

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

GORDON SIEVERT, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, Plaintiff, vs. CARSON SMITHFIELD, LLC, Defendant.	}	Case No.: 16-cv-1547 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Jury Trial Demanded
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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 the 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 Gordon Sievert 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. Defendant Carson Smithfield, LLC (“Carson Smithfield”) is a debt collection agency with its principal offices located at 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801.

6. Carson Smithfield is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.

7. Carson Smithfield is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes. Carson Smithfield is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

FACTS

8. On or about October 19, 2016, Carson Smithfield mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff Gordon Sievert regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed “Merrick Bank Corporation.” A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.

9. Upon information and belief, the alleged debt that Carson Smithfield was attempting to collect was a personal credit card account, and used only for personal, family or household purposes.

10. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.

11. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form debt collection letter used by Carson Smithfield to attempt to collect alleged debts.

12. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is the first written communication that Carson Smithfield sent to Plaintiff regarding the alleged debt to which Exhibit A refers.

13. Exhibit A contains the following settlement offer:

Lump Sum (single payment)

Merrick Bank Corporation will consider your account settled if you make a one-time payment of \$2,318.37 (which equals 60.0% of the outstanding balance of \$3,863.95) on or before November 30, 2016.

14. The letter purports to offer settling the debt for about 60% of the total alleged debt.

15. The settlement offer in Exhibit A falsely states or implies that the settlement offer is valid only if payment is made on or before November 30, 2016. (Exhibit A).

16. Upon information and belief, Carson Smithfield had authority from Merrick to settle consumers' accounts for 60% of the amount owed, or less, at any time.

17. Statements such as a settlement offer is a "limited time offer," or that the offer expires on a specific date, or that payments must be received by that date, are false and misleading because the same offer is, upon information and belief, available at any time.

18. Such false statements are material false statements, as they impart in the unsophisticated consumer, a false belief that he or she must hurry to take advantage of a limited-time opportunity, when in reality, there is no such time limit.

19. The Seventh Circuit has established "safe harbor" language regarding settlement offers in collection letters:

As in previous cases in which we have created safe-harbor language for use in cases under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we think the present concern can be adequately addressed yet the unsophisticated consumer still be protected against receiving a false impression of his options by the debt collector's including with the offer the following language: "We are not obligated to renew this offer." The word "obligated" is strong and even the unsophisticated consumer will realize that there is a renewal possibility but that it is not assured.

Evory v. RJM Acquisitions Funding L.L.C., 505 F.3d 769, 775-76 (7th Cir. 2007).

20. Carson Smithfield did not use the safe harbor language in Exhibit A. Instead, Carson Smithfield stated:

You are under no obligation to accept either of these offers. If you do not accept one of these settlement offers, we will attempt to contact you to collect the balance on your account, less any payments you may have made.

21. Upon information and belief, the deadline in Exhibit A to respond to the settlement offer is a sham. There is no actual deadline. The sole purpose of the purported deadline is to impart in the consumer a false sense of urgency.

22. Further, the above offer is stated to be valid if the settlement payment is made “on or before November 30, 2016.”

23. If Exhibit A was actually mailed on October 19, 2016, the 30 day validation period identified in Exhibit A would end only a few days before the settlement offer in Exhibit A expires. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

24. Exhibit A is confusing to the unsophisticated consumer because it demands a payment within the validation period or shortly thereafter, but does not explain how the validation notice and settlement “deadline” fit together. *Bartlett v. Heibl*, 128 F.3d 497, 500 (7th Cir. 1997) (“In the typical case, the letter both demands payment within thirty days and explains the consumer’s right to demand verification within thirty days. These rights are not inconsistent, but by failing to explain how they fit together the letter confuses.”).

25. The unsophisticated consumer would have no idea how to both seek verification of the debt and preserve the settlement offer in Exhibit A.

26. The consumer needs time to process the information contained in an initial debt collection letter before deciding whether to dispute, pay or take other action. This is the point of the 30 day period in 15 U.S.C. 1692g(a).

27. Prior to deciding whether to dispute a debt, a consumer may have to sort through personal records and/or memories to try to remember if the debt might be legitimate. He may not recognize the creditor – debts are freely assignable and corporations, especially banks, often change names.

28. Moreover, once a consumer sends a dispute in writing, the creditor is under no obligation to provide verification in any specific amount of time, or even to provide verification at all, so long as the debt collector ceases collection efforts until it does so. *Jang v. A.M. Miller &*

Assocs., 122 F.3d 480, 483 (7th Cir. 1997) (“Section 1692g(b) thus gives debt collectors two options when they receive requests for validation. They may provide the requested validations and continue their debt collecting activities, or they may cease all collection activities.”)

29. The § 1692g validation period lasts for 30 days. It is the consumer’s right to *request* verification until the end of the thirty day period. If the request is not made until the end of the thirty day period, the verification request would not be processed, researched by the creditor, and returned to the consumer until long after settlement offer payment deadline has expired. The consumer would be left with no time to review the verification and determine whether to accept the settlement offer.

30. The unsophisticated consumer would have no idea how to both seek verification of the debt and preserve the settlement offer in Exhibit A. It is likely that the settlement offer would expire before the debt collector provides verification. The consumer would be left with little or no time to review the verification and determine whether to accept the settlement offer.

31. The effect of the settlement offer in the initial written debt communication is to discourage or prevent consumers from exercising their validation rights and to circumvent the statutory requirements of the FDCPA.

32. Defendant did not include adequate explanatory language in Exhibit A. *See, eg. Bartlett*, 128 F.3d 497, 501-02 (7th Cir. 1997).

33. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.

34. Plaintiff had to spend time and money investigating Exhibit A and the consequences of any potential responses to Exhibit A.

35. Plaintiff had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including travel 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.

36. 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).

37. 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”).

38. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits “any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.”

39. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) specifically prohibits the “false representation of the character, amount, or legal status” of an alleged debt, or the “false representation of...compensation which may be lawfully received by any debt collector for the collection” of an alleged debt.

40. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) specifically prohibits threatening “to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken.”

41. 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.”

42. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f generally prohibits “unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.”

COUNT I – FDCPA

43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

44. Exhibit A includes false statements to the effect that the settlement offer is for a limited time only.

45. Upon information and belief, the creditor and/or Carson Smithfield would settle Plaintiff’s and class members’ debts at the offered discount and likely for less at any time, regardless of the supposed deadline.

46. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10) and 1692f.

COUNT II -- FDCPA

47. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

48. The statement on Exhibit A that the settlement payment must be made “on or before November 30, 2016” conflicts with and overshadows the debt validation notice, in that it demands a payment within the validation period or shortly thereafter, but does not explain how the validation notice and settlement “deadline” fit together. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g; *Bartlett*, 128 F.3d at 500.

49. Exhibit A is confusing, deceptive, and/or misleading to the unsophisticated consumer.

50. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) states, in part:

(b) Disputed debts

...

Any collection activities and communication during the 30-day period may not overshadow or be inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer’s right to dispute the debt or request the name and address of the original creditor.

51. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e provides, in relevant part: “A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.”

52. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) prohibits: “The use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.

53. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10) and 1692g.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

54. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a Class, consisting of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent an initial collection letter in the form

represented by Exhibit A to the complain in this action, (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (d) between November 18, 2015, and November 18, 2016, inclusive, (e) that was not returned by the postal service.

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

56. 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 the Defendant complied with 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10) and 1692f.

57. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

58. 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.

59. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute. Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

60. 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;
- (c) attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and

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

Dated: November 18, 2016

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: s/ John D. Blythin
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



CARSON SMITHFIELD, LLC
P.O. BOX 9216
OLD BETHPAGE, NY 11804

October 19, 2016

Our File Number: [REDACTED] 2017
Balance Due: \$3,863.95
Current Creditor: Merrick Bank Corporation
Original Creditor: Merrick Bank Corporation
Original Account Number: [REDACTED] 2017



GORDON D SIEVERT
4234 W BARNARD AVE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53221-2551

Dear Gordon D Sievert,

Merrick Bank Corporation has hired Carson Smithfield, LLC, to collect the balance due on your account referenced above. We are authorized to offer you two settlement options to allow you to settle your account for less than the current balance. You may accept either settlement offer by first contacting us as outlined below on or before November 30, 2016 and then make payments according to the offer you select.

You have three convenient options to accept this offer:

- Visit us at www.solveyourdebt.com and enter your response code [REDACTED]; or
- Call us at 1-877-394-5975 and make your payment over the phone free of charge; or
- Mail your payment with the voucher below and check the settlement option you are selecting

Choose your settlement offer below:

Lump Sum (single payment)

Merrick Bank Corporation will consider your account settled if you make a one-time payment of \$2,318.37 (which equals 60.0% of the outstanding balance of \$3,863.95) on or before November 30, 2016.

Extended Offer (pay over time)

Merrick Bank Corporation will consider your account settled if you make payments as follows:

- Remit your first payment in the amount of \$112.70 within 35 days from the date of this letter.
- Then, continue to make monthly payments in the amount of \$112.70 each, by the first of each month, for the next consecutive 23 months. (24 payments total)
- Accepting the Extended Payment Offer will result in payment of an amount that is greater than what you would pay under the Lump Sum Offer.

You are under no obligation to accept either of these offers. If you do not accept one of these settlement offers, we will attempt to contact you to collect the balance on your account, less any payments you may have made.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 1-877-394-5975. The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM EST & Saturday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector.

Sincerely,
Carson Smithfield, LLC
225 W. Station Square Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW - FEDERAL NOTICE:

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request of this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

Please detach and return with payment in envelope provided

Make checks payable to Carson Smithfield

Accepting Lump Sum Option Accepting Extended Option

Name: Gordon D Sievert
Address: 4234 W Barnard Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53221-2551

Pay-by-Phone

Call 1-877-394-5975 to set up a FREE payment by phone

Account number: [REDACTED] 2017

Or mail payment to:

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Carson Smithfield
PO BOX 660397
Dallas, TX 75266-0397

please check here if address correction
is needed and indicate changes above.

C002-52763 Y SET

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
GORDON SIEVERT

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee
 (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
 Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110
 (414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482-8001-Facsimile

DEFENDANTS
CARSON SMITHFIELD, LLC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
 (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from another district (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq

Brief description of cause:
 Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 **DEMAND \$** _____ **CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:**
JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE: **November 18, 2016** SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD: **s/ John D. Blythin**

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

GORDON SIEVERT

Plaintiff

v.

CARSON SMITHFIELD, LLC

Defendant

Civil Action No. 16-cv-1547

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) CARSON SMITHFIELD, LLC
c/o C T CORPORATION SYSTEM
8020 EXCELSIOR DR STE 200
MADISON , WI 53717

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:

John D. Blythin
Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP
3620 East Layton Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110
(414) 482-8000-Telephone

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. 16-cv-1547

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons 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: [Carson Smithfield Sued Over Debt Collection Violations](#)
