UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA ORLANDO DIVISION

Civil Action No	6:21-cv-01177
JUSTIN G. PACHECO, individually, and or of all others similarly situated,	behalf
Plaintiff,	
v.	
CRUNCH FITNESS,	
Defendant,	_/

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

NOW COMES JUSTIN G. PACHECO, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, through his undersigned counsel, complaining of Defendant, CRUNCH FITNESS, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. This is an action seeking redress for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq. and the Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act ("FCCPA"), Fla. Stat. §559.55 et. seq.
- 2. "The primary purpose of the TCPA was to protect individuals from the harassment, invasion of privacy, inconvenience, nuisance, and other harms associated with unsolicited, automated calls." *Parchman v. SLM Corp.*, 896 F.3d 728, 738-39 (6th Cir. 2018) *citing* Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, Pub. L. No. 102-243, § 2, 105 Stat. 2394 (1991).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

- 4. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 5. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

PARTIES

- 5. JUSTIN G. PACHECO ("Plaintiff") is a natural person, over 18-years-of-age, who at all times relevant resided in Orlando, Florida.
 - 6. Plaintiff is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
 - 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by Fla. Stat. §559.55(8).
- 8. CRUNCH FITNESS ("Defendant") is a company with its headquarters in New York City, New York.
- 9. Defendant operates fitness clubs and its stated mission is to "embrace a No Judgments philosophy" regarding its club members.¹
- 10. Defendant operates multiple gyms in Florida and markets its gym memberships to consumers in Florida.
 - 11. Defendant is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
 - 12. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by Fla. Stat. § 559.55(7).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 13. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was the sole operator, possessor, and subscriber of the cellular telephone number ending in 1683.
- 14. At all times relevant, Plaintiff's number ending in 1683 was assigned to a cellular telephone service as specified in 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

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¹ https://www.crunch.com/about (Last accessed July 6, 2021)

- 15. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was financially responsible for his cellular telephone equipment and services.
 - 16. In late 2019, Plaintiff signed up for a gym membership with Defendant.
- 17. Plaintiff eventually decided that he no longer needed his gym membership and cancelled shortly after joining.
 - 18. At the time Plaintiff cancelled, he completed all necessary steps and paper work.
- 19. In or around the beginning of 2020, Defendant started placing harassing collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone.
- 20. During each call that Plaintiff answered, he was met with a lengthy pause and was required to say "hello" numerous times prior to being greeted by a live representative.
- 21. Once connected to a live representative, Plaintiff was informed that he needed to fix his account and go into a gym location to sign some paperwork.
- 22. Plaintiff explained that there was nothing wrong with his account and requested Defendant stop contacting him.
 - 23. Unfortunately, Defendant continued throughout the year.
- 24. In or around January 2021, Plaintiff again requested that the calls cease on at least 3 separate occasions.
- 25. Despite Plaintiff's unambiguous requests that Defendant cease contacting him and explaining that he does not need to complete any paper work, Defendant continued placing unwanted and unconsented to phone calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone.
- 26. In total, Defendant has placed no less than 60 unwanted and unconsented to collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone after Plaintiff requested that the Defendant cease contact with him.

DAMAGES

- 27. Plaintiff significantly values his privacy and solitude.
- 28. In light of the fact that Plaintiff ended his business relationship with Defendant by cancelling his gym membership, Defendant's phone calls were highly intrusive and were a nuisance.
- 29. Moreover, Defendant's phone calls were especially troubling considering they continued after Plaintiff requested that Defendant cease contact with him.
- 30. Defendant's phone calls invaded Plaintiff's privacy and have caused Plaintiff actual harm, including but not limited to, aggravation that accompanies unsolicited phone calls, increased risk of personal injury resulting from the distraction caused by the phone calls, wear and tear to Plaintiff's cellular phone, temporary loss of use of Plaintiff's cellular phone while Plaintiff's cellular phone was ringing, loss of battery charge, loss of concentration, nuisance, the per-kilowatt electricity costs required to recharge Plaintiff's cellular telephone as a result of increased usage of Plaintiff's telephone services, and wasting Plaintiff's time.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 31. All paragraphs of this Complaint are expressly adopted and incorporated herein as though fully set forth herein.
- 32. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated ("Putative Class") defined as follows:

TCPA Class

All persons residing in the state of Florida: (a) to whom Defendant or a third party acting on Defendant's behalf placed phone calls to his/her cellular phone; (b) in connection with an alleged delinquent account; (c) after he/she requested that the phone calls cease; (d) using an automatic telephone dialing system; (e) at any time

in the period that begins four years before the date of the filing of the original complaint through the date of class certification.

33. The following individuals are excluded from the Putative Class: (1) any Judge or Magistrate Judge presiding over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which Defendant or their parents have a controlling interest and their current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) Plaintiff's attorneys; (4) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Putative Class; (5) the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons; and (6) persons whose claims against Defendant have been fully and finally adjudicated and/or released.

A. Numerosity

- 34. Upon information and belief, the members of the Putative Class are so numerous that joinder of them is impracticable.
- 35. The exact number of the members of the Putative Class is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, and can only be determined through targeted discovery.
- 36. The members of the Putative Class are ascertainable because the Class is defined by reference to objective criteria.
- 37. The members of the Putative Class are identifiable in that their names, addresses, and telephone numbers can be identified in business records maintained by Defendant.

B. Commonality and Predominance

38. There are many questions of law and fact common to the claims of Plaintiff and the Putative Class.

39. Those questions predominate over any questions that may affect individual members of the Putative Class.

C. Typicality

40. Plaintiff's claims are typical of members of the Putative Class because Plaintiff and members of the Putative Class are entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's conduct.

D. Superiority and Manageability

- 41. This case is also appropriate for class certification as class proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the efficient and fair adjudication of this controversy.
- 42. The damages suffered by the individual members of the Putative Class will likely be relatively small, especially given the burden and expense required for individual prosecution.
- 43. By contrast, a class action provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.
- 44. Economies of effort, expense, and time will be fostered and uniformity of decisions ensured.

E. Adequate Representation

- 45. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent and protect the interests of the Putative Class.
- 46. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to those of the Putative Class and Defendant has no defenses unique to Plaintiff.
- 47. Plaintiff has retained competent and experienced counsel in consumer class action litigation.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF COUNT I:

Telephone Consumer Protection Act (47 U.S.C. § 227 et. seq.)

(On behalf of Plaintiff and the Members of the TCPA Class)

- 48. Paragraphs 13-47 of this Complaint are expressly adopted and incorporated herein as though fully set forth herein.
- 49. The TCPA prohibits phone calls to a cellular phone using an automatic telephone system ("ATDS") without the consent of the recipient. 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A).
- 50. The TCPA defines ATDS as "equipment which has the *capacity*—(A) to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator; and (B) to dial such numbers." 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1).
- 51. Upon information and belief, the system used by Defendant to place calls to Plaintiff has the capacity to use a random or sequential number generator to determine the order in which to pick phone numbers from a preloaded list of numbers of consumers that are allegedly in default on their payments.
- 52. Accordingly, the system employed by Defendant has the *capacity* (A) to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator; and (B) to dial such numbers.
- 53. Defendant violated the 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by placing non-emergency calls, including but not limited to the aforementioned collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, utilizing an ATDS, without Plaintiff's consent.
- 54. As pled above, Plaintiff revoked consent to be called on his cellular phone on multiple occasions during answered calls.
- 55. As pled above, Plaintiff was severely harmed by Defendant's collection calls to his cellular phone.

- 56. Upon information and belief, Defendant has no system in place to document whether it has consent to contact consumers on their cellular phones.
- 57. Upon information and belief, Defendant has no policies and procedures in place to honor consumers' requests that collection calls cease.
- 58. Upon information and belief, Defendant knew its collection practices violated the TCPA yet continued to employ them in order to maximize efficiency and revenue.
- 59. As a result of Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii), Plaintiff and the members of the Putative Class are entitled to receive \$500.00 in damages for each such violation.
- 60. As a result of Defendant's knowing and willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii), Plaintiff and the members of the Putative Class are entitled to receive up to \$1,500.00 in treble damages for each such violation.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the members of the Putative Class, requests the following relief:

- A. an order granting certification of the Putative Class, including the designation of Plaintiff as the named representative, and the appointment of the undersigned as Class Counsel;
- B. an order finding that Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(iii);
- C. an order enjoining Defendant from placing further violating phone calls;
- D. an award of \$500.00 in damages to Plaintiff and the members of the Putative Class for each such violation;
- E. an award of treble damages up to \$1,500.00 to Plaintiff and the members of the
 Putative Class for each such violation; and

F. an award of such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II:

Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act (Fla. Stat. § 559.55 et. seq.) (On behalf of Plaintiff)

- 61. Paragraphs 13-47 of this Complaint are expressly adopted and incorporated herein as though fully set forth herein.
 - 62. Subsection 559.72(7) of the CCPA provides:

In collecting consumer debts, no person shall:

(7) Willfully communicate with the debtor or any member of her or his family with such frequency as can reasonably be expected to harass the debtor or her or his family, or willfully engage in other conduct which can reasonably be expected to abuse or harass the debtor or any member of her or his family.

Fla. Stat. § 559.72(7).

- 63. Defendant violated Fla. Stat. § 559.72(7) by continuously calling Plaintiff after being asked to stop. *See Waite v. Fin. Recovery Servs., Inc.*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 133438, 2010 WL 5209350, at *3 (M.D. Fla. Dec. 16, 2010). (misconduct includes calling the plaintiff after being asked to stop).
- 64. Plaintiff may enforce the provisions of Fla. Stat. § 559.72(7) pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 559.77(2) which provides:

Any person who fails to comply with any provision of s. 559.72 is liable for actual damages and for additional statutory damages as the court may allow, but not exceeding \$1,000, together with court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JUSTIN G. PACHECO, requests the following relief:

a. a finding that Defendant violated Fla. Stat. §§ 559.72(7);

- b. an award of actual damages sustained by Plaintiff as a result of Defendant's violation(s);
- c. an award of additional statutory damages, as the Court may allow, but not exceeding \$1,000.00;
- d. an award of court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by Plaintiff; and
- e. an award of such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b), Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Date: July 20, 2021 Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN G. PACHECO

By: /s/ Alejandro E. Figueroa Alejandro E. Figueroa, Esq. Florida Bar No. 1021163 Sulaiman Law Group, Ltd. 2500 S. Highland Ave, Suite 200

Lombard, IL 60148 Telephone: (630) 575-8181 Facsimile: (630) 575-8188 alejandrof@sulaimanlaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

JS 44 (Rev. 09/19)

Case 6:21-cv-01177 Document 1-1 Filed 07/20/21 Page 1 of 2 PageID 11 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 decket sheet.

purpose of initiating the civil do	ocket sneet. (SEE INSTRUC	HONS ON NEXT PAGE OF	THIS FC	VKM.)					
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address and Telephone Number	۲)		Attorneys (If Known)					
Sulaiman Law Group, LT	D.			(4)					
2500 South Highland Ave 630-575-8181	enue Suite 200 Lomba	rd, Illinois 60148							
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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.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 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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- 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. 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 – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- 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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida						
JUSTIN G. PACHECO, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated Plaintiff(s) v. CRUNCH FITNESS)))) Civil Action No. 6:21-cv-01177)					
Defendant(s)	.)					
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION						
To: (Defendant's name and address) Crunch Fitness 22 W 19th Street, 3rd F New York, NY 10011-4	Floor					
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: Alejandro E. Figueroa Sulaiman Law Group, Ltd 2500 S Highland Ave, Suite 200 Lombard, IL 60148						
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.						
Data	CLERK OF COURT					
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk					

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. 3:21-cv-00716

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

Was ra	This summons for (nan ceived by me on (date)	ne of individual and title, if any)						
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	☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at (place) on (date) ; or							
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	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00				
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this information	is true.					
Date:								
Date.			Server's signature					
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			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>Crunch Fitness Hit with Class Action Over Alleged Collection Calls</u>