UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

| Icela Reyes, in | dividually | and on | behalf | of all | others |
|------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| similarly situat | ed; | | | | |

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No: _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-V.-

Progressive Financial Services, Inc.

John Does 1-25

Defendant.

Plaintiff Icela Reyes (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Reyes"), a Connecticut resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, RC Law Group, PLLC, against Defendant Progressive Financial Services, Inc. (hereinafter "Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Congress enacted the FDCPA in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. §1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws...[we]re

inadequate to protect consumers," and that "'the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).

2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." ld. § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws ·were inadequate~ id § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. Id. § 1692k.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1331</u>, <u>15 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1692</u> et. seq. and <u>28 U.S.C.</u> § <u>2201</u>. If applicable, the Court also has pendant jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1367(a)</u>.
 - 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1391(b)(2)</u>.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Connecticut consumers under§ 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and
 - 6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Connecticut, County of Fairfield, residing at 120 Sage Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06610

- 8. Progressive Financial Services, Inc. is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 1919 West Fairmont Drive, Suite 8, Tempe, AZ 85282..
- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.
- 10. Defendant is a "debt collector", as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 11. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - 13. The Class consists of:
 - a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Connecticut;
 - b. to whom Progressive Financial Services, Inc. sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
 - c. that incorrectly and deceptively stated the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
 - d. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.
- 14. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.

- 15. Excluded from the Plaintiff Classes are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.
- 16. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Classes, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibits A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.
- 17. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes defined in this complaint. The Plaintiffs have retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiffs nor their attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 18. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:
 - a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiff Classes defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
 - b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Classes and those questions predominance over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal

- issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A violate 15 § 1692e and §1692g.
- c. **Typicality:** The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Classes have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. Adequacy: The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs have no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiffs are committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiffs have also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.
- 19. 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 Classes 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.

20. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 21. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 22. Some time prior to January 13, 2017, an obligation was incurred to Capital One, N.A. ("Capital One").
- 23. The Capital One obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
 - 24. The Capital One obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\(\} 1692a(5).
 - 25. Capital One is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\(\} 1692a(4).
- 26. Capital One or a subsequent owner of the Capital One debt contracted the Defendant to collect the alleged debt.
- 27. Defendant collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.

Violation I – January 13, 2017 Collection Letter

28. On or about January 13, 2017, Defendant sent the Plaintiff a collection letter (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Capital One, N.A. See Exhibit A.

- 29. Defendant's January 13, 2017 Collection Letter was deceptive and misleading.
- 30. Specifically, Defendant's January 13, 2017 Collection Letter misstates the identity of the original creditor.
- 31. Defendant's January 13, 2017 Collection Letter references "KOHLS DEPT STORES INC".
 - 32. However, "KOHLS DEPT STORES INC" is neither a bank nor a lender of money.
- 33. Defendant's January 13, 2017 Collection Letter also mentions Capital One N.A. as the "CREDITOR".
- 34. However, Defendant's January 13, 2017 Collection Letter fails to clearly identify if Capital One, N.A. is the current creditor or the original creditor.
- 35. In fact, Defendant's January 13, 2017 Collection Letter fails to clearly identify any entity as the current creditor.
- 36. A debt collector has the obligation not just to convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed, but also to convey such information clearly and explicitly.
- 37. It is deceptive to not clearly state who the creditor is on any communication sent to the consumer.
- 38. Mere allusions to the creditor's identity are insufficient as the letter must specifically and clearly state the creditor of the collection account.
- 39. As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT_15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

- 40. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 41. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 42. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
 - 43. Defendant violated said section by:
 - a. Making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10).
- 44. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Case 3:18-cv-00069 Document 1 Filed 01/12/18 Page 9 of 9

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Icela Reyes, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

demands judgment from Defendant Progressive Financial Services, Inc., as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying

Plaintiff as Class representative, and Yaakov Saks, Esq. as Class Counsel;

2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;

3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and

expenses;

5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may

deem just and proper.

Dated: Hackensack, New Jersey

January 12, 2018

/s/ Yaakov Saks

By: Yaakov Saks Bar ID: CT30021

RC Law Group, PLLC

285 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: (201) 282-6500 Fax: (201) 282-6501

Attorneys For Plaintiff

Progressive 3:18-cv-00069 Document 1-1 Filed 01/12/18 Page 1 of 2

Financial Services, Inc.

01/13/17

1919 West Fairmont Drive, Building 8 • Tempe, AZ 85282 Phone: 800-761-6097 • www.progressivefinancial.com

ORIGINAL CREDITOR: KOHLS DEPT STORES INC

CREDITOR: CAPITAL ONE, N.A.
RE: KOHL'S DEPARTMENT STORES, INC.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 6200

AMOUNT DUE: \$3,029.80
DEBTOR NAME: ICELA REYES

REFERENCE NUMBER:

Settlement Offer 60% of the amount currently due INSTANT SAVINGS OF \$1,211.92

Subject to conditions described below.

SETTLEMENT OFFER: \$1,817.88

Dear ICELA REYES,

As you know from our previous letter, your above-referenced account has been placed with Progressive Financial Services, Inc. for collection activities.

KOHLS DEPARTMENT STORE will currently accept \$1,817.88 (60% of the amount currently due on this account) to settle your account.

To take advantage of this offer contact our offices prior to 02/12/2017 to make arrangements or forward payment of \$1,817.88 with the coupon below so that it is received in our office on or before 02/12/2017. Note that after 02/12/2017 neither Progressive Financial Services, Inc. nor KOHLS DEPARTMENT STORE is under any obligation to renew this offer. If payment of \$1,817.88 is not received in our office on or before 02/12/2017, we will continue to pursue collection of the full balance due.

The creditor may report the forgiven amount as "miscellaneous income." You should seek tax advice regarding settlement of this account.

Other payment arrangements may also be available on your account. Contact our office for details.

Sincerely,

Christopher Hale **Debt Collector**

Progressive Financial Services, Inc.

800-761-6097

Hours of Operation: MON-THURS 5AM-6PM ,FRI 5AM-5PM ,SAT 8AM-11AM PACIFIC TIME

If you have an attorney to represent you with respect to this debt or if this debt has been included in a bankruptcy, please furnish us with the appropriate information so we may mark our files accordingly.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector. PFS/KCH40

Please detach the lower portion of this letter and return with your payment.

94--KCH40

Y1CEEB9B96

PO Box 505

Linden MI 48451-0505

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Not intended for correspondence or payments

ACCOUNT NAME:

REFERENCE NUMBER:

ICELA REYES 4625

AMOUNT DUE:

SETTLEMENT AMOUNT:

\$3,029,80 \$1,817.88

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

իգհիսորիցոկցինորիիՈնվինդելնինինիՈկինորդիգելի

0026020024001636054206610300920---Y1CEEB9B96 94

ICFLA REYES



Hololdaddalalalaladadlaalaladadadlaladad Progressive Financial Services, Inc. PO Box 22083 Tempe AZ 85285-2083



Required State Notices We and required to the complete list of rights by state. If you do not reside in one of these states, you still may have the same or similar rights under state or federal law.

California Residents: 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 a.m. or after 9 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. Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

Colorado Residents: 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. LOCAL ADDRESS: PROGRESSIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., C/O COLORADO MANAGER, INC., BUILDING B, 80 GARDEN CENTER, SUITE 3, BROOMFIELD, CO 80020. LOCAL TELEPHONE: 303-920-4763.

Massachusetts Residents: 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. If you wish to discuss this matter, please call us direct between the hours of Monday-Thursday 6am-9pm, Friday 6am-10am and Saturday 6am - 10am Mountain Time at the telephone number listed on this notice. Local address, 15 Union Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 01840.

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

New York City Residents: Progressive Financial Services, Inc., DBA PFS of Arizona is licensed by the City of New York, Department of Consumer Affairs; Arizona Branch, License #1250549; Pennsylvania Branch, License #1109138; South Dakota Branch, License #1250510.

New York State: Debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to: a) the use or threat of violence; b) the use of obscene or profane language; and c) 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: 1. Supplemental security income, (SSI); 2. Social security; 3. Public assistance (welfare); 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support; 5. Unemployment benefits; 6. Disability benefits; 7. Workers' compensation benefits; 8. Public or private pensions; 9. Veterans' benefits; 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and 11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

North Carolina Residents: Progressive Financial Services, Inc. is licensed by the State of North Carolina; Arizona Branch, Permit Number 101824; Pennsylvania Branch, Permit Number 4484; South Dakota Branch, Permit Number

Tennessee Residents: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board, State Department of Commerce and Insurance, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Utah Residents: As required by Utah law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

Wisconsin Residents:

This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org.

| Please let us know of | any important chang | es in your information: |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Name: | | |
| Address: | | |
| City/State/Zip: | | |
| Phone Number: | e periodici | |

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us to use the information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day you make your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

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 purpose of initiating the civil do | . This form, approved by the ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC | he Judicial Conference of the TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF T | the United States in September 1 THIS FORM.) | 1974, is required for the use of | the Clerk of Court for the | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS | | | DEFENDANTS | | | |
| (b) County of Residence of (EX | | airfield | | | | |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A RC Law Group PLLC 285 Passaic Street, Hack 201-282-6500 | | r) | Attorneys (If Known) | OF EARLY INVOLVED. | | |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDI | CTION (Place an "X" in O | One Box Only) | II. CITIZENSHIP OF P | RINCIPAL PARTIES | (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintig | |
| ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff | ■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government) | Not a Party) | $ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | | |
| ☐ 2 U.S. Government ☐ 4 Diversity Defendant (Indicate Citized) | | ip of Parties in Item III) | Citizen of Another State | 2 | | |
| | | | Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | 3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation | □ 6 □ 6 | |
| IV. NATURE OF SUIT | | • | | | of Suit Code Descriptions. | |
| □ 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 (Excludes 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 | PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ roduct Liability □ 360 Other Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS □ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 448 Education | PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 7385 Property Damage 7385 Property Damage 7385 Property Damage 7386 Other Personal 7387 Other Personal 7389 Other Personal 740 Additional Property Damage 750 Other Personal 751 Other Personal 752 Other Personal 7530 General 7530 General 7535 Death Penalty 7540 Mandamus & Other 7550 Civil Rights 7550 Civil Rights 7550 Civil Detainee - 7560 Civil Detainee - 7560 Civil Detainee | FORFEITURE/PENALTY 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other 710 Fair Labor Standards | 322 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 424 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 425 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 425 Withdrawal 28 USC 167 425 Withdrawal 28 USC 167 425 Withdrawal 28 | OTHER STATUTES □ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC | |
| | noved from a 3 te Court Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 15 U.S.C. 1692 e Brief description of ca | Appellate Court attute under which you are set. seq. ("FDCPA") | (specify | er District Litigation Transfer | | |
| VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: | CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2 | IS A CLASS ACTION | DEMAND \$ | CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND: | if demanded in complaint: Yes □ No | |
| VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY | (See instructions): | JUDGE | | DOCKET NUMBER | | |
| DATE 01/12/2017 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | signature of atto /s/ Yaakov Saks | RNEY OF RECORD | | | |
| RECEIPT # AM | MOUNT | APPLYING IFP | JUDGE | MAG. JUE | OGE | |

Print Save As...

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. 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 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.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Progressive Financial Services Hit with FDCPA Suit Over 'Ambiguous' Creditor</u>