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

GLORIA ROSSITER, Individually and on Behalf	Case No.: 17-cv-431	
of All Others Similarly Situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	
Plaintiff,)	
vs.		
MRS BPO, LLC,)) 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").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The court has jurisdiction to grant the relief sought by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, and 1337. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant directed its collection efforts into the District.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff Gloria Rossiter 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 her a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes, specifically, a personal cell phone debt.
- 5. Defendant MRS BPO, LLC ("MRS") is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business located at 1930 Olney Ave., Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003.

- 6. MRS is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.
- 7. MRS is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes. MRS is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

FACTS

- 8. On or about March 13, 2017, MRS mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff. A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.
- 9. 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.
- 10. <u>Exhibit A</u> refers to an alleged credit card account, allegedly owed to "CHASE BANK USA N.A." ("Chase") and used only for personal, family or household purposes.
- 11. <u>Exhibit A</u> contains confusing and misleading statements regarding the consequences of paying or settling the debt.
 - 12. <u>Exhibit A</u> includes the following text:

Dear GLORIA J ROSSITER,

We recognize that a possible hardship or pitfall may have prevented you from satisfying your obligation. We are presenting three options that will enable you to avoid further collection activity being taken against you. We are not obligated to renew this offer.

Option 1: You pay only \$3,367.78 in ONE PAYMENT that must be received in this office on or before 03/28/2017.

Option 2: You make TWO PAYMENTS of \$2,143.13 each. The first payment must be received in this office on or before 03/28/2017 and the second payment on or before 04/27/2017.

Option 3: A monthly payment plan on the full balance of the account.

Payment may be made by calling 877-851-1451, mailing to the above address or by using our online payment website at https://mrspay.webview.com (internet connection required). If you have any questions or wish to discuss other arrangements, you may contact us.

When you call please let our representative know that you have received the CHASE BANK USA N.A. Option Letter,

Exhibit A.

- 13. Exhibit A only addresses the status of the consumer's account with MRS.
- 14. <u>Exhibit A</u> states that the "options" presented "will enable you to avoid further collection activity being taken against you."

- 15. As Exhibit A is unclear whether payment of the amounts listed in "Option 1" or "Option 2" would actually settle the account in full with MRS and Chase, or if it would only stop "further collection activity" by the debt collector, MRS.
- 16. MRS does not have an ownership interest in the alleged debt. It is collecting on behalf of Chase.
- 17. Upon information and belief, the relationship between MRS and Chase is a non-agent, independent contractor relationship. MRS is a sizable player in the debt collection market and is not affiliated with Chase beyond debt collection. Chase does not exercise the type of control over MRS that would establish an agency relationship.
- 18. Under a reasonable interpretation of <u>Exhibit A</u>, payment of the amounts listed in "Option 1" or "Option 2" would result in MRS closing its account and returning the remaining balance to Chase, which would be within its rights to continue its own collection efforts, or to hire another collection agency, or to sell the remaining balance to a debt buyer.
- 19. MRS has misrepresented the "character, amount or legal status" of the debt namely, ownership of the alleged debt. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(a).
 - 20. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.
- 21. Plaintiff had to spend time and money investigating <u>Exhibit A</u>, and the consequences of any potential responses to <u>Exhibit A</u>.
- 22. Plaintiff had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including traveling to counsel's office by car and its related expenses, including but not limited to the cost of gasoline and mileage, to advise Plaintiff on the consequences of Exhibit A.
- 23. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Quinn v. Specialized Loan*

Servicing, LLC, No. 16 C 2021, 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, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. Ill. 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., No. 15-15708, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 12414 *7-11 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); see also Mogg v. Jacobs, No. 15-CV-1142-JPG-DGW, 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).

- 24. 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").
- 25. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits a debt collector from using "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."

- 26. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(a) specifically prohibits the "false representation of the character, amount, or legal status" of an alleged debt.
- 27. 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."

COUNT I – FDCPA

- 28. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 29. Exhibit A is confusing and would mislead the unsophisticated consumer as to the status of the remaining balance after a payment is made pursuant to "Option 1" or "Option 2."
- 30. <u>Exhibit A</u> only indicates that payment of the amount would "avoid further collection activity being taken against you."
- 31. MRS is an independent contractor and cannot bind Chase to a settlement offer without Chase's express consent.
- 32. It is facially unclear whether an "Option 1" or "Option 2" payment would actually resolve the entire balance of the alleged debt, or would only result in the remaining portion of the debt being returned to Chase and placed with another debt collector or sold to a debt buyer.
 - 33. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(a) and 1692e(10).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

34. 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 by MRS in the form of Exhibit A to the complaint in this action (c) seeking to collect a debt incurred or allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes, (d) between March 24, 2016, and March 24, 2017, inclusive (e) that was not returned by the postal service.

35. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.

36. 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 whether Exhibit A violates the FDCPA.

37. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on

the same factual and legal theories.

38. 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.

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

Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

40. 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;

(b) statutory damages;

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

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

Dated: March 24, 2017.

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

/s/ John D. Blythin By:

Shpetim Ademi (SBN 1026973)

John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)

Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944)

Denise L. Morris (SBN 1097911) 3620 East Layton Avenue Cudahy, WI 53110 (414) 482-8000 (414) 482-8001 (fax) sademi@ademilaw.com jblythin@ademilaw.com meldridge@ademilaw.com dmorris@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A



S-SFMRSA11 P6QK9Y00213220 - 512342581 I13221 Return Address: MRS BPO, L.L.C. 1930 OLNEY AVE. CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003 PRESORT FIRST-CLASS U.S. POSTAGE & FEES PAID HOV SERVICES

- հգՈւլելիրիսիսիսիսիսիսիսիսինի Ալլիիրիինի Մուրսիի

GLORIA J ROSSITER 5820 S NEW YORK AVE CUDAHY WI 53110-2445



Send Payment/Correspondence to: MRS BPO, L.L.C. 1930 OLNEY AVE. CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003 877-851-1451

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9am - 9pm ET Friday 9am - 5pm ET RE: CHASE BANK USA N.A. MRS ACCT#: 0327

CLIENT ACCT#: xxxxxxxxxx4880

ACCOUNT BALANCE: \$6,123.23

March 13, 2017

Dear GLORIA J ROSSITER,

We recognize that a possible hardship or pitfall may have prevented you from satisfying your obligation. We are presenting three options that will enable you to avoid further collection activity being taken against you. We are not obligated to renew this offer.

Option 1: You pay only \$3,367.78 in ONE PAYMENT that must be received in this office on or before 03/28/2017.

Option 2: You make TWO PAYMENTS of \$2,143.13 each. The first payment must be received in this office on or before 03/28/2017 and the second payment on or before 04/27/2017.

Option 3: A monthly payment plan on the full balance of the account.

Payment may be made by calling 877-851-1451, mailing to the above address or by using our online payment website at https://mrspay.webview.com (internet connection required). If you have any questions or wish to discuss other arrangements, you may contact us.

When you call please let our representative know that you have received the CHASE BANK USA N.A. Option Letter.

Sincerely,

MRS BPO, L.L.C. 877-851-1451

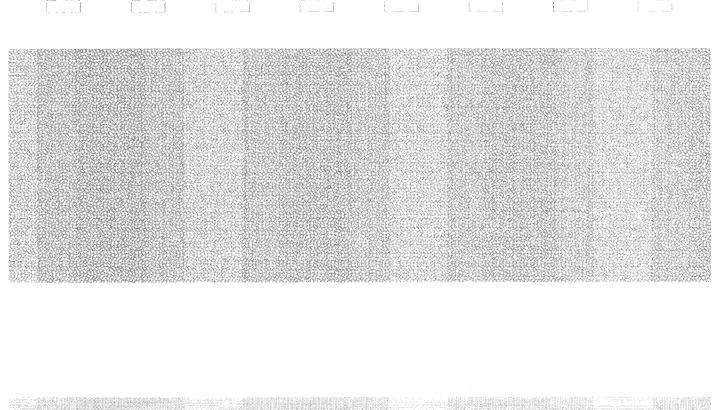
Tax time is a great time to put issues like this behind you. Consider using your tax refund to satisfy your outstanding obligation.

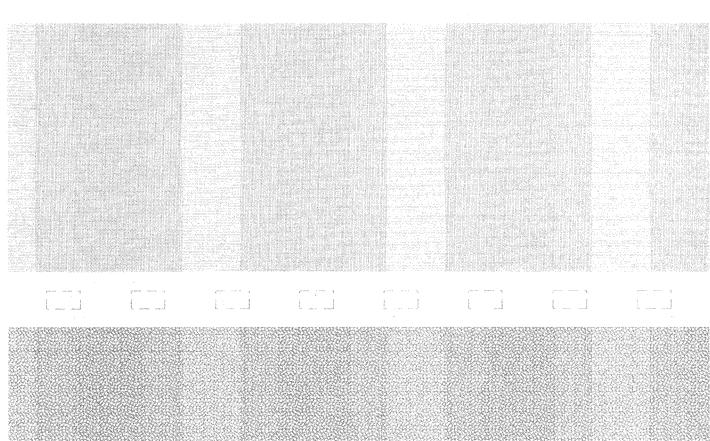
If we settle this debt with you for less than the full outstanding balance, Chase may offer you less favorable terms in the future for some Chase products or services, or may deny your application.

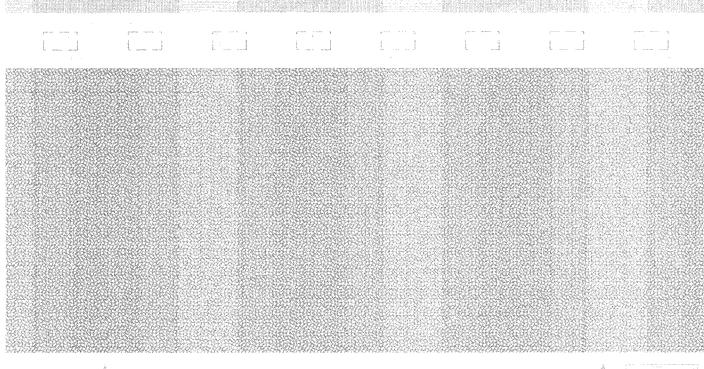
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

This communication is from a debt collector.

STL002WTT







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		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS		
GLORIA ROSSITER		MRS BPO, L	LLC		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) , Address, and Telephone Number)	NOTE: IN LAN	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) ND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE DINVOLVED.		
	3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110 le (414) 482-8001-Facsimile				
II. BASIS OF JURISD	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plai	intiff	
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☑ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	<u> </u>	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 □ of Business In This State		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2	5	
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation 6	6	
	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				
240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury Med. Malpracti Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury PERSONAL PROPEI Injury PERSONAL PROPEI Sander 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 370 Other Personal 370 Ot	-	422 Appeal 28 USC 158	and ss/ ss/ ss n	
☑ 1 Original ☐ 2 Re	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from ate Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you	Reopened anoth (spec		trict	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq		and sentences united diversity).		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☑ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: ☑ Yes ☐ No		
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE		TTORNEY OF RECORD			
March 24, 2017	<u> </u>				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					

- AMOUNT Case 2:17-cv-00431-DEJ Filed 03/24/17 Page 1-of 2 Document 1-2

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

GLORIA ROSS	SITER)
v.		Civil Action No. 17-cv-431
MRS BPO, I	IC	
		,
	SUMMONS IN	A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)	MRS BPO, LLC c/o NATIONAL CORPORA DANE COUNTY TITLE CO 901 SOUTH WHITNEY WA MADISON, WI 53711	MPANY, INC.
A lawsuit has been filed	d against you.	
are the United States or a Unite P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must	d States agency, or an office serve on the plaintiff an ans	ou (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you er or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. wer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of an must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney,
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.		
		CLERK OF COURT
Date:		
		Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 17-cv-431

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)			
was re	ceived by me on (date)	·			
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual at	t (place)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or us	sual place of abode with (name)		
		, a person of	f suitable age and discretion who resid	des there,	
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to th	ne individual's last known address; or		
	☐ I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)		, wh	o is
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on behal	f of (name of organization)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ 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	y of perjury that this information i	s 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: FDPCA Class Action Filed Against MRS BPO, LLC