. The unsophisticated consumer, however, would not know this.

November 28, 2017 Letter

31. In fact, on or about November 28, 2017, CSI mailed another debt collection letter to Plaintiff, regarding this same alleged Citibank credit card account. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit B.

32. 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.

33. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit B</u> is a form debt collection letter, used by

CSI to attempt to collect alleged debts.

34. Exhibit B is false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated

consumer as to the amount, character, and legal status of the alleged debt CSI is attempting to

collect from Plaintiff.

35. The header in Exhibit B contains the following:

RE: Citibank, N.A.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: XXXXXXXXXXXXXX8570

NEW BALANCE: \$987.82

MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE: \$361
REFERENCE NUMBER: \$3175

Exhibit B.

36. The body in Exhibit B contains the following settlement offer:

We are offering you a settlement amount of \$396.00, to settle this GOODYEAR account for less than balance due. This offer is valid until 12/18/2017. If payment of the offered settlement amount is not received in our office by this date, this offer will be withdrawn and will be deemed null and void. We are not obligated to renew this offer. If you are unable to pay the offered settlement amount by this due date, please contact our office for alternative payment options which may be available to you.

Exhibit B.

37. The body in Exhibit B also contains the following:

As of the date of this letter, the balance due is \$987.82. If on the date you make a payment, the balance due is greater because of interest or other charges, our office will honor the above settlement offer if received in our office by the above due date.

Exhibit B.

38. <u>Exhibit B</u> is false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer as to the amount, character, and legal status of the alleged debt. The consumer would have no way to know which amount was "due" as of the date of <u>Exhibit B</u>.

- 39. The header in Exhibit A states that the "New Balance" of the account is \$987.82 but that the "Minimum Payment Due" (*i.e.*, the portion of the balance comprising the installment payments actually *due* when Exhibit B was mailed) was only \$361.
- 40. However, the body of Exhibit A states: "As of the date of this letter, the balance due is \$987.82."
- 41. The statements that the "minimum payment due" is \$361 but the "balance due is \$987.82" are inherently contradictory, false, deceptive, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer.
- 42. Upon information and belief, Citibank had not accelerated the balance of Plaintiff's account as of the date of Exhibit B.
- 43. Upon information and belief, the statement that \$987.82 is "due" is a false and misleading representation about the amount, character, and legal status of the debt. The entire credit card balance was not "due" when CSI mailed <u>Exhibit B</u> to Plaintiff. The unsophisticated consumer, however, would not know this.
 - 44. Plaintiff was confused and misled by Exhibits A & B.
 - 45. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused and misled by Exhibits A & B.

The FDCPA

46. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Derosia v. Credit Corp Solutions*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 50016, at *12 (E.D. Wis. Mar. 27, 2018) ("a plaintiff who receives misinformation form a debt collector has suffered the type of injury the FDCPA was intended to protect against' and 'satisfies the concrete injury in fact requirement of Article III.") (quoting *Pogorzelski v. Patenaude & Felix APC*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89678, 2017 WL 2539782, at *3

(E.D. Wis. June 12, 2017)); Lorang v. Ditech Fin. LLC, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 169286, at *6 (W.D. Wis. Oct. 13, 2017) ("the weight of authority in this circuit is that a misrepresentation about a debt is a sufficient injury for standing because a primary purpose of the FDCPA is to protect consumers from receiving false and misleading information."); Patterson v. Howe, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 54250, at *21-22 (S.D. Ind. Mar. 30, 2018) (collecting cases and concluding that "this court and a legion of courts around the country have rejected post-Spokeo challenges in FDCPA cases."); Qualls v. T-H Prof'l & Med. Collections, Ltd., 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 113037, at *8 (C.D. Ill. July 20, 2017) ("Courts in this Circuit, both before and after Spokeo, have rejected similar challenges to standing in FDCPA cases.") (citing "Haves v. Convergent Healthcare Recoveries, Inc., 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 139743 (C.D. Ill. 2016)); 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, 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, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. III. 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., 654 Fed. Appx. 990, 995 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); see also Mogg v. Jacobs, 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).
- 47. 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").
- 48. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."
- 49. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(a) specifically prohibits the "false representation of the character, amount, or legal status" of an alleged debt.
- 50. 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."
- 51. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f generally prohibits "unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt."
- 52. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1) specifically prohibits "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."

- 53. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g states:
- a) Notice of debt; contents

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing—

- (1) the amount of the debt;
- 54. The Seventh Circuit has held that a debt collector must state the correct amount of the debt on the date the letter is sent to the consumer, and must state this amount in a manner that would not confuse the unsophisticated consumer. Miller v. McCalla, Raymer, Padrick, Cobb, Nichols & Clark, L.L.C., 214 F.3d 872, 875 (7th Cir. 2000); Chuway, 362 F.3d at 948 ("It is not enough that the dunning letter state the amount of the debt that is due. It must state it clearly enough that the recipient is likely to understand it."); see also, Taylor v. Cavalry Inv., L.L.C., 365 F.3d 572, 574 (7th Cir. 2004) (The FDCPA "requires, among other things, that any dunning letter by a debt collector state 'the amount of the debt' that he's trying to collect.") (citing § 1692g(a(1); Chuway, 362 F.3d 944; Miller, 214 F.3d at 875). Although Miller, Chuway, and Taylor concerned claims under 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), the standard under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692f is the same. McMillan v. Collection Professionals, Inc., 455 F.3d 754, 759 (7th Cir. 2006); Boucher v. Fin. Sys. of Green Bay, 880 F.3d 362, 366-67 (7th Cir. 2018); see also, Spuhler v. State Collection Servs., No. 16-cv-1149, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 128536, at *10-14 (E.D. Wis. Aug. 1, 2018) (discussing *Boucher*, and observing that the Seventh Circuit held that a plaintiff's §§ 1692e and 1692f claims should be analyzed under *Miller* and *Chuway*).

The WCA

- 55. The Wisconsin Consumer Act ("WCA") was enacted to protect consumers against unfair, deceptive, and unconscionable business practices and to encourage development of fair and economically sound practices in consumer transactions. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(2).
- 56. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has favorably cited authority finding that the WCA "goes further to protect consumer interests than any other such legislation in the country," and is "probably the most sweeping consumer credit legislation yet enacted in any state." *Kett* v. *Community Credit Plan, Inc.*, 228 Wis. 2d 1, 18 n.15, 596 N.W.2d 786 (1999) (citations omitted).
- 57. To further these goals, the Act's protections must be "liberally construed and applied." Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1); see also § 425.301.
- 58. "The basic purpose of the remedies set forth in Chapter 425, Stats., is to induce compliance with the WCA and thereby promote its underlying objectives." *First Wisconsin Nat'l Bank v. Nicolaou*, 113 Wis. 2d 524, 533, 335 N.W.2d 390 (1983). Thus, private actions under the WCA are designed to both benefit consumers whose rights have been violated and also competitors of the violators, whose competitive advantage should not be diminished because of their compliance with the law.
- 59. To carry out this intent, the WCA provides Wisconsin consumers with an array of protections and legal remedies. The Act contains significant and sweeping restrictions on the activities of those attempting to collect debts. *See* Wis. Stats. § 427.104.
- 60. The Act limits the amounts and types of additional fees that may be charged to consumers in conjunction with transactions. Wis. Stats. § 422.202(1). The Act also provides injured consumers with causes of action for class-wide statutory and actual damages and injunctive remedies against defendants on behalf of all customers who suffer similar injuries. See

Wis. Stats. §§ 426.110(1); § 426.110(4)(e). Finally, "a customer may not waive or agree to forego rights or benefits under [the Act]." Wis. Stat. § 421.106(1).

- 61. Consumers' WCA claims under Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1) are analyzed using the same methods as claims under the FDCPA. Indeed, the WCA itself requires that the court analyze the WCA "in accordance with the policies underlying a federal consumer credit protection act," including the FDCPA. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1).
- 62. Further, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held that WCA claims relating to debt collection are to be analyzed under the "unsophisticated consumer" standard. *Brunton v. Nuvell Credit Corp.*, 785 N.W.2d 302, 314-15. In *Brunton*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court explicitly adopted and followed the "unsophisticated consumer" standard, citing and discussing *Gammon v. GC Servs. Ltd. P'ship*, 27 F.3d 1254, 1257 (7th Cir. 1994). *Id.*
- 63. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(j) states that a debt collector may not: "Claim, or attempt or threaten to enforce a right with knowledge or reason to know that the right does not exist."
- 64. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(L) states that a debt collector may not: "Threaten action against the customer unless like action is taken in regular course or is intended with respect to the particular debt."

COUNT I -- FDCPA

- 65. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 66. Exhibits A and B falsely represent the amount, character, and legal status of the debt. CSI represented that the amount "due" was both the "minimum payment" and the entire balance of the account. *See Chuway*, 362 F.3d at 947-48; *Machnik*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160772, at *6.

- 67. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused and misled as to the amount due when Exhibits A and B were mailed.
 - 68. CSI violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(a), 1692e(10), 1692(f), and 1692f(1).

COUNT II -- WCA

- 69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 70. Exhibits A and B falsely represent the amount, character, and legal status of the debt. CSI represented that the amount "due" was both the "minimum payment" and the entire balance of the account. *See Chuway*, 362 F.3d at 947-48; *Machnik*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160772, at *6.
- 71. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused and misled as to the amount due when Exhibits A and B were mailed.
 - 72. CSI attempted to collect portions of the balance that were not yet due.
 - 73. CSI violated Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(j).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 74. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a Class, consisting of:
 - (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin, (b) who were sent a collection letter in the form represented by Exhibits A and/or B to the complaint in this action, (c) seeking to collect a debt, incurred for personal, family or household purposes, (d) and representing an amount as the "Minimum Payment Due" in the header of the letter, (e) and a different amount as "the balance due" in the body of the letter, (f) where the collection letter in the form represented by Exhibit A and/or B was mailed between October 11, 2017 and October 11, 2018, inclusive, (e) and was not returned by the postal service.
- 75. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. Upon information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.

76. 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 Defendant violate the FDCPA and WCA.

77. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. All are based on

the same factual and legal theories.

78. 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.

79. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute.

Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

80. 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;

statutory damages; (b)

attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and (c)

(d) such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: October 11, 2018

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: /s/ Mark A. Eldridge

John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)

Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944) Jesse Fruchter (SBN 1097673)

Ben J. Slatky (SBN 1106892)

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3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110 (414) 482-8000 (414) 482-8001 (fax) jblythin@ademilaw.com meldridge@ademilaw.com jfruchter@ademilaw.com bslatky@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A



3451 Harry S Truman Blvd. Saint Charles, MO 63301-4047

RE: Citibank, N.A.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: XXXXXXXXXXXXX8570

NEW BALANCE: \$927.56

MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE: \$290 REFERENCE NUMBER: 3175 Office Hours (Central Time)
Monday-Thursday: 8am-8pm
Friday: 8am-5pm
Saturday: 7am-11am
Sunday: Closed

PHONE: 877-288-0504

DATE: 10/31/2017

SETTLEMENT OFFER

We are offering you a settlement amount of \$372.00, to settle this GOODYEAR account for less than balance due. This offer is valid until 11/20/2017. If payment of the offered settlement amount is not received in our office by this date, this offer will be withdrawn and will be deemed null and void. We are not obligated to renew this offer. If you are unable to pay the offered settlement amount by this due date, please contact our office for alternative payment options which may be available to you.

As of the date of this letter, the balance due is \$927.56. If on the date you make a payment, the balance due is greater because of interest or other charges, our office will honor the above settlement offer if received in our office by the above due date.

We look forward to working with you in resolving this matter.

Joshua Pinkowski

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

FOR IMPORTANT RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES WHICH MIGHT APPLY TO YOUR STATE OF RESIDENCE, PLEASE SEE BELOW OR REVERSE SIDE (IF FAXED THEN FOLLOWING PAGE).



Send your payment in the enclosed envelope using the remittance coupon below.



Online: www.csiconsumercenter.com



Pay-by-Phone: 1-877-552-5905



If you are unable to pay the above settlement offer, contact our office at 877-288-0504 for payment options, which may be available to you.

3175

PO Box 1503 Saint Peters, MO 63376



Checks Payable To: Citibank, N.A.

REFERENCE NUMBER

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

REMIT TO:

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TROY L NORTON 8317 W CRAWFORD AVE MILWAUKEE WI 53220-1638



CALIFORNIA

The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov. Non profit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR. A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt. The address and telephone number for Client Services, Inc.'s local Colorado office is: The Executive Building, Attn: Stokes & Wolf, P.C. as agent for Client Services, Inc., 1776 S. Jackson St., Suite 900 Denver, CO 80210 (TEL: (303) 753-0945).

KANSAS

An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, has been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MASSACHUSETTS

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS: You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector.

MINNESOTA

This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to: the use or threat of violence, the use of obscene or profane language, and repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass. If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt: supplemental security income (SSI), social security, public assistance (welfare), spousal support including maintenance (alimony) or child support, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, workers' compensation benefits, public or private pensions, veterans' benefits, federal student loans, federal student grants, federal work study funds, and ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

NEW YORK CITY

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number: 1306512

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Permit Number: 100705

TENNESSEE

This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Exhibit B



3451 Harry S Truman Blvd. Saint Charles, MO 63301-4047

RE: Citibank, N.A.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: XXXXXXXXXXXXXX8570

NEW BALANCE: \$987.82 MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE: \$361

REFERENCE NUMBER: \$361

Office Hours (Central Time)

Monday-Thursday: 8am-8pm Friday: 8am-5pm Saturday: 7am-11am Sunday: Closed

PHONE: 877-288-0504

DATE: 11/28/2017

SETTLEMENT OFFER

We are offering you a settlement amount of \$396.00, to settle this GOODYEAR account for less than balance due. This offer is valid until 12/18/2017. If payment of the offered settlement amount is not received in our office by this date, this offer will be withdrawn and will be deemed null and void. We are not obligated to renew this offer. If you are unable to pay the offered settlement amount by this due date, please contact our office for alternative payment options which may be available to you.

As of the date of this letter, the balance due is \$987.82. If on the date you make a payment, the balance due is greater because of interest or other charges, our office will honor the above settlement offer if received in our office by the above due date.

We look forward to working with you in resolving this matter.

Joshua Pinkowski

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

FOR IMPORTANT RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES WHICH MIGHT APPLY TO YOUR STATE OF RESIDENCE, PLEASE SEE BELOW OR REVERSE SIDE (IF FAXED THEN FOLLOWING PAGE).



Send your payment in the enclosed envelope using the remittance coupon below.



Online: www.csiconsumercenter.com



Pay-by-Phone: 1-877-552-5905



If you are unable to pay the above settlement offer, contact our office at 877-288-0504 for payment options, which may be available to you.

3175

PO Box 1503 Saint Peters, MO 63376



Checks Payable To: Citibank, N.A.

REFERENCE NUMBER

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

REMIT TO:

CALIFORNIA

The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov. Non profit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR. A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt.The address and telephone number for Client Services, Inc.'s local Colorado office is: The Executive Club Building, Attn: Stokes & Wolf, P.C. as agent for Client Services, Inc., 1776 S. Jackson St., Suite 900 Denver, CO 80210 (Toll Free Phone: 888-499-9642 Office Phone: 303-753-0100)

KANSAS

An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, has been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MASSACHUSETTS

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS: You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector.

MINNESOTA

This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to: the use or threat of violence, the use of obscene or profane language, and repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass. If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt: supplemental security income (SSI), social security, public assistance (welfare), spousal support including maintenance (alimony) or child support, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, workers' compensation benefits, public or private pensions, veterans' benefits, federal student loans, federal student grants, federal work study funds, and ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

NEW YORK CITY

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number: 1306512

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Permit Number: 100705

TENNESSEE

This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

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 TROY NORT	ΓΟN	DEFENDANTS CLIENT SER	DEFENDANTS CLIENT SERVICES INC.				
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP,	e of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) 2., Address, and Telephone Number) 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110 101CTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	NOTE: IN LAND II Attorneys (If Known) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PI (For Diversity Cases Only)	First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE NVOLVED. RINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant) TF DEF 1				
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	of Business In This State 2				
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	<u> </u>					
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	TORTS PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice Liability □ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability □ Product Liability	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/M gmt. Relations 730 Labor/M gmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION	d22 Appeal 28 USC 158				
V. ORIGIN Proceeding							
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON 5 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq Brief description of cause: Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act an	d Wisconsin Consumer Act					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:			CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: ☑ Yes ☐ No				
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER							
DATE	SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY OF RECORD					
October 11, 2018 /s/ Mark A. Eldridge							

– $\overset{ ext{AMOUNT}}{ ext{Case 2:18-cv-01}}$ 6 $\overset{ ext{APPLYING IFP}}{ ext{Filed }}$ 10 $\overset{ ext{11/18}}{ ext{10/11/18}}$ Page 1 of 2 - Document 1-3

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

))			
TROY NO	RTON)			
Plaintif)			
v.		Civil Action No. 18-cv-1601			
)			
CLIENT SERV	ICES INC.)			
Defendar	rt(s)	,)			
	SUMMONS I	N A CIVIL ACTION			
To: (Defendant's name and address)	CLIENT SERVICES INC				
A lawsuit has been fil	ed against you.				
the United States or a United 12(a)(2) or (3) – you must se	States agency, or an office erve on the plaintiff an ans	you (not counting the day you receive it) – or 60 days if you are er or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. wer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the must be served on the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, whose			
If you fail to respond	•	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.			
You also must file your answe	er or motion with the court.				
		STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT			
Date:					
		Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

Civil Action No. 18-cv-1601

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

wara r	eceived by me on (date)					
were re	•	the summons and the attached complain	nt on the individual at (place):			
			On (date)	; or		
		and the attached complaint at the indivi	•			
		on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or				
	☐ I served the summo	ns and the attached complaint on (name	of individual)			
	who is designated by la	w to accept service of process on behal	If of (name of organization)			
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; or		
	Other (specify):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00		
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information is true.				
Date:						
			Server's signature			
			Printed name and title			
			Server's address			

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Client Services Misleadingly Offered Settlement Yet Requested Full Balance Be Paid, Class Action Claims</u>