

MILLER SHAH LLP
Kolin C. Tang (SBN 279834)
19712 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 222
Irvine, CA 92612
Telephone: (866) 545-5505
Facsimile: (866) 300-7367
Email: kctang@millershah.com

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.
ROBERT K. SHELQUIST*
MEGAN S. VAN DYKE*
CATHERINE A. PETERSON*
100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 339-6900
Facsimile: (612) 339-0981
E-mail: rkshelquist@locklaw.com
E-mail: msvandyke@locklaw.com
E-mail: capeterson@locklaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**Pro Hac Vice* admission to be sought
[Additional Counsel on Signature Page]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, FRESNO DIVISION

LAUREN GOODWIN-KOENIG,

Plaintiff,

v.

TARGET CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Case No.: 1:22-at-113

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

- (1) NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION;
- (2) VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT;
- (3) VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA FALSE ADVERTISING LAW;
- (4) VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW;
- (5) BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY;
- (6) BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY;
- (7) UNJUST ENRICHMENT;
- (8) FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION; AND
- (9) FRAUD BY OMISSION.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 1. Plaintiff Lauren Goodwin-Koenig (“**Plaintiff**”), individually and on behalf of all
2 others similarly situated, by and through her undersigned attorneys, brings this Class Action
3 Complaint against Defendant Target Corporation (“**Defendant**”), for its negligent, reckless, and/or
4 intentional practice of mismarketing its Up & Up Prenatal Vitamins (“**Products**” or “**Prenatal**
5 **Vitamins**”)¹ sold throughout the United States. Defendant’s mismarketing is twofold. First,
6 Defendant fails to disclose the presence, or risk, of dangerous substances in its Prenatal Vitamins,
7 including heavy metals. Second, Defendant misrepresents the quantity of ingredients in its Prenatal
8 Vitamins, including the amount of Folic Acid. Plaintiff seeks both injunctive and monetary relief
9 on behalf of the proposed Class (as defined herein), including requiring full and accurate disclosure
10 of all dangerous substances, ingredients, and nutrients in its marketing, advertising, and labeling,
11 and restoring monies to the members of the proposed Class. Plaintiff alleges the following based
12 upon personal knowledge as well as investigation by her counsel, and as to all other matters, upon
13 information and belief, Plaintiff believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the
14 allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.
15
16
17
18
19
20

21 ¹ As used herein, “**Product**” or “**Prenatal Vitamin**” includes any prenatal product Defendant
22 refers to as a supplement, multivitamin, multimineral, prenatal, or gummy, and collectively refers
23 to any omissions regarding the risk of exposure to heavy metals and/or the presence of heavy
24 metals, and/or misrepresentations regarding quality control, and/or misrepresentations regarding
25 the quantity or amount of the ingredients, including folic acid, as stated on the label, and/or
26 misrepresentations regarding the quantity or amount of the ingredients, including folic acid, in the
27 formulation of the following Up & Up products: Prenatal Multivitamin; Prenatal Vitamins; and
28 Prenatal Multivitamin Gummies – Lemon & Raspberry Lemonade. Discovery may reveal
additional products that also contain levels of Heavy Metals and reflect an inaccurate amount of
Folic Acid than the amount depicted on the product label. Plaintiff reserves her right to include
any such products in this action.

1 NATURE OF THE CASE

2 **I. INTRODUCTION**

3 2. The significance of prenatal health is underscored by the words of Ian Donald, the
4 obstetrician who developed ultrasound diagnostics in Europe during the twentieth century, when
5 he stated: “The first 38 weeks of life spent in the allegedly protected environment of the amniotic
6 sac are medically more eventful and more fraught with danger than the next 38 years in the life
7 span of most human individuals.”²

9 3. The importance of prenatal health has not gone unnoticed to expectant mothers or
10 women who may become pregnant. And the prenatal vitamin market is capitalizing on the
11 increased awareness.

12 4. The North America Prenatal Vitamin market was valued at an estimated 200.47
13 million U.S. dollars (“USD”) in the United States in 2020, and the market is expected to increase
14 by almost USD 100 million in the next five years, reaching a market value of USD 293.6 million,
15 by 2025.³

17 5. The incredible rise in consumer demand for prenatal vitamins is due to “[t]he
18 growing health awareness among pregnant women regarding proper diet.”⁴ Following a healthy
19
20
21
22

23 ² Stephen J. Genuis, Rebecca A. Genuis, "Preconception Care: A New Standard of Care within
24 Maternal Health Services", *BioMed Research International*, vol. 2016, Article
25 ID 6150976, 30 pages, 2016. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/6150976> (last accessed
January 3, 2022).

26 ³ North America Prenatal Vitamins Supplement Market, Market Data Forecast, available at
27 <https://www.marketdataforecast.com/market-reports/na-prenatal-vitamins-supplements-market>
(last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Vitamins Supplement Market Data Forecast”).

28 ⁴ *Id.*

1 diet and taking a nutritious prenatal vitamin are important to supporting the growth of the fetus
2 and the mother’s overall health.⁵

3 6. The surge in sales of prenatal vitamins has also increased due to promotional
4 initiatives by the market vendors, like Defendant.⁶ “Prenatal vitamin supplements are gaining
5 popularity in the market due to aggressive promotion and enhanced sales channels increasing
6 accessibility to the consumers.”⁷

7
8 7. Among the North America Prenatal Vitamins Supplements market, Folic Acid
9 supplements held the largest share of its market segment, a segment which also includes Iron,
10 Calcium, and Essential Fatty Acids.⁸

11 8. Folic Acid, a synthetic form of Folate, the naturally occurring form of vitamin B9,
12 plays a critical role in supporting prenatal health.⁹ Leading up to and during pregnancy, Folic Acid
13 helps prevent major birth defects of the brain and spine called neural tube defects (“NTD”), such
14 as spina bifida.¹⁰ Due to the significance of Folic Acid during pregnancy, consumers, like Plaintiff,
15 read the product label to ensure its ingredients, including Folic Acid, provide the appropriate
16 nutrition to support their prenatal health.¹¹

17
18
19 ⁵ The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, “Nutrition During Pregnancy FAQs,”
20 updated March 2021, *available at* <https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/nutrition-during-pregnancy> (last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Nutrition During Pregnancy”).

21 ⁶ *Vitamins Supplement Market Data Forecast, supra.*

22 ⁷ *Id.*

23 ⁸ *Id.*

24 ⁹ Healthline, “Folic Acid vs. Folate – What’s the Difference?” *available at*
<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/folic-acid-vs-folate#folate> (last accessed October 18, 2021).

25 ¹⁰ *Nutrition During Pregnancy, supra.*

26 ¹¹ In accordance with the Federal Rule for New Supplement Facts Labeling, companies like
27 Defendants now state on their label a “[Percentage] Daily Value for the total amount of Folate in
28 a product, and if any of the total Folate comes from Folic Acid, that amount of Folic Acid is listed
in mcg in parentheses.” U.S. Food and Drug Administration, “Folate and Folic Acid on the

1 9. Given the importance of prenatal vitamins to the mother’s and baby’s health,
2 women like Plaintiff who are pregnant or who may become pregnant, trust Defendant to sell
3 prenatal vitamins that are nutritious, nurturing of a healthy pregnancy, and are comparable to
4 national brands, that are free from harmful toxins, contaminants, and chemicals, such as **Heavy**
5 **Metals**,¹² and that contain the amount of ingredients, like Folic Acid, that are reflected on the
6 product label.

7
8 10. However, unbeknownst to women like Plaintiff, Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins
9 contain, or risk containing, dangerous substances in the form of Heavy Metals and contain, or risk
10 containing, less Folic Acid than is amount represented on the Product label.

11 **II. HEAVY METALS**

12 11. Defendant fails to disclose the presence, or risk, of Heavy Metals in its Products.

13
14 12. Consumers like Plaintiff expect the prenatal vitamins they consume to be free from
15 Heavy Metals.

16 13. Consumers like Plaintiff lack the scientific knowledge necessary to determine
17 whether the Defendant’s Products do in fact contain Heavy Metals or to know or ascertain the true
18 nature of the ingredients and quality of the Products. Reasonable consumers therefore must and do
19 rely on Defendant to honestly report what its Products contain, especially as it pertains to the
20 disclosure of Heavy Metals.

21
22 14. Exposure to Heavy Metals has significant and dangerous health consequences. A
23 recent report by the U.S. House of Representatives’ Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer
24

25 Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels,” June 29, 2020, *available at*
26 [https://www.fda.gov/food/new-nutrition-facts-label/folate-and-folic-acid-nutrition-and-](https://www.fda.gov/food/new-nutrition-facts-label/folate-and-folic-acid-nutrition-and-supplement-facts-labels)
27 [supplement-facts-labels](https://www.fda.gov/food/new-nutrition-facts-label/folate-and-folic-acid-nutrition-and-supplement-facts-labels) (last accessed January 3, 2022).

28 ¹² As used herein, “**Heavy Metals**” is collectively defined as Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, and Mercury.

1 Policy, Committee on Oversight and Reform (“**Congressional Committee Report**”) highlighted
2 the risk of including Heavy Metals in baby food, spurred by the knowledge that “[e]ven low levels
3 of exposure can cause serious and often irreversible damage to brain development.”¹³

4 15. The risk of harm to babies exposed to Heavy Metals starts even before birth, when
5 the baby is developing in-utero. If an expectant mother is taking a vitamin with Heavy Metals,
6 those Heavy Metals will cross the placenta, contaminating the child’s development and causing
7 adverse health effects.¹⁴ “The toxicological effects of heavy metals could alter the physiological
8 changes during pregnancy, the critical phase of fetal cell division and differentiation.”¹⁵ Chronic
9 low dose and consistent exposure to Heavy Metal toxicity to an infant during pregnancy can result
10 in preterm delivery, stillbirth, or miscarriage.¹⁶

12 16. Exposure to Heavy Metals during pregnancy may also lead to negative health
13 outcomes in early childhood and beyond.¹⁷ After birth, the Heavy Metal exposure can result in the
14
15
16

17 ¹³U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on
18 Economic and Consumer Policy, Staff Report, Baby Foods Are Tainted with Dangerous Levels of
19 Arsenic, Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury, February 4, 2021, *available at*
20 [https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2021-02-04%20ECP%20](https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2021-02-04%20ECP%20Baby%20Food%20Staff%20Report.pdf)
21 [Baby%20Food%20Staff%20Report.pdf](https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2021-02-04%20ECP%20Baby%20Food%20Staff%20Report.pdf) (last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Congressional
22 Committee Report”). *See also* U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and
23 Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, Staff Report, “New Disclosures Show
24 Dangerous Levels of Toxic Heavy Metals in Even More Baby Foods,” September 29, 2021,
25 *available at* [https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/ECP%20](https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/ECP%20Second%20Baby%20Food%20Report%209.29.21%20FINAL.pdf)
26 [Second%20Baby%20Food%20Report%209.29.21%20FINAL.pdf](https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/ECP%20Second%20Baby%20Food%20Report%209.29.21%20FINAL.pdf) (last accessed January 9,
27 2022).

24 ¹⁴ Wai, K. M., Mar, O., Kosaka, S., Umemura, M., & Watanabe, C. (2017). Prenatal Heavy Metal
25 Exposure and Adverse Birth Outcomes in Myanmar: A Birth-Cohort Study. *International journal*
26 *of environmental research and public health*, 14(11), 1339. *Available at*
27 <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14111339> (last accessed January 3, 2022).

26 ¹⁵ *Id.*

27 ¹⁶ *Id.*

28 ¹⁷ *Id.*

1 child developing behavioral and neurocognitive conditions including autism or Attention-
2 Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (“ADHD”).¹⁸

3 17. Provided the risk of harm to a child in-utero from Heavy Metal exposure,
4 Defendant knows that its customers trust the quality of their products and that its customers expect
5 Defendant’s products to be free of Heavy Metals. Defendant also knows that certain consumers
6 seek out and wish to purchase prenatal vitamins that possess high quality ingredients free of toxins,
7 contaminants, or chemicals. Additionally, Defendant knows that these consumers will pay the
8 price premium for prenatal vitamins they believe possess these qualities.
9

10 18. As such, Defendant’s promises, warranties, pricing, statements, claims, packaging,
11 labeling, marketing, and advertising (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Marketing” or
12 “Claims”) center on representations that are intended to, and do, convey to consumers that its
13 prenatal vitamins, including its Prenatal Vitamins, possess certain qualities and characteristics that
14 support a mother’s and developing baby’s health.
15

16 19. No reasonable consumer seeing Defendant’s Marketing would expect the Prenatal
17 Vitamins to contain or risk containing Heavy Metals. Furthermore, reasonable consumers, like
18 Plaintiff, would consider the mere inclusion, or risk of inclusion, of Heavy Metals a material fact
19 when shopping for a nutritious prenatal vitamin.

20 20. Defendant intended for consumers to rely on its Marketing, and reasonable
21 consumers did in fact so rely. However, Defendant’s Marketing is deceptive, misleading, unfair,
22 and/or false because, among other things, the Prenatal Vitamins include or risk including
23 undisclosed Heavy Metals.
24

25
26
27 ¹⁸ ADHD and Autism Associated with In-Utero Heavy Metals and Essential Minerals,
28 NeuroscienceNews.com, April 9, 2021, available at <https://neurosciencenews.com/asd-adhd-heavy-metals-18207/> (last accessed January 3, 2022).

1 21. Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins do not have a disclaimer regarding the presence of
2 Heavy Metals that would inform consumers that the Products contain, or risk containing, Heavy
3 Metals and/or that Heavy Metals can accumulate over time in a developing child’s body to the
4 point where negative health outcomes can occur.

5 **III. FOLIC ACID**

6 22. Defendant misrepresents the amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins.

7
8 23. Consumers like Plaintiff expect that when a prenatal vitamin states that it contains
9 a certain amount of a nutrient, especially one as important to prenatal health as Folic Acid, that the
10 prenatal vitamin actually contains the amount stated on the Product label.

11 24. Consumers lack the scientific knowledge necessary to determine whether the
12 Defendant’s Products do in fact contain the actual amount of Folic Acid that is stated on the label,
13 or to know or ascertain the true amount of Folic Acid in the Products. Reasonable consumers
14 therefore must and do rely on Defendant to honestly report the amount of Folic Acid its Products
15 contain.
16

17 25. Folic Acid is critical to the health of women who are pregnant or may become
18 pregnant. Folic Acid helps prevent babies from developing NTDs, including spina bifida.¹⁹

19 26. Given the critical role of Folic Acid to the health of women like Plaintiff who are
20 pregnant or may become pregnant, Defendant knows that its customers trust the quality of its
21 Products and that they expect Defendant’s Products to provide the amount of Folic Acid that is
22 presented on its Products’ labels.
23

24
25
26 ¹⁹ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office on Women’s Health, “Folic Acid,” last
27 updated April 1, 2019, available at <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/folic-acid#:~:text=If%20you%20do%20not%20get%20enough%20folic%20acid%20before%20and,S,pina%20bifida> (last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Health & Human Services, Folic Acid”).
28

1 27. As such, Defendant's Marketing centers on representations that are intended to,
2 and do, represent to consumers that its Prenatal Vitamins contain an amount of Folic Acid that
3 justify a consumer paying a price premium for its Products.

4 28. No reasonable consumer seeing Defendant's Marketing would expect the Prenatal
5 Vitamins to contain, or have the risk of containing, less Folic Acid than the amount represented
6 on the label.

7 29. Reasonable consumers would consider the risk of deficiency in the amount of Folic
8 Acid a material fact when considering what prenatal vitamins to purchase.

9 30. Defendant intended for consumers to rely on its Marketing, and reasonable
10 consumers did in fact so rely. However, Defendant's Marketing is deceptive, misleading, unfair,
11 and/or false because, among other things, the Prenatal Vitamins contained, or had a risk of
12 containing, less Folic Acid than the amount stated on the label.

13 31. Contrary to the express representations made on its labels, Defendant's Prenatal
14 Vitamins provided or risked providing less Folic Acid than the amount stated on the label.

15
16
17 **IV. DEFENDANT'S MISMARKETING OF ITS PRENATAL VITAMINS IS THE**
18 **BASIS FOR THIS ACTION**

19 32. Defendant's wrongful Marketing, which includes misleading, deceptive, unfair,
20 and false Marketing and omissions, allowed it to capitalize on, and reap enormous profits from,
21 consumers who paid the price premium for Prenatal Vitamins that were not sold as advertised.
22 Defendant continues to wrongfully induce consumers to purchase its Prenatal Vitamins that are
23 not as advertised.

24 33. Plaintiff brings this proposed consumer class action individually and on behalf of
25 all other members of the Class (as defined herein), who, from the applicable limitations period up
26

27
28

1 to and including the present, purchased for use and not resale any of Defendant's Prenatal
2 Vitamins.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4
5 34. This Court has original jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein under
6 the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. §1332(d) for the following reasons:

7 (a) some of the class members are citizens of a state that is different from the citizenship of the
8 Defendant; (b) the putative class size is greater than 100 persons; (c) the amount in controversy in
9 the aggregate for the putative class exceeds the sum of \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs;
10 and (d) the primary defendants do not include States, State officials, and/or other governmental
11 entities against whom the district court may be foreclosed from ordering relief.

12
13 35. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under CAFA, 28 U.S.C.
14 §1332(d), because, upon information and belief, no other class action has been filed asserting the
15 same or similar factual allegations against the defendants on behalf of the same or other persons
16 during the 3-year period preceding the filing of this class action.

17 **General Personal Jurisdiction**

18
19 36. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Plaintiff, Lauren Goodwin-Koenig, who
20 is a resident of the State of California.

21 37. This Court has both general and specific personal jurisdiction over the Defendant,
22 Target Corporation.

23 38. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over Defendant, Target Corporation,
24 because Defendant is registered to conduct business in California.

25
26 39. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over Defendant, Target Corporation,
27 because the Defendant advertises, markets, and sells its parental vitamin products in California,
28 accepts money from purchasers located in California, has engaged in systematic and continuous

1 business activities in California, transacted substantial business with California entities and
2 residents, and generally has sufficient minimum contacts in California to satisfy the Due Process
3 Clause of the California Constitution and California's Long Arm Statute pursuant to California
4 Code of Civil Procedure §410.10.

5
6 **Specific Personal Jurisdiction**

7 40. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over Defendant arising from
8 Defendant's advertising, Marketing, and sale of Up & Up prenatal vitamin products in California,
9 which at all relevant times, included or risked including dangerous substances and misrepresented
10 the amount of Folic Acid, all of which have caused harm in California as a result of the specific
11 business activities complained of herein, either directly or through Defendant's agents.

12 41. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over Defendant because the
13 advertising, Marketing, and sale of Up & Up prenatal vitamin products, which included or risked
14 including dangerous substances and misrepresented the amount of Folic Acid, occurred in parts of
15 California that are located in the Eastern District of California.

17 42. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
18 §1391(b)(2), because Plaintiff Lauren Goodwin-Koenig resides in the Eastern District of
19 California, and ingested the Up & Up prenatal vitamin products at issue within the confines of this
20 District.

21 43. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of California under 28 U.S.C.
22 §1391(b)(1)&(2) and 28 USC §1391(d) because Defendant regularly conducts substantial business
23 within the Eastern District of California.

24 44. Venue is also proper in the Eastern District of California under 28 U.S.C.
25 §1391(b)(2) because a substantial portion of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's
26 claims occurred in this District, namely Defendant's advertisement, sale, and Marketing of Up &
27

1 Up prenatal vitamin products, which occurred in this District and caused financial harm to
2 members of the putative class that reside in this District.

3
4 **THE PARTIES**

5 45. Plaintiff Lauren Goodwin-Koenig is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a
6 citizen of Rosamond, California, located in the County of Kern. She purchased the Prenatal
7 Vitamins, specifically the Up & Up Prenatal Gummies, for herself at Defendant's store in
8 Lancaster, California. Plaintiff purchased the Prenatal Vitamins from January 2019 until May of
9 2020.

10 46. During the time Plaintiff purchased and took the Prenatal Vitamins, and due to the
11 false and misleading claims and omissions by Defendant, Plaintiff believed she was taking prenatal
12 vitamins to give her body the nutrients needed for a healthy pregnancy. Plaintiff was unaware the
13 Prenatal Vitamins contained, or had a risk of containing, undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals.
14 Plaintiff also believed the Prenatal Vitamins contained the amount of Folic Acid that was stated
15 on the Product label. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Products if the levels of Heavy Metals
16 and amount of Folic Acid had been fully and accurately disclosed and represented.

17
18 47. As the result of Defendant's negligent, reckless, and/or knowingly deceptive
19 conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff was injured when she paid the price premium for the Prenatal
20 Vitamins that did not deliver what they promised. She paid the price premium on the assumption
21 that the labeling of the Prenatal Vitamins was accurate, that they did not contain or have a risk of
22 containing undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals and were safe to ingest, and that they contained the
23 amount of Folic Acid promised on the label. Plaintiff would not have paid this money had she
24 known that the Prenatal Vitamins contained levels of Heavy Metals and a deficient amount of Folic
25 Acid as compared to the amount stated on the Product label. Further, should Plaintiff encounter
26 the Prenatal Vitamins in the future, she could not rely on the truthfulness of the Marketing, absent
27
28

1 corrective changes to the packaging, labeling, and advertising of the Products. Damages can be
2 calculated through expert testimony at trial.

3 48. Defendant Target Corporation is incorporated under the laws of the state of
4 Minnesota. Defendant's corporate headquarters is located at 1000 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis,
5 Minnesota 55403. Defendant is responsible for the Marketing, distribution, and sale of the Prenatal
6 Vitamins under the Up & Up name to millions of consumers throughout the United States,
7 including this District. Defendant created, allowed, negligently oversaw, and/or authorized the
8 unlawful, fraudulent, unfair, misleading, and/or deceptive labeling and advertising for the Prenatal
9 Vitamins.
10

11 49. The Marketing for the Prenatal Vitamins, relied upon by Plaintiff, was
12 disseminated throughout the United States, including this District, by Defendant and its agents
13 through advertising, packaging, and labeling that contained the misrepresentations and omissions
14 alleged herein. The Marketing for the Prenatal Vitamins was designed to encourage consumers,
15 and reasonably misled consumers, into purchasing the Products throughout the United States,
16 including this District.
17

18 50. Defendant manufactures, markets, advertises, packages, and labels several prenatal
19 vitamin products. Defendant's Prenatal Vitamins include, but are not limited to:²⁰
20
21
22
23
24
25

26 ²⁰ As stated *supra*, discovery may reveal additional products that also contain levels of Heavy
27 Metals and reflect an inaccurate amount of Folic Acid than the amount depicted on the product
28 label. Plaintiff reserves her right to include any such products in this action.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

(a) Up & Up Prenatal Multivitamin:



(b) Up & Up Prenatal Vitamins:



1 (c) Up & Up Prenatal Multivitamin Gummies – Lemon & Raspberry
2 Lemonade:



3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

19 **I. DEFENDANT’S MARKETING PRACTICES EMPHASIZED ITS PRENATAL**
20 **VITAMINS AS A GENERIC STORE BRAND THAT HOLDS ITS OWN AGAINST**
21 **NATIONAL NAME BRANDS**

22 51. Defendant packages, labels, markets, advertises, formulates, manufactures,
23 distributes, and sells its products, including its Prenatal Vitamins, throughout this District and the
24 United States, and its products are widely advertised and available at numerous retail and online
25 outlets. Defendant’s Marketing promotes its Products as a generic store brand that holds its own
26 against national name brands.

1 52. Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins are advertised with the Up & Up brand to reflect
2 and imply that consumers would receive a prenatal vitamin that is comparable to national name
3 brands that provide essential vitamins and minerals to support a healthy pregnancy.

4 53. Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins are advertised, marketed and sold as to compare to
5 name brand prenatal vitamins, for example, “Compare to vitafusion™ PreNatal” or “Stuart
6 Prenatal®” or “Compare to One A Day® Women’s Prenatal” or “Compare to One A Day®
7 Women’s Prenatal 1.”
8



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28



54. Despite these representations, on information and belief, there are no reliable studies that support Defendant's representations.

55. By making this representation and by comparing its less expensive in-house private label product to the national known brands' more expensive prenatal vitamins, Defendant misleads consumers into believing its Prenatal Vitamins are as effective as name brands and can therefore promote a healthy pregnancy.

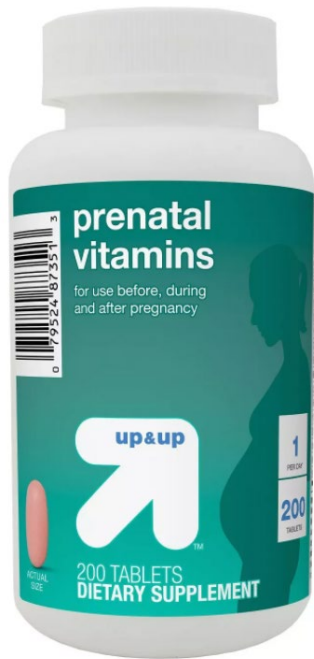
56. These misrepresentations allow Defendant to unlawfully increase its sales and have an economic edge over its competitors in the marketplace.

1 57. With Defendant’s highlighting of its Products “essential” and “necessary”
2 nutrients, Defendant clearly recognizes the importance of its Prenatal Vitamins to the healthy
3 development of a baby in-utero, including a woman’s preparation to foster such development.

4 **II. DEFENDANT HAD EXCLUSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHYSICAL AND**
5 **CHEMICAL MAKE-UP OF ITS PRENATAL VITAMINS**

6 58. Defendant has, and had, exclusive knowledge of the physical and chemical make-
7 up of the Prenatal Vitamins.

8 59. The Prenatal Vitamins are advertised, marketed and sold as Products that are to be
9 used and provides nutrients “before, during and after pregnancy.”



DO NOT USE IF PRINTED SEAL UNDER CAP IS BROKEN OR MISSING

A complete multivitamin with nutrients that matter to mom and baby
Supplies important nutrients a woman’s body needs before, during and after pregnancy.**

This product includes a complete multivitamin tablet with key nutrients such as folic acid and iron.
This product also includes a DHA/EPA softgel.

Complete prenatal multivitamin and DHA:

- Adequate folate in healthful diets may reduce a woman’s risk of having a child with a brain or spinal cord birth defect
- Iron requirements are greater for pregnant women than nonpregnant women
- DHA may help support healthy fetal brain and eye development during pregnancy**

GLUTEN FREE

100% satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.

[†]One A Day® is a registered trademark of Bayer HealthCare LLC.

****THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.**

204009/518829/518526/TAR801684

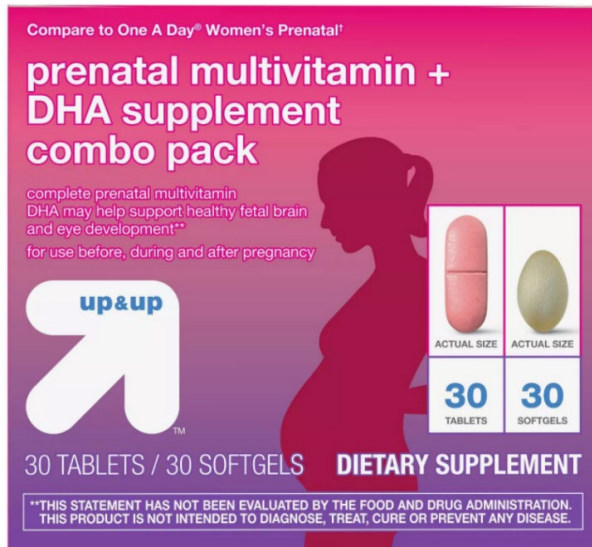
1 60. On its website, Defendant declares that its Prenatal Vitamins support a healthy
2 pregnancy with “essential nutrients”²¹ and “necessary nutrients.”²²

3 61. By way of Defendant’s marketed inclusion of “essential” and “necessary” nutrients
4 in its Prenatal Vitamins, Defendant represents the importance and accuracy of the quality of
5 ingredients in the Prenatal Vitamins, as well as the quantity of ingredients on the Product label(s),
6 as it relates to the healthy development of a baby in-utero, including a woman’s preparation to
7 foster such development.
8

9 **III. DEFENDANT FAILS TO DISCLOSE THE PRESENCE OR RISK OF HEAVY
10 METALS IN ITS PRENATAL VITAMINS**

11 **A. Defendant Falsely Marketed its Prenatal Vitamins by Omitting the Inclusion
12 or Risk of Heavy Metals**

13 62. Defendant promotes its Prenatal Vitamins as comparable to national prenatal
14 vitamin name brands, including One A Day®.



17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24 ²¹<https://www.target.com/p/prenatal-vitamin-dietary-supplement-tablets-up-up/-/A-16292263>
25 (last accessed January 5, 2022).

26 ²²<https://www.target.com/p/prenatal-multivitamin-gummies-fruit-flavors-90ct-up-38-up-8482/-/A-13579345#lnk=sametab> (last accessed January 5, 2022); and
27 <https://www.target.com/p/women-39-s-daily-prenatal-combo-pack-dietary-supplement-tablets-38-softgels-60ct-up-38-up-8482/-/A-11868347#lnk=sametab> (last accessed January 5, 2022).
28

63. Defendant markets its Products with images of a pregnant woman, touting its Products support for “reproductive health,” and stating on its website that its Prenatal Vitamins promote a healthy pregnancy with “essential nutrients”²³ and “necessary nutrients.”²⁴



²³<https://www.target.com/p/prenatal-vitamin-dietary-supplement-tablets-up-up/-/A-16292263> (last accessed January 5, 2022).

²⁴<https://www.target.com/p/prenatal-multivitamin-gummies-fruit-flavors-90ct-up-38-up-8482/-/A-13579345#lnk=sametab> (last accessed January 5, 2022); and <https://www.target.com/p/women-39-s-daily-prenatal-combo-pack-dietary-supplement-tablets-38-softgels-60ct-up-38-up-8482/-/A-11868347#lnk=sametab> (last accessed January 5, 2022).

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28



64. Defendant markets its Products as “complete” with “nutrients that matter to mom and baby.”

DO NOT USE IF PRINTED SEAL UNDER CAP IS BROKEN OR MISSING

A complete multivitamin with nutrients that matter to mom and baby
Supplies important nutrients a woman's body needs before, during and after pregnancy.**

This product includes a complete multivitamin tablet with key nutrients such as folic acid and iron.
This product also includes a DHA/EPA softgel.

Complete prenatal multivitamin and DHA:

- Adequate folate in healthful diets may reduce a woman's risk of having a child with a brain or spinal cord birth defect
- Iron requirements are greater for pregnant women than nonpregnant women
- DHA may help support healthy fetal brain and eye development during pregnancy**

GLUTEN FREE

100% satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.

†One A Day® is a registered trademark of Bayer HealthCare LLC.

****THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.**

204009/518829/518526/TAR801684

1 65. Based on Defendant’s decision to advertise, label, and market its Prenatal Vitamins
2 as nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy, consistent with national name brands,
3 Defendant had a duty to ensure that these statements were true and not misleading. As such,
4 Defendant knew or should have known that its Prenatal Vitamins included or risked including
5 nondisclosed levels of Heavy Metals, especially considering Defendant’s statements on its
6 website, labels, and packaging.

7 66. Defendant’s Marketing of its Products failed to disclose they contained or were at
8 risk of containing any level of Heavy Metals.

9 67. Defendant intentionally omitted the inclusion of Heavy Metals in its Products in
10 order to induce and mislead reasonable consumers to purchase its Prenatal Vitamins.

11 68. As a result of Defendant’s omissions, a reasonable consumer would have no reason
12 to suspect the presence, or risk, of undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals in its Products without
13 conducting his or her own scientific tests or reviewing third party scientific testing of the Products.
14

15
16 **B. Due to the Presence of Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins, Defendant’s**
17 **Marketing and Omissions are Misleading**

18 69. At all times during the Class Period, Defendant knew or should have known its
19 Prenatal Vitamins contained, or risked containing, Heavy Metals.

20 70. Plaintiff, through counsel, submitted a Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”)
21 request to the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) on March 8, 2021 asking for any test results
22 or any records related to the levels of Folic Acid or Heavy Metals in Up & Up prenatal vitamins.
23 On July 28, 2021, the FDA responded that it was unable to locate any records in response to the
24 request.

25 71. Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins contained or had a risk of containing Heavy Metals.
26 Defendant was aware of this risk due to its promotion of the critical role of its nutrients in its
27

1 Products to support a healthy pregnancy and Defendant failed to disclose it to Plaintiff and the
2 Class.

3 72. Defendant knew or should have known that Heavy Metals are potentially
4 dangerous contaminants that pose health risks to humans, especially to women who are pregnant
5 or may become pregnant and developing babies.

6 73. Heavy Metal exposure can lead to catastrophic health consequences in a
7 developing baby. The fetal development period from conception until birth is a phase of life that
8 carries particular vulnerability to toxic exposure, including Heavy Metals, as developing babies
9 have an immature detoxification capability.²⁵ Due to this vulnerable state, during this critical
10 period, a child may amass higher levels of Heavy Metals and thus experience higher levels of toxic
11 exposure than their mothers.²⁶ This exposure may lead to adverse consequences in pregnancy and
12 the in-utero baby, including premature delivery, and the baby having a decreased birth weight, as
13 well as smaller head and chest circumference, and a multitude of developmental and long-term
14 health problems.²⁷ Prenatal exposure to Heavy Metals also negatively affects a child's
15 neurodevelopment and may contribute to schizophrenia and dementia in adulthood.²⁸

16 74. Defendant knew or should have known it owed consumers a duty of care to prevent
17 the presence or risk of Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins to the extent reasonably possible.

18 75. Defendant knew or should have known it owed consumers a duty of care to
19 disclose the presence, or risk, of Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins.
20
21
22
23

24 ²⁵Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, *available at*
25 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214750018301215?via%3Dihub> (last
accessed January 3, 2022) (“Heavy Metal Contamination of Prenatal Vitamins”).

26 ²⁶ *Id.*

27 ²⁷ *Id.*

28 ²⁸ *Id.*

1 76. Defendant knew or should have known consumers purchased its Prenatal Vitamins
2 based on the reasonable expectation that Defendant manufactured the Products to be comparable
3 to national prenatal vitamin name brands. Based on this expectation, Defendant knew or should
4 have known consumers reasonably inferred that Defendant would hold the Prenatal Vitamins to
5 the highest standards for preventing the inclusion of Heavy Metals in its Products and for testing
6 for Heavy Metals in the Prenatal Vitamins' ingredients as well as the final Products.
7

8 ***Heavy Metal Ingredient: Arsenic***

9 77. Defendant's Prenatal Vitamins contain, or risk containing, Arsenic, which can
10 cause cancer in humans, as well as diabetes and atherosclerosis, and potentially cardiovascular
11 disease when ingested chronically.²⁹ Chronic exposure to Arsenic has also been associated with
12 dermatological lesions and malignancies.³⁰
13

14 78. For children specifically, the World Health Organization ("WHO") has found that
15 prenatal exposure to Arsenic through placental transfer, "can cause marked damage to the fetus[]"
16 and increases the risk of detrimental effects throughout early childhood.³¹ Exposure to Arsenic in-
17 utero "has recently been associated with impact on genetic homeostasis with resulting
18 inflammation and atherosclerotic disease adults."³² Inorganic Arsenic exposure in-utero is also
19

20 _____
21 ²⁹ States JC, Singh AV, Knudsen TB, Rouchka EC, Ngilame NO, Arteel GE, et al. (2012) Prenatal
22 Arsenic Exposure Alters Gene Expression in the Adult Liver to a Proinflammatory State
23 Contributing to Accelerated Atherosclerosis. PLoS ONE 7(6): e38713. Available at
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0038713> (last accessed January 3, 2022) ("Prenatal Arsenic
Exposure").

24 ³⁰ Genuis SJ, Schwalfenberg G, Siy A-KJ, Rodushkin I (2012) Toxic Element Contamination of
25 Natural Health Products and Pharmaceutical Preparations. PLOS ONE 7(11): e49676. Available
26 at <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0049676> (last accessed January 3, 2022) ("Toxic Element
Contamination of Natural Health Products").

27 ³¹ WHO, Adverse Health Effects of Heavy Metals in Children, available at
https://www.who.int/ceh/capacity/heavy_metals.pdf (last accessed January 3, 2022).

28 ³² *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

1 linked to “impaired intellectual development, such as decreased performance on certain
2 developmental tests that measure learning.”³³ A developing baby’s exposure to Arsenic also
3 contributes to cardiovascular disease later in life.³⁴

4 79. Exposure cannot be undone, as “[t]here is no evidence that the harm caused by
5 arsenic is reversible.”³⁵ Moreover, Arsenic exposure may increase the mother’s risk of nausea and
6 vomiting during pregnancy, which may decrease maternal weight gain and lead to poor maternal
7 nutrition.³⁶ A woman’s blood Arsenic was also associated with decreased fetal growth.³⁷

8
9 80. Based on the risks associated with exposure to higher level of Arsenic, both the
10 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and FDA have set limits concerning the
11 allowable limit of Arsenic at 10 parts per billion (“ppb”) for human consumption in apple juice
12 (regulated by the FDA) and drinking water (regulated by the EPA as a maximum contaminant
13 level).³⁸ The FDA has also set the maximum allowable levels in bottled water at 10 ppb of
14 inorganic Arsenic.³⁹

15
16
17 ³³ U.S. Food and Drug Administration, “Arsenic in Food and Dietary Supplements,” current as of
18 August 5, 2020, available at <https://www.fda.gov/food/metals-and-your-food/arsenic-food-and-dietary-supplements> (last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Arsenic in Supplements”).

19 ³⁴ *Prenatal Arsenic Exposure, supra*.

20 ³⁵ Healthy Babies Bright Futures Report, What’s in My Baby’s Food, at 3, available at
21 https://www.healthybabyfood.org/sites/healthybabyfoods.org/files/2020-04/BabyFoodReport_ENGLISH_R6.pdf (last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Healthy Babies Bright Futures Report”).

22 ³⁶ Estimating Effects of Arsenic Exposure During Pregnancy on Perinatal Outcomes in a
23 Bangladeshi Cohort, *Epidemiology*, 2016 Mar; 27(2); 173-181, published online 2016 Feb 2,
24 available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4733817/> (last accessed January 3,
25 2022) (“Estimating Effects of Arsenic Exposure During Pregnancy”).

26 ³⁷ Claus Henn, B., Ettinger, A. S., Hopkins, M. R., Jim, R., Amarasiriwardena, C., Christiani, D.
27 C., Coull, B. A., Bellinger, D. C., & Wright, R. O. (2016). Prenatal Arsenic Exposure and Birth
28 Outcomes among a Population Residing near a Mining-Related Superfund Site. *Environmental health perspectives*, 124(8), 1308–1315. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1510070> (last accessed January 3, 2022) (“Prenatal Exposure and Birth Outcomes”).

³⁸ *Arsenic in Supplements, supra*.

³⁹ *Id.*

1 81. Although the FDA has not set the action level for Arsenic in prenatal supplements
2 specifically, “the FDA prioritizes monitoring and regulating products that are more likely to be
3 consumed by very young children.”⁴⁰ In that vein, the FDA issued guidance limiting the action
4 level for Arsenic in infant rice cereals to 100 ppb.⁴¹

5 82. Notwithstanding the establishment of action levels, Arsenic exposure may result
6 in adverse outcomes during pregnancy and in the developing child.⁴²

7
8 ***Heavy Metal Ingredient: Cadmium***

9 83. Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins contain, or risk containing, Cadmium, which is
10 linked to neurotoxicity, cancer, and kidney, bone, and heart damage.⁴³ Moreover, the U.S.
11 Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) has determined that Cadmium is a probable
12 human carcinogen.⁴⁴

13
14 84. Cadmium exposure during pregnancy can lead to detrimental outcomes. “Maternal
15 exposure to [cadmium] has been associated with the delivery of low-birth weight babies and an
16 increase incidence of spontaneous abortion.”⁴⁵ Cadmium may displace zinc, which is essential for
17 normal fetal growth and development as well as maternal health during pregnancy.⁴⁶

18
19 _____
20 ⁴⁰ *Id.*

21 ⁴¹ *Id.*

22 ⁴² *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

23 ⁴³ Genchi, G., Sinicropi, M.S., Lauria, G., Carocci, A., & Catalano, A., “The Effects of Cadmium
24 Toxicity,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Review, Published
25 May 26, 2020, available at [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/
26 PMC7312803/#:~:text=Cadmium%20accumulates%20in%20plants%20and,%2C%20pancreas%
27 2C%20and%20kidney%20cancers](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7312803/#:~:text=Cadmium%20accumulates%20in%20plants%20and,%2C%20pancreas%2C%20and%20kidney%20cancers) (last accessed January 3, 2022).

28 ⁴⁴ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Statement, “Cadmium,”
(Sept. 2012), available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/phs/phs.asp?id=46&tid=15> (last accessed
January 3, 2022).

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

1 85. Cadmium may seriously affect the morbidity and mortality of newborns in the first
2 four weeks of their lives with far-reaching health consequences.⁴⁷ Scientists have reported a
3 “tripling of risk for learning disabilities and special education among children with higher
4 cadmium exposures, at levels common among U.S. children[.]”⁴⁸ Cadmium is also associated with
5 decreases in IQ⁴⁹ and the development of ADHD.⁵⁰ Compounding the concern is that Cadmium
6 has a prolonged half-life as it sequesters in body tissue.⁵¹

7
8 86. Although the FDA has not set the maximum contaminant level for Cadmium in
9 prenatal vitamins, the EPA has set a maximum contaminant level for Cadmium in drinking water
10 of 5 ppb, 40 C.F.R. §141.62; the FDA has set a maximum level in bottled water to 5 ppb, and the
11 WHO set a maximum cadmium level in drinking water to 3 ppb.⁵² Regardless, Cadmium, like
12 Lead, “displays a troubling ability to cause harm at low levels of exposure.”⁵³

13
14
15
16
17 ⁴⁷ Ikeh-Tawari, E. P., Anetor, J. I., & Charles-Davies, M. A. (2013). Cadmium level in pregnancy,
18 influence on neonatal birth weight and possible amelioration by some essential trace
19 elements. *Toxicology international*, 20(1), 108–112. Available at
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3702118/> (last accessed January 3, 2022).

20 ⁴⁸ *Healthy Babies Bright Futures Report at 14, supra.*

21 ⁴⁹ “Cadmium exposure and cognitive abilities and behavior at 10 years of age: A prospective cohort
22 study,” *Environment International*, Vol. 113, April 2018, Pps. 259-268 available at
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412017321025> (last accessed January 3,
2022).

23 ⁵⁰ Lee, M. J., Chou, M. C., Chou, W. J., Huang, C. W., Kuo, H. C., Lee, S. Y., & Wang, L. J.
24 (2018). Heavy Metals' Effect on Susceptibility to Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder:
25 Implication of Lead, Cadmium, and Antimony. *International journal of environmental research
and public health*, 15(6), 1221. Available at <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15061221> (last accessed
January 3, 2022).

26 ⁵¹ *Toxic Element Contamination of Natural Health Products, supra.*

27 ⁵² *Congressional Committee Report, supra*, at 29.

28 ⁵³ *Healthy Babies Bright Futures Report at 14, supra.*

1 ***Heavy Metal Ingredient: Lead***

2 87. Defendant's Prenatal Vitamins contain, or risk containing, Lead, which is a
3 probable carcinogen⁵⁴ and developmental toxin known to cause health problems to children in-
4 utero.⁵⁵ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") reported that exposure to Lead
5 in-utero can negatively affect the development of a baby's nervous system, decrease a baby's
6 growth, and increase the risk for a baby being born premature and miscarriage.⁵⁶
7

8 88. Prenatal Lead exposure can seriously harm a baby's neurodevelopment, and is
9 associated with a range of negative health outcomes such as schizophrenia and dementia,
10 decreased cognitive performance, and reduced postnatal growth.⁵⁷ Prenatal exposures to the
11 highest and lowest levels of Lead were linked to a heightened risk of autism spectrum diagnosis
12 in children.⁵⁸ Additionally, studies have established a link between Lead exposure and ADHD.⁵⁹
13

14 89. Prenatal Lead exposure is also linked to an increased risk of a preterm birth and
15 reduced postnatal development.⁶⁰ Maternal Lead exposure may also contribute to the baby
16 developing certain types of congenital heart disease.⁶¹
17

18 _____
19 ⁵⁴American Cancer Society, "Known and Probable Carcinogens," Last Revised August 14, 2019,
20 available at [https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/general-info/known-and-probable-
human-carcinogens.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/general-info/known-and-probable-human-carcinogens.html) (last accessed January 3, 2022).

21 ⁵⁵ *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

22 ⁵⁶ CDC, Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Lead Exposure in Pregnant and
23 Lactating Women, available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/leadandpregnancy
2010.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/leadandpregnancy2010.pdf) (last accessed October 18, 2021) ("Lead Exposure in Pregnant and Lactating Women").

24 ⁵⁷ *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

25 ⁵⁸ "ADHD and Autism Associated with In-Utero Heavy Metals and Essential Minerals,"
26 Neuroscience News, April 9, 2021, available at [https://neurosciencenews.com/asd-adhd-heavy-
metals-18207/](https://neurosciencenews.com/asd-adhd-heavy-metals-18207/) (last accessed October 18, 2021).

27 ⁵⁹ *Congressional Committee Report, supra.*

28 ⁶⁰ *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

⁶¹ *Id.*

1 90. Due to the danger of Lead exposure, maximum Lead levels are required for certain
2 consumer products:

3 (a) Drinking Water. On January 15, 2021, the EPA issued Lead and Copper
4 Rule Revisions, with a new “trigger level” for treatment of 10 ppb lead in drinking water, effective
5 March 16, 2021. 86 F.R. 28691 (Jan. 15, 2021). The previous level had been 15 ppb. 40 C.F.R.
6 §141, Subpart I.

7
8 (b) Bottled Water. The FDA requires that bottled water cannot contain more
9 than 5 ppb of total Lead. 21 C.F.R. §165.110(b)(4)(iii)(A).

10 (c) Infant Formula. The European Union has set the maximum Lead level in
11 infant formula to 20 ppb.

12 91. Although no federal standard for Lead in prenatal vitamins has been established,⁶²
13 there is no known “safe” level of Lead exposure.⁶³ Prenatal children are at risk of developing
14 behavior and cognitive function impairments due to exposure to Lead at levels far lower than those
15 identified as “safe.”⁶⁴
16

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24 _____
25 ⁶² *FDA Survey Data on Lead in Women’s and Children’s Vitamins, supra* (although no federal
26 standard for Lead exposure has been established, the FDA determined a provisional total tolerable
intake level (PTTI) of 25 µg of lead per day for pregnant or lactating women). California’s
Proposition 65 and U.S. Pharmacopeia limits are 0.5 µgm/day.

27 ⁶³ *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

28 ⁶⁴ *Id.*

1 ***Heavy Metal Ingredient: Mercury***

2 92. Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins contain, or risk containing, Mercury, which
3 increases the risk for cardiovascular disease and can cause vision, intelligence, and memory
4 problems for children exposed in-utero.⁶⁵

5
6 93. Developing fetuses are exceptionally vulnerable to Mercury exposure.⁶⁶ In a
7 pregnant woman, Mercury can easily pass through the placenta and accumulate in the fetus as the
8 fetus cannot excrete Mercury.⁶⁷ This lack of self-defense leaves a baby in-utero exposed to
9 Mercury that may result in decreased placental and fetal development,⁶⁸ and permanent damage to
10 the nervous system.⁶⁹

11 94. Although there is no maximum contaminant level for Mercury in prenatal vitamins,
12 the EPA has set a maximum contaminant level for Mercury in drinking water at 2 ppb.⁷⁰ However,
13 “there is no known safe level” of exposure to Mercury as it is a “highly toxic element.”⁷¹

14
15 95. The four Heavy Metals – Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, and Mercury – are significant
16 detriments to children, especially during the gestational period.⁷² Of additional concern to
17
18
19

20 ⁶⁵ Current Problems in Pediatric Adolescent Health Care, “Mercury Exposure and Children’s
21 Health,” 2010 Sept., available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3096006/> (last
22 accessed October 18, 2021) (“Mercury Exposure and Children’s Health”).

23 ⁶⁶ *Id.*

24 ⁶⁷ *Id.*

25 ⁶⁸Prenatal mercury exposure and birth outcomes, available at
26 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935116302857> (last accessed
27 January 3, 2022) (“Prenatal Mercury Exposure and Birth Outcomes”).

28 ⁶⁹ *Mercury Exposure and Children’s Health, supra.*

⁷⁰ *Congressional Committee Report, supra.*

⁷¹ *Mercury Exposure and Children’s Health, supra.*

⁷² *Heavy metal contamination of prenatal vitamins, supra.*

1 developing babies are the health risks due to exposure to multiple Heavy Metals simultaneously,
2 as “co-exposures can have interactive adverse effects.”⁷³

3 96. Understanding the detriment that exposure to Heavy Metals can create, the FDA
4 has acknowledged that “exposure to [these four heavy] metals are likely to have the most
5 significant impact on public health” and has prioritized them in connection with its Toxic Elements
6 Working Group, which is aimed toward reducing human exposure to contaminants in dietary
7 supplements, food and cosmetics.⁷⁴

8
9 97. Despite the known risks of exposure to these Heavy Metals, Defendant has
10 negligently, recklessly, and/or knowingly sold its Prenatal Vitamins without disclosing they may
11 contain levels of Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, and Mercury to consumers like Plaintiff.

12 98. Based on the foregoing, reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff, would consider the
13 inclusion, or risk of inclusion, of Heavy Metals a material fact when considering what prenatal
14 vitamin to purchase.

15
16 99. Defendant knew that monitoring for Heavy Metals in its ingredients and Prenatal
17 Vitamins was not only important but critical.

18 100. Defendant also knew that monitoring Heavy Metals was likewise important to its
19 health-conscious consumers.

20
21
22
23 ⁷³ Morello-Frosch R, Cushing LJ, Jesdale BM, Schwartz JM, Guo W, Guo T, Wang M, Harwani
24 S, Petropoulou SE, Duong W, Park JS, Petreas M, Gajek R, Alvaran J, She J, Dobraca D, Das R,
25 Woodruff TJ. Environmental Chemicals in an Urban Population of Pregnant Women and Their
26 Newborns from San Francisco. *Environ Sci Technol*. 2016 Nov 15;50(22):12464-12472. doi:
10.1021/acs.est.6b03492. Epub 2016 Oct 26. PMID: 27700069; PMCID: PMC6681912. Available
at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/80511> (last accessed January 3, 2022).

27 ⁷⁴FDA, “Metals and Your Food,” Current as of April 8, 2021, available at
28 <https://www.fda.gov/food/chemicals-metals-pesticides-food/metals-and-your-food> (last accessed
January 3, 2022).

1 101. Finally, Defendant knew or should have known it could control the levels of Heavy
2 Metals in the Prenatal Vitamins by adequately monitoring its ingredients for Heavy Metals and
3 adjusting any formulation to reduce ingredients that contained higher levels of Heavy Metals.

4 102. Defendant also knew it was not monitoring and testing for Heavy Metals in the
5 Prenatal Vitamins. Defendant knew its failure to test for Heavy Metals in the Prenatal Vitamins
6 continued throughout the Class Period.

7 103. Defendant's Marketing was misleading due to its failure to properly and
8 sufficiently monitor for Heavy Metals and for failure to disclose the risk of the presence of Heavy
9 Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins.

10 104. Defendant knew or should have known consumers paid the price premium and
11 expected Defendant to test and monitor for Heavy Metals and disclose the risk or presence of
12 Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins and ingredients.

13 105. At all times during the Class Period, Defendant did not monitor or test for Heavy
14 Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins and ingredients and Defendant did not disclose the presence or risk
15 of Heavy Metals in its Products.

16 106. Defendant knew or should have known that consumers reasonably expected it to
17 test for and monitor the presence of Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins and ingredients, and to
18 disclose the presence or risk of any levels of Heavy Metals in its Products.

19 107. Defendant knew or should have known its Prenatal Vitamins contained or risked
20 containing Heavy Metals that were inconsistent with its Marketing.

21 108. Defendant knew or should have known that, in order to comply with its Marketing,
22 consumers expected them to ensure its Prenatal Vitamins were monitored and tested for Heavy
23 Metals, and to disclose the presence or risk of Heavy Metals.
24
25
26
27
28

1 109. Defendant knew, yet failed to disclose, its lack of testing and knowledge of the risk
2 or presence of Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins ingredients.

3 110. Defendant's above-referenced statements, representations, and omissions are false,
4 misleading, and crafted to deceive the public as they create an image that its Prenatal Vitamins are
5 nutritious and free of Heavy Metals.

6 111. Moreover, reasonable consumers, such as Plaintiff and the Class members, would
7 have no reason to doubt Defendant's statements regarding the quality of its Prenatal Vitamins.
8 Defendant's nondisclosure and/or concealment of the presence or risk of Heavy Metals in the
9 Prenatal Vitamins coupled with the misrepresentations alleged herein that were intended to and
10 did, in fact, cause consumers like Plaintiff and the members of the Class, to purchase Products they
11 would not have if the true quality and ingredients were disclosed.
12

13
14 **C. Defendant's Marketing Misled and Deceived Consumers to Believe that its
15 Prenatal Vitamins Do Not Contain or Risk Containing Heavy Metals**

16 112. Defendant's Marketing wrongfully represents to consumers that its Prenatal
17 Vitamins have certain superior quality and characteristics that they do not actually possess.

18 113. Although Defendant misleadingly caused consumers to believe its Prenatal
19 Vitamins do not contain Heavy Metals through its Marketing and omissions, the Products do in
20 fact contain or risk containing undisclosed Heavy Metals, which is material information to
21 reasonable consumers.

22 114. Plaintiff's counsel had Defendant's Prenatal Vitamins tested and that testing
23 confirmed that each of Defendant's Prenatal Vitamins that were tested contained undisclosed
24 Heavy Metals.

25 115. The highest levels of Arsenic were 644.12 ppb in the Up & Up Prenatal
26 Multivitamin (60 count).
27
28

1 116. The highest levels of Cadmium were 173.18 ppb in the Up & Up Prenatal Vitamin
2 (100 count).

3 117. The highest levels of Lead were 378.61 ppb in Up & Up Prenatal Vitamin (100
4 count).

5 118. The highest levels of Mercury were 5.36 ppb in Up & Up Prenatal Vitamin (100
6 count).

7 119. In any case, as stated herein, no level of Heavy Metals is safe.

8 120. Defendant's Marketing wrongfully fails to disclose to consumers the presence of
9 Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins.
10

11 121. Based on Defendant's Marketing, a reasonable consumer would not suspect the
12 presence or risk of Heavy Metals, or any harmful level of a Heavy Metal, nor would a reasonable
13 consumer be able to detect the presence of Heavy Metals in its Prenatal Vitamins without
14 conducting his or her own scientific tests or reviewing scientific testing of the Products.
15

16 122. Reasonable consumers must and do rely on Defendant to honestly report what its
17 Prenatal Vitamins contain.

18 123. In light of Defendant's Marketing, Defendant knew or should have known the
19 Prenatal Vitamins contained or risked containing Heavy Metals.

20 124. Defendant intended for consumers to rely on its Marketing, and reasonable
21 consumers did in fact so rely.

22 125. Defendant had a duty to ensure the Prenatal Vitamins were as they were
23 represented and not deceptively, misleadingly, unfairly, and falsely marketed.

24 126. Pursuant to the foregoing, Defendant's Marketing is deceptive, misleading, unfair,
25 and false to Plaintiff and other consumers, including under the consumer protection laws of
26 California, as described more fully herein.
27
28

1 127. Defendant acted negligently, recklessly, unfairly, and/or intentionally with its
2 deceptive, misleading, unfair, and false Marketing, and omissions.

3 **V. DEFENDANT MISREPRESENTS THE AMOUNT OF FOLIC ACID IN ITS**
4 **PRENATAL VITAMINS**

5 **A. Defendant Falsely Markets the Amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins**

6 128. Defendant describes to consumers on its website that its Products contain
7 necessary nutrients, including folic acid, “to support your growing baby.”⁷⁵

8
9 **Description**

10 Get your body ready for baby or take care of your growing little one with the Prenatal Vitamin Dietary
11 Supplement Tablets from up & up™. You only need one tablet per day to supply your body with the
12 nutrients it needs, including vitamin D, iron and folic acid, to support your growing baby. Even before you
13 know your pregnant, you can get your body prepared with the nutrients needed for a healthy pregnancy.
14 Free of gluten, wheat and lactose, these prenatal vitamin tablets are ideal for future moms with dietary
15 restrictions and no artificial flavors offer confident use.

16 129. Each of Defendant’s Products states on the “Supplement Facts”
17 label that it contains a certain amount of Folic Acid per serving.

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27 ⁷⁵<https://www.target.com/p/prenatal-vitamin-dietary-supplement-tablets-up-up/-/A-16292263>
28 (last accessed January 5, 2022).

(a) Up & Up Prenatal Multivitamins:

Supplement Facts
Serving Size 1 Tablet

Amount Per Serving	% Daily Value for Pregnant & Lactating Women
Vitamin A 1200 mcg (50% as beta-carotene)	92%
Vitamin C 60 mg	50%
Vitamin D3 10 mcg (400 IU)	67%
Vitamin E 13.5 mg	71%
Thiamin 1.7 mg	121%
Riboflavin 2 mg	125%
Niacin 20 mg	111%
Vitamin B6 2.5 mg	125%
Folate 1360 mcg DFE (800 mcg folic acid)	227%
Vitamin B12 8 mcg	286%
Biotin 300 mcg	857%
Pantothenic Acid 10 mg	143%
Calcium 300 mg	23%
Iron 28 mg	104%
Iodine 150 mcg	52%
Magnesium 50 mg	13%
Zinc 15 mg	115%
Copper 2 mg	154%

INGREDIENTS: Calcium Carbonate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Ferrous Fumarate, Magnesium Oxide, Ascorbic Acid, Croscarmellose Sodium, Maltodextrin. Contains 2% or less of beta-carotene, biotin, calcium silicate, carnauba wax, cholecalciferol, cupric sulfate, cyanocobalamin, D-calcium pantothenate, *d*-alpha tocopheryl acetate, FD&C blue no. 2 lake, FD&C red no. 40 lake, folic acid, magnesium stearate, niacinamide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, potassium iodide, pyridoxine hydrochloride, retinyl acetate, riboflavin, silica, stearic acid, talc, thiamine mononitrate, titanium dioxide (color), zinc oxide.

Suggested Use: Adults, take one (1) tablet daily with food as a dietary supplement.

WARNING: ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE OF IRON-CONTAINING PRODUCTS IS A LEADING CAUSE OF FATAL POISONING IN CHILDREN UNDER 6. KEEP THIS PRODUCT OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE, CALL A DOCTOR OR POISON CONTROL CENTER IMMEDIATELY.

Tablet color may vary.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

(b) Up & Up Prenatal Vitamin:



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

(c) Up & Up Prenatal Multivitamin Gummies – Lemon & Raspberry

Lemonade:



1 130. Defendant’s Marketing of its Products’ Folic Acid, along with Defendant falsely
2 stating as “fact” that its Prenatal Vitamins contain a specific amount of Folic Acid, demonstrates
3 its recognition of the importance of Folic Acid in the development of a baby in-utero.

4 131. Based on Defendant’s decision to market its Prenatal Vitamins as containing a
5 certain amount of Folic Acid in a serving, it had a duty to ensure that its statements were true and
6 not misleading. As such, Defendant knew or should have known it was falsely Marketing the
7 amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins.

8 132. Defendant’s Marketing of the Prenatal Vitamins fails to accurately state that the
9 Products actually contain, or have a risk of containing, less Folic Acid than is promised on the
10 Products’ labels, while also promoting the Products’ inclusion of Folic Acid to support a healthy
11 pregnancy.

12 133. As a result of Defendant’s false and misleading labeling, a reasonable consumer
13 would have no reason to suspect the Prenatal Vitamins had a risk of containing less Folic Acid
14 than promised on the label without conducting his or her own scientific tests or reviewing third
15 party scientific testing of the Products.
16

17
18 **B. Due to the Misrepresentation of Folic Acid in the Prenatal Vitamins,**
19 **Defendant’s Marketing is Misleading**

20 134. At all times during the Class Period, Defendant knew or should have known its
21 Marketing was misleading. Defendant failed to disclose the correct amount of Folic Acid in its
22 Prenatal Vitamins, even though Defendant touted its Products as “complete,” containing
23 “essential” and “necessary” nutrients, including Folic Acid.

24 135. Defendant asserts that its Products are comparable to national name brand Prenatal
25 Vitamins.

26 136. Defendant’s knew or should have known its Prenatal Vitamins contained or had a
27 risk of containing less Folic Acid than promised on the Products’ labels due to Defendant’s
28

1 Marketing its Products as containing “essential” and “necessary” nutrients. Defendant was aware
2 of this risk and failed to disclose it to the Plaintiff and the Class.

3 137. Defendant knew or should have known that women who are pregnant or may
4 become pregnant who consume low amounts of Folic Acid are at higher risk of miscarrying and
5 placing their babies at higher risk of developing NTDs, such as spina bifida.

6 138. Defendant knew or should have known that it owed consumers a duty of care to
7 ensure its Products either contained the amount of Folic Acid represented on the label, or,
8 alternatively, truthfully representing the actual amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins.
9

10 139. Defendant knew or should have known it owed consumers a duty of care to
11 accurately disclose the amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins.

12 140. Defendant knew or should have known consumers purchased the Prenatal
13 Vitamins based on the reasonable expectation that Defendant manufactured the Prenatal Vitamins
14 to be of the standard of national name brand prenatal vitamins. Based on this expectation,
15 Defendant knew or should have known consumers reasonably inferred that Defendant would hold
16 the Prenatal Vitamins to the highest standards for ensuring the labels accurately reflected the
17 amount of Folic Acid contained in the final Products.
18

19 141. The labels for Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins represent that the Products contain a
20 certain amount of Folic Acid. But Defendant’s Products contain a different amount of Folic Acid
21 than what is represented on their labels.

22 142. Despite the known risks of Folic Acid deficiency for women who are pregnant or
23 may become pregnant, Defendant has negligently, recklessly, and/or knowingly sold the Prenatal
24 Vitamins with labels that falsely asserted the Products contained an amount of Folic Acid that they
25 in fact did not contain.
26
27
28

1 143. Based on the foregoing, reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff, would consider an
2 amount of Folic Acid that was deficient, or risked being deficient, to the amount stated on the
3 product label a material fact when considering what prenatal vitamin to purchase.

4 144. Defendant knew or should have known that monitoring and accurately reporting
5 the amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins was not only important but critical.

6 145. Defendant also knew or should have known that adequately representing the
7 amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins was likewise important to its and health-conscious
8 consumers, like Plaintiff and Class members.

9 146. Defendant knew or should have known it could control the amount of Folic Acid
10 in the Prenatal Vitamins by monitoring its presence and adjusting any formulation to increase the
11 amount of Folic Acid in its Products.

12 147. Defendant knew or should have known its failure to adequately report the amount
13 of Folic Acid in the Prenatal Vitamins continued throughout the Class Period.

14 148. Defendant's Marketing was misleading due to its failure to disclose the true
15 amount of Folic Acid in the Prenatal Vitamins.

16 149. Defendant knew or should have known consumers paid a price premium and
17 expected Defendant to represent the true amount of Folic Acid in the Prenatal Vitamins.

18
19
20 ***Critical Ingredient: Folic Acid***

21 150. Folic Acid, a dietary Folate equivalent (“DFE”), is crucial for brain function, and
22 is especially important during pregnancy when cells and tissues are growing rapidly.⁷⁶ Studies
23 have shown that proper allowances of Folic Acid can help prevent miscarriage, birth defects,
24

25
26
27 ⁷⁶ NIH, Office of Dietary Supplements, “Folate Fact Sheet for Health Professionals,” updated
28 March 29, 2021, available at <https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Folate-HealthProfessional/> (last
accessed January 3, 2022) (“Folate Fact Sheet for Health Professionals”).

1 NTDs, including spina bifida (which affects the spine) and anencephaly (which affects the brain),
2 as well as skull malformation.⁷⁷ Therefore, Folic Acid consumption is critical for prenatal health.

3 151. Folic Acid is a synthetic form of Folate. Folate is found naturally in foods such as
4 certain vegetables, fruits, and nuts; however, it is difficult for humans to consume the
5 recommended daily amount of Folate from diet alone.⁷⁸ Moreover, the human body absorbs more
6 Folic Acid from fortified foods and supplements than from Folate naturally found in foods.⁷⁹
7 Therefore, Folic Acid is used in supplements to help humans meet their nutritional needs.⁸⁰ Folic
8 Acid supplements are specifically recommended for women who are pregnant or may become
9 pregnant because of the important role of Folic Acid in promoting prenatal health.
10

11 152. Underscoring the importance of Folate to the nutrition of women of a childbearing
12 age to a healthy pregnancy, and given the difficulty for most women to get the daily recommended
13 amount of Folate through diet alone,⁸¹ in January 1998, the FDA required food manufacturers to
14 add Folic Acid to commonly consumed foods, including breads, cereals, rice, pasta, and other
15 grains, to decrease the risk of NTDs.⁸²
16
17
18

19 ⁷⁷ *Folate Fact Sheet for Health Professionals, supra.*

20 ⁷⁸U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Women’s Health, “Folic Acid,” last
21 updated April 1, 2019, available at <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/folic-acid#:~:text=Folate%20is%20found%20naturally%20in%20some%20foods%2C%20including%20spinach%2C%20nuts,food%20has%20added%20folic%20acid> (last accessed January 3, 2022)
22 (“HHS Folic Acid”).

23 ⁷⁹ NIH, Office of Dietary Supplements, “Folate Fact Sheet for Consumers,” Updated March 22,
24 2021, available at <https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Folate-Consumer/> (last accessed January 3,
2022).

25 ⁸⁰ *HHS Folic Acid, supra.*

26 ⁸¹ *CDC Folic Acid, supra.*

27 ⁸² Harvard School of Public Health, The Nutrition Source, “Folate (Folic Acid) – Vitamin B9,”
28 available at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/folic-acid/> (last accessed January 3,
2022).

1 153. Three thousand pregnancies every year in the U.S. are affected by NTDs.⁸³ NTDs
2 are not only debilitating for the baby and family, but also to the health care system. For example,
3 “the total lifetime direct cost of care for a child born with spina bifida in the U.S. is estimated to
4 be \$791,900.”⁸⁴ However, with Folic Acid fortification, NTD prevalence decreased by thirty-six
5 percent in the U.S.⁸⁵

6 154. Therefore, Folic Acid is vital for women to consume prior to and during pregnancy
7 to support prenatal health.⁸⁶ The less Folic Acid a woman who is pregnant or may become pregnant
8 consumes, the more likely the baby will develop NTDs.⁸⁷

9 155. Defendant’s labels for its Prenatal Vitamins state that the Products contain a certain
10 amount of Folic Acid.

11 156. However, at all times during the Class Period, Defendant did not truthfully
12 represent the amount of Folic Acid in the Prenatal Vitamins.

13 157. Defendant knew or should have known consumers reasonably expected it to
14 truthfully report the amount of Folic Acid contained in the Prenatal Vitamins.
15
16
17
18

19 ⁸³ CDC, “Folic Acid: Birth Defects COUNT,” last reviewed November 9, 2017, *available at*
20 <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefectscount/data.html> (last accessed January 3, 2022).

21 ⁸⁴ *Id.*

22 ⁸⁵ *Id.*

23 ⁸⁶ *CDC Folic Acid, supra.*

24 ⁸⁷ *See, e.g., Folate Fact Sheet for Health Professionals, supra* (explaining that due to the
25 importance of consuming Folic Acid prior to and during pregnancy, the National Institutes of
26 Health recommends that women of reproductive age who could become pregnant consume 400
27 mcg of a DFE such as Folic Acid daily, and that women who are pregnant consume 600 mcg DFE
28 daily); HHS Office on Women’s Health, “Folic Acid,” last updated April 1, 2019, *available at*
<https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/folic-acid> (last accessed January 3, 2022) (stating that
the HHS Office on Women’s Health, in accordance with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
Final Recommendation Statement, suggests that women who may become pregnant or are
pregnant need 400 to 800 mcg of Folic Acid daily).

1 158. Defendant knew or should have known the amount of Folic Acid contained in its
2 Prenatal Vitamins was inconsistent with its Marketing. The Products contained an amount of Folic
3 Acid inconsistent with the amount Defendant's represented on the labels.

4 159. Defendant knew or should have known that consumers expected it to ensure the
5 amount of Folic Acid in its Products complied with its Marketing.

6 160. Defendant knew or should have known, yet failed to accurately represent, the
7 amount of Folic Acid contained in the Prenatal Vitamins.

8 161. Defendant's above-referenced statements and representations are false,
9 misleading, and crafted to deceive the public as they create an image that the Prenatal Vitamins
10 are "complete" with "essential" and "necessary" nutrients, including a certain amount of Folic
11 Acid, to support a health pregnancy.

12 162. Moreover, reasonable consumers, such as Plaintiff and Class members, would have
13 no reason to doubt Defendant's statements regarding the amount of the Folic Acid in its Prenatal
14 Vitamins. Defendant's misrepresentations and false statements of fact regarding the amount of
15 Folic Acid coupled with its promotion of the Prenatal Vitamins nutritious value were intended to
16 and did, in fact, cause consumers like Plaintiff and the members of the Class, to purchase products
17 they would not have if they had known the Prenatal Vitamins contained or risked containing a
18 deficient amount of Folic Acid as compared to the amount promised on the label.
19
20

21
22 **C. Defendant's Marketing Misled and Deceived Consumers as to the quantity of**
23 **ingredients in its Prenatal Vitamins, including the amount of Folic Acid**

24 163. As a result of Defendant's wrongful Marketing, which includes misleading,
25 deceptive, unfair, and false statements, Defendant has generated substantial sales of the Prenatal
26 Vitamins.
27
28

1 164. Defendant’s wrongful Marketing, which includes misleading, deceptive, unfair,
2 and false representations, allowed it to capitalize on, and reap enormous profits from, consumers
3 who paid the price premium for the Prenatal Vitamins.

4 165. Defendant’s Marketing wrongfully represents to consumers that its Prenatal
5 Vitamins contained or risked containing less Folic Acid than the amount stated on the labels.

6 166. Although Defendant misleadingly causes consumers to believe its Prenatal
7 Vitamins provide an amount of Folic Acid as specified on the label through its Marketing and false
8 labeling, the Prenatal Vitamins, in fact, do not contain the amount of Folic Acid they claim, and in
9 some cases, contain less, which is material information to reasonable consumers.

11 167. Plaintiff’s counsel had the Defendant’s Prenatal Vitamins tested and the tests
12 confirmed that the Defendant misrepresented the quantity of Folic Acid in its Products.

13 168. Although all Prenatal Vitamins contained a different amount of Folic Acid than
14 stated on their labels, the Up & Up Prenatal Multivitamin (60 count) contained the lowest amount
15 of Folic Acid at 11.66 µg per serving.⁸⁸ This is in sharp contrast to the 400 mcg of Folic Acid
16 promised on the label for this Product.

18 169. Therefore, Defendant’s Marketing misrepresents the amount of Folic Acid its
19 Products actually contain.

20 170. Based on Defendant’s Marketing and mislabeling, a reasonable consumer would
21 not suspect the actual amount of Folic Acid in the Product to be different than the amount indicated
22 on the Product label, nor would a reasonable consumer be able to detect the actual amount of Folic
23 Acid in the Prenatal Vitamins without conducting his or her own scientific tests or reviewing
24 scientific testing conducted on the Products.
25

26
27
28 ⁸⁸ Micrograms may be reflected as “mcg” or “µg.” Plaintiffs’ tests results were listed as µg.

1 171. Reasonable consumers must and do rely on Defendant to honestly report the
2 amount and value of Folic Acid contained in its Prenatal Vitamins.

3 172. In light of Defendant's Marketing, Defendant knew or should have known it
4 misrepresented the amount of Folic Acid in its Up & Up products.

5 173. Defendant intended for consumers to rely on its Marketing, and reasonable
6 consumers did in fact so rely.

7 174. Defendant had a duty to ensure the Prenatal Vitamins were as they were
8 represented and not deceptively, misleadingly, unfairly, and falsely marketed.

9 175. Pursuant to the foregoing, Defendant's Marketing is deceptive, misleading, unfair,
10 and false to Plaintiff and other consumers, including under the consumer protection laws of
11 California.

12 176. Defendant acted negligently, recklessly, unfairly, and/or intentionally with its
13 deceptive, misleading, unfair, and false Marketing.

14
15 **DEFENDANT'S MISLEADING MARKETING VIOLATES 21 U.S.C. §343**

16
17 177. Defendant's misleading statements to consumers that its Prenatal Vitamins are
18 nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy and comparable to a national name brand prenatal
19 vitamin violate 21 U.S.C. §343, which provides that dietary supplements are misbranded when
20 they contain false statements on their labels.

21 178. Defendant violated 21 U.S.C. §343 by not accurately detailing that the Prenatal
22 Vitamins contain, or risk containing, Heavy Metals. Defendant's misleading Marketing includes
23 false statements that the Prenatal Vitamins are "complete" with "essential" and "necessary"
24 nutrients that support a health pregnancy. These statements are false as the Prenatal Vitamins
25 contain or risk containing undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals.
26
27
28

1 179. Defendant violated 21 U.S.C. §343 by falsely stating that the Prenatal Vitamins
2 contained an amount of Folic Acid that was different than the amount the Products actually
3 contained. These statements are false as the Prenatal Vitamins contained or risked containing a
4 deficient amount of Folic Acid than the amount promised on the label.

5 180. Accordingly, Defendant's mislabeling of its Prenatal Vitamins, which forms the
6 basis of this lawsuit, constitutes a violation of 21 U.S.C. §343.

7
8 **DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS AND OMISSIONS VIOLATE THE CURRENT**
9 **GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES GUIDELINES**

10 181. By law and regulation, supplement manufacturers like Defendant are required to
11 comply with the current good manufacturing practices ("CGMP"). 21 CFR §111.

12 182. The Dietary Supplement ("DS") CGMP rule stated at 21 CFR §111 requires
13 persons who manufacture, package, label or hold a dietary supplement to establish and comply
14 with current good manufacturing practice to ensure the quality of the product and that the product
15 is packaged and labeled as specified in the master manufacturing record.

16 183. Defendant violated the DS CGMP rule by negligently, recklessly, and/or
17 intentionally incorrectly claiming that its Prenatal Vitamins are nutritious, nurturing of a healthy
18 pregnancy, and comparable to national name brand prenatal vitamins, and by not accurately
19 detailing that its Products contain or risk containing Heavy Metals, and by falsely representing that
20 the Products contained an amount of Folic Acid that was different than the amount the Products
21 actually contained.

22
23 184. Accordingly, Defendant's mislabeling of its Prenatal Vitamins, which forms the
24 basis of this lawsuit, constitutes a violation of the DS CGMP rule stated at 21 CFR §111.

**DEFENDANT’S STATEMENTS AND
OMISSIONS VIOLATE CALIFORNIA LAWS**

1
2 185. California law is designed to ensure that a company’s claims about its products are
3 truthful and accurate.

4
5 186. Defendant violated California law by negligently, recklessly, and/or intentionally
6 incorrectly claiming that its Prenatal Vitamins are nutritious, nurturing of a healthy pregnancy,
7 comparable to national name brand prenatal vitamins, and are “complete” and provide “essential”
8 and “necessary” nutrients for a healthy pregnancy and by not disclosing the presence or risk of
9 Heavy Metals in the Products.

10 187. Defendant violated California law by negligently, recklessly, and/or intentionally
11 stating the amount of Folic Acid in its Products that is, in fact, different than the amount
12 represented on the Products label.

13
14 188. Defendant’s Marketing has been sufficiently lengthy in duration, and widespread
15 in dissemination, that it would be unrealistic to require Plaintiff to plead relying upon each
16 advertised misrepresentation.

17 189. Defendant has engaged in this long-term advertising campaign to convince
18 potential customers that its Prenatal Vitamins were nutritious, nurturing of a healthy pregnancy,
19 comparable to national name brand prenatal vitamins, and did not contain or risk containing
20 harmful ingredients, such as Heavy Metals, and contained the amount of Folic Acid that promised
21 on the label.

22
23 **PLAINTIFF’S RELIANCE WAS REASONABLE AND FORESEEN BY DEFENDANTS**

24 190. Plaintiff reasonably relied on Defendant’s claims, warranties, representations,
25 advertisements, and other Marketing concerning the particular qualities and benefits of the Prenatal
26 Vitamins.
27

1 191. Plaintiff read and relied upon the labels and packaging of the Prenatal Vitamins
2 when making her purchasing decisions. Had she known Defendant did not disclose the presence
3 or risk of Heavy Metals in its packaging, she would not have purchased the Prenatal Vitamins.
4 Had she known the Prenatal Vitamins contained a different amount of Folic Acid than the label
5 promised, she would not have purchased them.

6 192. A reasonable consumer would consider the labeling of a product when deciding
7 whether purchase a product. Here, Plaintiff relied on the specific statements and omissions on the
8 Prenatal Vitamins labeling that led her to believe they were nutritious and nurturing of a healthy
9 pregnancy, and free of the presence or risk of Heavy Metals, and that she was consuming the
10 amount of Folic Acid as promised on the label.
11

12 **DEFENDANT’S KNOWLEDGE AND NOTICE OF ITS BREACHES OF ITS**
13 **EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

14 193. Defendant had sufficient notice of its breaches of express and implied warranties.
15 Defendant has, and had, exclusive knowledge of the physical and chemical make-up of the Prenatal
16 Vitamins through its acknowledgement of the “essential” and “necessary” nutrients the Products
17 contain.

18 194. Defendant did not change its packaging or labels to include any disclaimer that its
19 Prenatal Vitamins contained or may contain any levels of Heavy Metals. Defendant also did not
20 correct its packaging or labels to state the accurate amount of Folic Acid in its Prenatal Vitamins.
21

22 **PRIVITY EXISTS WITH PLAINTIFF AND THE PROPOSED CLASS**

23 195. Defendant knew that consumers such as Plaintiff and the proposed Class would be
24 the end purchasers of the Prenatal Vitamins and the target of its Marketing.
25
26
27
28

1 196. Defendant intended that the warranties, advertising, labeling, statements, and
2 representations would be considered by the end purchasers of the Prenatal Vitamins, including
3 Plaintiff and the proposed Class.

4 197. Defendant directly marketed to Plaintiff and the proposed Class through statements
5 on its website, labeling, advertising, and packaging.

6 198. Plaintiff and the proposed Class are the intended beneficiaries of the expressed and
7 implied warranties.
8

9 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

10 199. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of the following Class
11 pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) and (3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:
12

13 All persons residing in the United States or its territories who, during the maximum
14 period of time permitted by law, purchased Up &Up Prenatal Vitamins
15 (specifically, Prenatal Multivitamin; Prenatal Vitamins; and Prenatal Multivitamin
Gummies – Lemon & Raspberry Lemonade), manufactured by Defendant, Target
Corp. (the “Class”).⁸⁹

16 200. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, any parent companies, subsidiaries, and/or
17 affiliates, officers, directors, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all governmental
18 entities, and any judge, justice, or judicial officer presiding over this matter.

19 201. This action is brought and may be properly maintained as a class action. There is
20 a well-defined community of interests in this litigation and the members of the Class are easily
21 ascertainable.
22

23 202. The members in the proposed Class are so numerous that individual joinder of all
24 members is impracticable, and the disposition of the claims of all Class members in a single action
25 will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court.
26

27 ⁸⁹ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this definition as necessary in accordance with applicable
28 Federal and California law.

1 203. Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the Class include, but are not
2 limited to, the following:

3 (a) whether Defendant owed a duty of care;

4 (b) whether Defendant knew or should have known that the Prenatal Vitamins
5 contained Heavy Metals;

6 (c) whether Defendant knew or should have known that the Prenatal Vitamins
7 contained a different, sometimes less, amount of Folic Acid than the amount represented on the
8 Products' labels;

9 (d) whether Defendant represented and continue to represent that the Prenatal
10 Vitamins are nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy;

11 (e) whether Defendant represented and continue to represent that the Prenatal
12 Vitamins contain a different amount of Folic Acid than is in fact contained in the Products;

13 (f) whether Defendant represented and continues to represent that the
14 manufacturing of its Prenatal Vitamins is subjected to rigorous quality standards;

15 (g) whether Defendant failed to disclose that its Prenatal Vitamins contained Heavy
16 Metals;

17 (h) whether Defendant failed to accurately disclose the amount of Folic Acid
18 contained in its Prenatal Vitamins;

19 (i) whether Defendant's representations in advertising, warranties, packaging,
20 and/or labeling are false, deceptive, and misleading;

21 (j) whether those representations are likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;

22 (k) whether Defendant had knowledge that those representations were false,
23 deceptive, and misleading;
24
25
26
27
28

1 (l) whether Defendant continues to disseminate those representations despite
2 knowledge that the representations are false, deceptive, and misleading;

3 (m) whether a representation that a Product is nutritious and nurturing of a healthy
4 pregnancy, and does not contain or risk containing levels of Heavy Metals, is material to a
5 reasonable consumer;

6 (n) whether a representation that a Product provides the amount of Folic Acid stated
7 on the label is material to a reasonable consumer;

8 (o) whether Defendant's Marketing of its Prenatal Vitamins are likely to mislead,
9 deceive, confuse, or confound consumers acting reasonably;

10 (p) whether Defendant violated California Business & Professions Code §§17200,
11 et seq.;

12 (q) whether Defendant violated California Business & Professions Code §§17500,
13 et seq.;

14 (r) whether Defendant violated California Civil Code §§1750, et seq.;

15 (s) whether Defendant violated 21 USC §343;

16 (t) whether Defendant violated the Good Manufacturing Practices Guidelines; and

17 (u) whether Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to declaratory and
18 injunctive relief.
19

20
21 204. Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights
22 sought to be enforced by Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the other members of the Class.
23 Identical statutory violations and business practices and harms are involved. Individual questions,
24 if any, are not prevalent in comparison to the numerous common questions that dominate this
25 action.
26
27
28

1 205. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of those of the members of the Class in that they are
2 based on the same underlying facts, events, and circumstances relating to Defendant’s conduct.

3 206. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class,
4 has no interests incompatible with the interests of the Class, and has retained counsel competent
5 and experienced in class action, consumer protection, and false advertising litigation.

6 207. Class treatment is superior to other options for resolution of the controversy
7 because the relief sought for each member of the Class is small such that, absent representative
8 litigation, it would be infeasible for members of the Class to redress the wrongs done to them.

9 208. Questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions
10 affecting only individual members of the Class.

11 209. As a result of the foregoing, class treatment is appropriate.

12
13 **COUNT I**

14 **(Negligent Misrepresentation Against Defendant on Behalf of the Class)**

15 210. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
16 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

17 211. Plaintiff reasonably placed her trust and reliance in Defendant’s representations
18 that the Prenatal Vitamins were as marketed to her and the Class, and were nutritious and nurturing
19 of a healthy pregnancy, did not contain undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals, and contained the
20 amount of Folic Acid as stated on the Product label.

21 212. Because of the relationship between the parties, Defendant owed Plaintiff and the
22 Class a duty to use reasonable care in the formulation, testing, manufacturing, Marketing,
23 distribution, and sale of the Prenatal Vitamins, and to impart correct and reliable disclosures and
24 statements concerning the presence of Heavy Metals and the amount of Folic Acid in the Prenatal
25 Vitamins, or based on upon their superior knowledge of the physical and chemical make-up of the
26 Products, having spoken, to say enough to not be misleading.

1 213. Defendant breached its duty to Plaintiff and the Class by formulating, testing,
2 manufacturing, advertising, Marketing, distributing, and selling products to Plaintiff and the Class
3 that did not have the ingredients, qualities, characteristics, and suitability for consumption as
4 marketed by Defendants and by providing false, misleading, and/or deceptive information
5 regarding the nature of the Prenatal Vitamins.

6 214. Defendant knew or should have known the ingredients, qualities, and
7 characteristics of the Prenatal Vitamins were not as advertised or suitable for their intended use
8 (consumption by women who are pregnant or may become pregnant), and were otherwise not as
9 warranted and represented.

11 215. Plaintiff and the Class reasonably and justifiably relied upon the information
12 supplied to them by the Defendant. A reasonable consumer would have relied on Defendant's
13 warranties, statements, representations, advertising, packaging, labeling, and other Marketing as
14 to the quality, make-up, and ingredients of the Prenatal Vitamins.

15 216. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misrepresentations, Plaintiff and
16 the Class suffered actual damages in that they purchased the Prenatal Vitamins that were worth
17 less than the price paid and that they would not have purchased at all had they known they
18 contained or may contain Heavy Metals that do not conform to the Product's labels, packaging,
19 advertising, and statements, and did not contain the amount of Folic Acid promised on the
20 Product's labels and packaging.

21 217. Defendant failed to use reasonable care in its communications and representations
22 to Plaintiff and the Class, especially in light of its knowledge of the presence of Heavy Metals in
23 the Prenatal Vitamins, and the actual amount of Folic Acid in the Products, and the importance
24 consumers place on ingredients when deciding whether to purchase products such as the Products.
25
26
27
28

1 218. By virtue of Defendant’s negligent misrepresentations, Plaintiff and the Class have
2 been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial, or alternatively, seek rescission and disgorgement
3 under this Court.
4

5 **COUNT II**
(Violations of California’s Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§1750,
6 ***Et Seq.*, Against Defendant on Behalf of the Class)**

7 219. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
8 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

9 220. Plaintiff and each proposed Class member is a “consumer,” as that term is defined
10 in California Civil Code §1761(d).

11 221. The Prenatal Vitamins are “goods,” as that term is defined in California Civil Code
12 §1761(a).
13

14 222. Defendant is a “person” as that term is defined in California Civil Code §1761(c).

15 223. Plaintiff and each proposed Class member’s purchase of Defendant’s Products
16 constituted a “transaction” as that term is defined in California Civil Code §1761(e).

17 224. Defendant’s conduct alleged herein violates the following provisions of
18 California’s Consumer Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”):

19 (a) California Civil Code §1770(a)(5), by negligently, recklessly, and/or
20 intentionally representing that the prenatal vitamins are natural, nutritious, and nurturing of a
21 healthy pregnancy, and by failing disclose levels of Heavy Metals in the Prenatal Vitamins, with,
22 and by representing that the Products contained an amount of Folic Acid that they, in fact, did not;

24 (b) California Civil Code §1770(a)(7), by negligently, recklessly, and/or
25 intentionally representing that the Prenatal Vitamins were of a particular standard, quality, or
26 grade, when they were of another;
27
28

1 (c) California Civil Code §1770(a)(9), by negligently, recklessly, and/or
2 intentionally advertising the Prenatal Vitamins with intent not to sell them as advertised; and

3 (d) California Civil Code §1770(a)(16), by representing that the Prenatal Vitamins
4 have been supplied in accordance with previous representations when they have not.

5 225. As a direct and proximate result of these violations, Plaintiff and the Class have
6 been harmed, and that harm will continue unless Defendant is enjoined from using the misleading
7 Marketing described herein in any manner in connection with the advertising and sale of the
8 Prenatal Vitamins.
9

10 226. Plaintiff seeks an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to, inter alia, California Civil
11 Code §1780(e) and California Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5.
12

13 **COUNT III**
14 **(Violations of California False Advertising Law, California Business & Professions**
15 **Code §§17500, *Et Seq.*, Against Defendant on Behalf of the Class)**

16 227. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
17 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

18 228. California's False Advertising Law prohibits any statement in connection with the
19 sale of goods "which is untrue or misleading." Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §17500.

20 229. As set forth herein, Defendant's claims that the Prenatal Vitamins are natural,
21 nutritious, and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy are literally false and likely to deceive the public.

22 230. Defendants' claims that the Prenatal Vitamins are natural, nutritious, and nurturing
23 of a healthy pregnancy are untrue or misleading, as is failing to disclose the presence or risk of
24 levels of Heavy Metals in the Products, and stating that the Products provided an amount of Folic
25 Acid that they, in fact, did not.

26 231. Defendant knew, or reasonably should have known, that all these claims were
27 untrue or misleading.
28

1 (b) The False Advertising Law, California Business & Professions Code
2 §§17500, et seq.

3 **Unfair**

4 238. Defendant's conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,
5 Marketing, and sale of the Prenatal Vitamins is unfair because Defendant's conduct was immoral,
6 unethical, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers and the utility of their conduct, if
7 any, does not outweigh the gravity of the harm to their victims.
8

9 239. Defendant's conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,
10 Marketing, and sale of the Prenatal Vitamins is also unfair because it violates public policy as
11 declared by specific constitutional, statutory, or regulatory provisions, including, but not limited
12 to, the False Advertising Law and the CLRA.

13 240. Defendant's conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,
14 Marketing, and sale of the Prenatal Vitamins is also unfair because the consumer injury is
15 substantial, not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and not one consumers,
16 themselves, can reasonably avoid.
17

18 241. In accordance with California Business & Professions Code §17203, Plaintiff
19 seeks an order enjoining Defendant from continuing to conduct business through fraudulent or
20 unlawful acts and practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign. Defendant's
21 conduct is ongoing and continuing, such that prospective injunctive relief is necessary.
22

23 242. On behalf of herself and the Class, Plaintiff also seeks an order for the restitution
24 of all monies from the sale of the Prenatal Vitamins, which were unjustly acquired through acts of
25 fraudulent, unfair, or unlawful competition.
26
27
28

COUNT V
**(Breach of Express Warranty, California Commercial Code §2313,
Against Defendant on Behalf of the Class)**

1
2
3 243. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
4 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

5 244. Defendant marketed and sold its Prenatal Vitamin into the stream of commerce
6 with the intent that the Prenatal Vitamins would be purchased by Plaintiff and the Class.

7
8 245. As set forth herein, Defendant made express representations to Plaintiff and the
9 Class that the Prenatal Vitamins were nutritious and nurturing of a health pregnancy.

10 246. Defendant made these express warranties regarding the Prenatal Vitamins quality,
11 ingredients, and fitness for consumption in writing through its website, advertising, and Marketing
12 materials, and on the Prenatal Vitamins' packaging and labels. These express warranties became
13 part of the basis of the bargain Plaintiff and the Class entered into upon purchasing the Products.

14 247. Defendant's advertisements, warranties, and representations were made in
15 connection with the sale of the Prenatal Vitamins to Plaintiff and the Class. Plaintiff and the Class
16 relied on Defendant's advertisements, warranties, and representations regarding the Prenatal
17 Vitamins in deciding whether to purchase Defendant's Products. Such promises became part of
18 the basis of the bargain between the parties, and thus constituted express warranties.

19
20 248. On the basis of these express warranties, Defendant sold to Plaintiffs and the Class
21 members the Prenatal Vitamins.

22 249. Defendant knowingly breached the express warranties in that they are not
23 nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy, as the Prenatal Vitamins:

- 24
25 (a) Contain or risk containing undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals; and
26
27 (b) do not contain the amount of Folic Acid promised on the Product label.

1 250. Defendant was on notice of this breach as they have, and had, exclusive knowledge
2 of the physical and chemical make-up of the Prenatal Vitamins and they are required to comply
3 with the law and regulation.

4 251. Privity exists because Defendant expressly warranted to Plaintiff and the Class that
5 the Prenatal Vitamins were nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy, and by failing to
6 disclose levels of Heavy Metals and misrepresenting the amount of Folic Acid in its Products.

7 252. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of its express warranties,
8 Plaintiff and the Class sustained damages as they purchased the Prenatal Vitamins that were worth
9 less than the price paid and they would not have purchased at all had they known the Prenatal
10 Vitamins contained or may contain undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals and that they contained a
11 different amount of Folic Acid than was stated on the Products' labels.

12 253. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks actual damages, injunctive and
13 declaratory relief, attorneys' fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available under the
14 laws.
15

16
17 **COUNT VI**
18 **(Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability, California Commercial Code §2314,
19 Against Defendant on Behalf of the Class)**

20 254. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
21 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

22 255. Defendant is a merchant engaging in the sale of goods to Plaintiff and the Class
23 members.

24 256. There was a sale of goods from Defendant to Plaintiff and the Class members.

25 257. As set forth herein, Defendant manufactured or supplied the Products, and prior
26 to the time the Products were purchased by Plaintiff and members of the Class, Defendant
27 impliedly warranted to them that the Prenatal Vitamins were of merchantable quality, fit for their
28

1 ordinary use, and conformed to the promises and affirmations of fact made on the Products’
2 packages and labels, including that the Products were nutritious and nurturing of a healthy
3 pregnancy, and failing to disclose levels of Heavy Metals and stating the Products contained an
4 amount of Folic Acid that they did not.

5 258. Plaintiff and the Class relied on Defendant’s promises and affirmations of fact
6 when they purchased the Prenatal Vitamins.

7 259. Contrary to these representations and warranties, the Prenatal Vitamins were not
8 fit for their ordinary use, which is consumption by women who are pregnant or may become
9 pregnant, and did not conform to Defendant’s advertisements, warranties, and representations in
10 that they are not nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy as they:
11

12 (a) contain or risk containing undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals; and

13 (b) do not contain the amount of Folic Acid promised on the Product label.

14 260. These promises became part of the basis of the bargain between the parties and
15 thus constitute implied warranties.
16

17 261. Defendant breached the implied warranties by selling Products that failed to
18 conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the packaging or label, as each Product
19 contained or risked containing Heavy Metals that do not conform to the packaging and
20 misrepresented the quantity or amount of the ingredients, including Folic Acid, stated on the label.

21 262. Defendant was on notice of this breach as it was aware of the levels of Heavy
22 Metals and actual amount of Folic Acid in the Products as they have, and had, exclusive knowledge
23 of the physical and chemical make-up of the Prenatal Vitamins and they are required to comply
24 with the law and regulation.
25

26 263. Privity exists because Defendant impliedly warranted to Plaintiff and the Class
27 members through the warranting, packaging, advertising, Marketing, and labeling that the Prenatal
28

1 Vitamins were nutritious and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy, and by failing to disclose levels or
2 the risk of levels of Heavy Metals and misrepresenting the amount of Folic Acid in its Products.

3 264. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class
4 have suffered actual damages in that they have purchased Prenatal Vitamins that are worth less
5 than the price they paid and that they would not have purchased at all had they known the presence
6 or risk of Heavy Metals in the Products and that the Products contained, or risked containing, a
7 deficient amount of Folic Acid as compared to the amount stated on the label.
8

9 265. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, injunctive and declaratory relief,
10 attorneys' fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available thereunder for Defendant's
11 failure to deliver goods conforming to its implied warranties and resulting breach.

12 **COUNT VII**
13 **(Unjust Enrichment Against Defendant on Behalf of the Class)**

14 266. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
15 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

16 267. Substantial benefits have been conferred on Defendant by Plaintiff and the Class
17 through the purchase of the Prenatal Vitamins. Defendant knowingly and willingly accepted and
18 enjoyed these benefits.

19 268. Defendant either knew or should have known that the payments rendered by
20 Plaintiff were given and received with the expectation that the Prenatal Vitamins would have the
21 qualities, characteristics, ingredients, and suitability for consumption represented and warranted
22 by Defendant. As such, it would be inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefit of the payments
23 under these circumstances.
24

25 269. Defendant's acceptance and retention of these benefits under the circumstances
26 alleged herein make it inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefits without payment of the value
27 to Plaintiff and the Class.
28

1 270. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover from Defendant all amounts
2 wrongfully collected and improperly retained by Defendant, plus interest thereon.

3 271. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, injunctive and declaratory relief,
4 attorneys' fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

5 **COUNT VIII**
6 **(Fraudulent Misrepresentation Against Defendant on Behalf of the**
7 **Class)**

8 272. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
9 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

10 273. Defendant falsely represented to Plaintiff and the Class that its Prenatal Vitamins
11 were nutritious and nurturing of a health pregnancy.

12 274. Defendant intentionally, knowing, and recklessly made these misrepresentations
13 to induce Plaintiff and the Class to purchase its Prenatal Vitamins.

14 275. Defendant knew its representations about the Prenatal Vitamins were false in that
15 the Products contained, or may have contained, undisclosed levels of Heavy Metals that do not
16 conform to the Products' labels, packaging, advertising, and statements. Defendant also knew its
17 representations about the Prenatal Vitamins were false in that the Products did not contain the
18 amount of Folic Acid promised on the Product label.

19 276. Defendant allowed its packaging, labels, advertisements, promotional materials,
20 and websites to intentionally mislead consumers, such as Plaintiff and the Class.

21 277. Plaintiff and the Class did in fact rely on these misrepresentations and purchased
22 the Prenatal Vitamins to their detriment. Given the deceptive manner in which Defendant
23 advertised, represented, and otherwise promoted the Prenatal Vitamins, Plaintiff's and the Class'
24 reliance on Defendant's misrepresentations was justifiable.
25
26
27
28

1 283. The facts concealed or not disclosed by Defendant to Plaintiff and the Class are
2 material in that a reasonable consumer would have considered them important when deciding
3 whether to purchase the Prenatal Vitamins.

4 284. Plaintiff and the Class justifiably relied on Defendant’s omissions to their
5 detriment. The detriment is evident from the true quality, characteristics, and ingredients of the
6 Prenatal Vitamins, which is inferior when compared to how the Prenatal Vitamins are advertised
7 and represented by Defendant.

8
9 285. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and the Class
10 have suffered actual damages in that they purchased the Prenatal Vitamins that are worth less than
11 the price they paid and that they would not have purchased at all had they known the Products
12 contained or risked containing Heavy Metals that do not conform to the Product’s labels,
13 packaging, advertising, and statements, and had they known the Prenatal Vitamins contained, or
14 had a risk of containing, a deficient amount of Folic Acid as compared to the amount stated on the
15 Product label.

16
17 286. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, injunctive and declaratory relief,
18 attorney’s fees, costs, and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

19
20 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

21 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, pray
22 for judgment against the Defendant as to each and every count, including:

23 A. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiff and
24 her counsel to represent the Class, and requiring Defendant to bear the costs of class notice;

25 B. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Prenatal Vitamins until the higher
26 and/or unsafe levels of Heavy Metals are removed;
27

28

1 C. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Prenatal Vitamins until any levels,
2 or risk of any levels, of Heavy Metals are disclosed on the Products' labels.

3 D. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Prenatal Vitamins until all Product
4 labels reflect the accurate amount of Folic Acid contained in the Product;

5 E. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Prenatal Vitamins in any manner
6 suggesting or implying that they are natural, nutritious, and nurturing of a healthy pregnancy;

7 F. An order requiring Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign and
8 engage in any further necessary affirmative injunctive relief, such as recalling existing Prenatal
9 Vitamins;

10 G. An order awarding declaratory relief, and any further retrospective or prospective
11 injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendant from continuing the
12 unlawful practices alleged herein, and injunctive relief to remedy Defendant's past conduct;

13 H. An order requiring Defendant to pay restitution to restore all funds acquired by
14 means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent
15 business act or practice, untrue or misleading advertising, or a violation of the Unfair
16 Competition Law, False Advertising Law, or CLRA, plus pre- and post-judgment interest
17 thereon;

18 I. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge or return all monies, revenues, and
19 profits obtained by means of any wrongful or unlawful act or practice;

20 J. An order requiring Defendant to pay all actual and statutory damages permitted
21 under the counts alleged herein;

22 K. An order requiring Defendant to pay punitive damages on any count so allowable;

23 L. An order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiff and the Class; and

24 M. An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and proper.
25
26
27
28

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: February 18, 2022

MILLER SHAH LLP

By: /s/ Kolin C. Tang
Kolin C. Tang (SBN 279834)
19712 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 222
Irvine, CA 92612
Telephone: (866) 545-5505
Facsimile: (866) 300-7367
Email: kctang@millershah.com

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.
ROBERT K. SHELQUIST*
MEGAN S. VAN DYKE*
CATHERINE A. PETERSON*
100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 339-6900
Facsimile: (612) 339-0981
E-mail: rkshelquist@locklaw.com
E-mail: msvandyke@locklaw.com
E-mail: capeterson@locklaw.com

Charles J. LaDuca
Alexandra C. Warren
CUNEO GILBERT &
LADUCA, LLP
4725 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20016
P: 202-789-3960
F: 202-789-1813
charles@cuneolaw.com
awarren@cuneolaw.com

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

PGMBM, LLC
Harris L. Pogust, Esq.*
Joshua M. Neuman, Esq.*
Jordyn N. Mitzman, Esq.*
161 Washington Street, Suite 250
Conshohocken, PA 19428
Telephone: (610) 941-4204
Facsimile: (610) 941-4245
hpogust@pgmbm.com
jneuman@pgmbm.us
jmitzman@pgmbm.us

James C. Shah (SBN 260435)
MILLER SHAH LLP
1845 Walnut St., Suite 806
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (856) 526-1100
Facsimile: (866) 300-7367
jcshah@millershah.com

**Pro Hac Vice admission to be sought*

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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 NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

LAUREN GOODWIN-KOENIG

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Kolin C. Tang (SBN 279834) 19712 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, CA 92612 Telephone: (866) 545-5505/Facsimile: (866) 300-7367

DEFENDANTS

TARGET CORPORATION

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

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 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)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and incorporation status. Includes options for Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, and Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country.

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

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Each category contains a list of specific legal codes and descriptions.

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, 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. §1332(d) Brief description of cause: Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA")

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000+ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 02/18/2022 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Kolin C. Tang

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

Case 1:22-cv-00212-DAD-BAM Document 1-1 Filed 02/18/22 Page 2 of 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.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- 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.