

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

BORIS SULEYMANOV, on behalf of  
himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT  
SERVICES, LLC,

Defendant.

**CIVIL ACTION**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT  
AND  
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff BORIS SULEYMANOV (hereinafter, “Plaintiff”), a New York resident, brings this action complaint by and through his attorneys, Joseph H. Mizrahi Law, P.C., against Defendant PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT SERVICES, LLC (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.” *Id.* § 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 under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant’s illegal practices, in connection with the collection of a debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (“FDCPA”).
6. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 *et seq.* of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the “FDCPA,” which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

### **PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of New York, and is a “Consumer” as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3).
9. Defendant is a Wisconsin corporation licensed to do business in New York.
10. 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.

11. Defendant is a “debt collector,” as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

**CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

12. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter “FRCP”)

Rule 23, individually and on behalf of the following nationwide consumer class (the “Class”):

- Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendant attempted to collect a consumer debt using the same unlawful form letter herein, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

13. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:

- Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who have received debt collection Letter and/or notices from Defendant that fail to adequately advise the consumer of the amount owed in violation of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard form letter and/or notice that is sent to hundreds of persons (*See Exhibit A*, except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers in an effort to protect Plaintiff’s privacy);
- There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
  - a. Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA;
  - b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendant’s conduct;
  - c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are

entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and

d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.

- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.
- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class.
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and has retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class.
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action.
- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If Defendant's conduct is allowed proceed to without remedy they will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.

- Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

**ALLEGATIONS OF FACT**

14. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “13” herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
15. 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.
16. Upon information and belief, within the last year Defendant commenced efforts to collect an alleged consumer “debt” as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5), when it mailed a Collection Letter to Plaintiff seeking to collect an unpaid balance allegedly owing to American Express.
17. On or around November 3, 2017, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter. *See Exhibit A.*
18. The letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a “debt collector” as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
19. The letter is a “communication” as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
20. The Letter was an initial communication between Plaintiff and Defendant.
21. The Letter provides that the Balance is \$1381.30.
22. The Letter further states in pertinent part:

“While the amount above is your total balance as of the date of this letter, the total balance on the day you pay may be greater as a result of fees and interest that continue to accrue.”
23. As set forth in the following Counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

**First Count**

**15 U.S.C. §1692g and §1692e *et seq.***

**Failure to Adequately and Honestly Convey the Amount of the Debt**

24. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered “1” through “23” herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
25. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g provides that within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing certain enumerated information.
26. One such requirement is that the debt collector provide “the amount of the debt.” 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
27. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must convey the amount of the debt clearly and accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
28. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the minimum amount he or she owes at the time of the notice.
29. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.
30. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees or interest that may cause the balance to increase at any time in the future.
31. The failure to include the foregoing information renders an otherwise accurate statement of the “amount of the debt” violative of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
32. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e prohibits a debt collector from using any false, deceptive, or misleading

representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

33. The question of whether a collection letter is deceptive is determined from the perspective of the “least sophisticated consumer.”
34. While § 1692e specifically prohibits certain practices, the list is non-exhaustive, and does not preclude a claim of falsity or deception based on any non- enumerated practice.
35. A collection letter is deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e if it can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate.
36. A collection letter is also deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e if it is reasonably susceptible to an inaccurate reading by the least sophisticated consumer.
37. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed is the actual amount of the debt due.
38. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed already includes “accrued interest.”
39. The Letter failed to advise Plaintiff what portion of the amount listed is principal.
40. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed will increase.
41. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” what the amount of the accrued interest will be.
42. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” when such interest will be applied.
43. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” what the interest rate is.
44. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” the amount of money the amount listed will increase per day.
45. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” the amount of money the amount listed will increase per week.

46. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” the amount of money the amount listed will increase per month.
47. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is “accrued interest,” the amount of money the amount listed will increase per any measurable period.
48. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.
49. The least sophisticated consumer could reasonably believe that the debt could be satisfied by remitting the listed amount as of the date of the letter, at any time after receipt of the letter.
50. The least sophisticated consumer could reasonably believe that the amount listed was accurate only on the date of the Letter.
51. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate the applicable interest rate.
52. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate what the amount of the accrued interest will be.
53. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate when such interest will be applied.
54. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate the amount of money the amount listed will increase at any measurable period.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Carlin v. Davidson Fink LLP*, 852 F.3d 207 (2d Cir. 2017), *Balke v. All. One Receivables Mgmt.*, No. 16-cv-5624(ADS)(AKT), 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94021, at \*14 (E.D.N.Y. June 19, 2017) (“[T]he Collection Letter in this case refers with vagueness to “accrued interest or other charges,” without providing any information regarding the rate of interest; the nature of the “other charges”; how any such charges would be calculated; and what portion of the balance due, if any, reflects already-accrued interest and other charges. By failing to provide even the most basic level of specificity in this regard, the Court “cannot say whether those amounts are properly part of the amount of the debt,” for purposes of section 1692g. *Carlin*, 852 F.3d at 216. Further, as set forth in *Carlin*, without any clarifying details, the Collection Letter states only that these unspecified assessments may be added to the balance due, which the Court finds to be insufficient to “accurately inform the [Plaintiff] that the amount of the debt stated in



55. In order to induce payments from consumers that would not otherwise be made if the consumer knew the true amount due, Defendant does not inform the consumer whether the amount listed will increase.
56. Defendant failed to clearly and unambiguously state the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
57. The Letter would likely make the least sophisticated consumer uncertain as to the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
58. The Letter would likely make the least sophisticated consumer confused as to the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
59. Defendant's conduct constitutes a false, deceptive, and misleading means and representation in connection with the collection of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
60. The letter can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings concerning the actual balance due, one of which is inaccurate, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
61. Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g(a)(1) and 1692e.
62. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.
63. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.
64. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
65. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.

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the letter will increase over time.") consumer knew the true amount due, Defendant does not inform the consumer whether the amount listed will increase.

66. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
67. Defendant's communications were designed to cause the debtor to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.
68. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process.
69. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently.
70. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived him of his right to enjoy these benefits, these materially misleading statements trigger liability under section 1692e of the Act.
71. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate the consumer's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
72. Plaintiff seeks to end these violations of the FDCPA. Plaintiff has suffered damages including but not limited to, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment. Plaintiff and putative class members are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, including, declaratory relief, and damages.
73. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Sections 1692g and 1692e of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Joseph H. Mizrahi, Esq., as Class Counsel;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Joseph H. Mizrahi  
Joseph H. Mizrahi, Esq.  
Joseph H. Mizrahi Law, P.C.  
300 Cadman Plaza W, 12th Floor  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
Phone: (917) 299-6612  
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*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**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.

/s/ Joseph H. Mizrahi  
Joseph H. Mizrahi, Esq.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York  
November 30, 2017



PO Box 612  
Milwaukee WI 53201-0621  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PROFESSIONAL  
PLACEMENT  
SERVICES, LLC  
888-828-5368

November 3, 2017

PPS Account #: [REDACTED] 920  
Balance: \$1381.30



0008120024005093970711368133802-1YA1-Y1F1799B84 2196

801 - 2196  
BORIS SULEYMANOV



Professional Placement Services, LLC  
PO Box 612  
Milwaukee WI 53201-0612

\*\*\* Detach Upper Portion And Return With Payment \*\*\*

Creditor: Capital One, N.A.  
Original Creditor: Capital One N.A.  
Re: Your Kohl's Credit Card Account XXXXXX2650  
PPS Account #: [REDACTED] 920  
Balance: \$1381.30

2196-ONPPSV10-801-9/30/12



AMERICAN COLLECTORS  
association member

COLLECTION NOTICE

This letter will serve to inform you that your delinquent account has been placed with Professional Placement Services, LLC (PPS). PPS will help you resolve this debt!!

The records provided to us show that your account is delinquent. While the amount above is your total balance as of the date of this letter, the total balance on the day you pay may be greater as a result of fees and interest that continue to accrue.

Please call 888-828-5368 or 414-224-3581 to arrange payment or if any of the above information is incorrect.

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

This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, [www.wdfi.org](http://www.wdfi.org). This collection agency is licensed by the New York City Dept of Consumer Affairs Permit# 1335836

Professional Placement Services, LLC • Collection Services Division  
272 N 12th Street • PO Box 612 • Milwaukee WI 53201-0612 • 888-828-5368 • 414-224-3581  
Office Hours: M-Th 8AM-8PM, Fri 8AM-5PM, Sat 8AM-Noon

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. New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1335836.

- To make a payment by mail, tear off the top portion of this letter and place it in the envelope with a check or money order payable to Professional Placement Services, LLC. Do not remit cash. Put your account number 5923920 on the front of your money order. Stamp and return to the address listed.



# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [FDCPA Suit Says Professional Placement Services Omitted Debt Information from Letter](#)

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