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 8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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 11 CHRISTINA NOORI, individually and on
 12 behalf of all others similarly situated,
 13 Plaintiff,
 14 v.
 15 KINDERFARMS LLC,
 16 Defendant.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff Christina Noori (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly
2 situated, brings this action against Defendant KinderFarms, LLC (“KinderFarms,” or “Defendant”).
3 Plaintiff makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of her counsel and based
4 upon information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining to herself, which
5 are based on personal knowledge.

6 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

7 1. To capitalize on consumer demand for “non-toxic” medications, Defendant makes
8 false and misleading “non-toxic” claims about its KinderMed (pronounced “kind-er-med”)
9 children’s medicine product line to sell KinderFarms products at a premium price. Even though
10 Defendant knows that the ingredients in KinderMed products are in fact toxic, Defendant continues
11 to make “non-toxic” misrepresentations because Defendant also knows that consumers choose
12 KinderMed over other products based on “non-toxic” labeling statements.

13 2. To differentiate KinderMed products from other children’s medicine products,
14 Defendant makes false and misleading “non-toxic” representations (the “Toxicity
15 Representations”) on the KinderMed Kids’ products, including “Pain & Fever,” “Cough &
16 Congestion,” and “Nighttime Cold & Cough” over the counter (“OTC”) medicines (collectively,
17 the “Products”). The Products each contain either Acetaminophen, Dextromethorphan, or
18 Diphenhydramine (collectively, the “Toxic Ingredients”), which are all inherently toxic substances.

19 3. Based on Defendant’s false and misleading “non-toxic” claims, Plaintiff Christina
20 Noori and the class members she seeks to represent, bought KinderMed Products at a premium
21 price. Because Plaintiff and others like her were taken in by Defendant’s false “non-toxic”
22 promises, Plaintiff brings this class action against Defendant to seek a reimbursement of the
23 premium Plaintiff and the class members paid based on Defendant’s misrepresentations.

24 4. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's false and misleading advertising
25 claims and marketing practices, Plaintiff and the members of the Classes, as defined herein,
26 purchased KinderMed Products. Plaintiff and members of the Classes purchased KinderMed
27 Products because they were deceived into believing that KinderMed Products did not contain toxic
28 ingredients. As a result, Plaintiff and members of the Classes purchased KinderMed Products and

1 have been injured in fact because KinderMed Products contain ingredients that are toxic. Plaintiff
2 and Class Members purchased medicine designed, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendant as
3 “non-toxic.” Further, Plaintiff and Class Members relied to their detriment on Defendant’s
4 representation that the Products are “non-toxic.” Plaintiff and Class Members would not have paid
5 to purchase Defendant’s Products – or would not have paid as much as they did to purchase them –
6 had they known that they are not, in fact, “non-toxic.” Plaintiff and Class Members thus suffered
7 monetary damages as a result of Defendant’s deceptive and false representations.

8 5. Plaintiff seeks relief in this action individually and on behalf of those similarly
9 situated, and seeks to represent a National Class and a California Subclass (defined *infra*). Plaintiff
10 seeks injunctive relief to stop Defendant’s unlawful labeling and advertising of the Products. In
11 addition, Plaintiff seeks damages, interest thereon, reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, other
12 equitable relief, and disgorgement of all benefits, permissible under the law, that Defendant has
13 enjoyed from its conduct.

14 6. Plaintiff also seeks relief in this action individually and on behalf of purchasers of
15 the KinderMed Products in California for violation of Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq.*, the California
16 Consumer Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”), Bus & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, California’s Unfair
17 Competition Law (“UCL”), and Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*, California’s False
18 Advertising Law (“FAL”).

19 PARTIES

20 7. Plaintiff Christina Noori is a citizen of California, residing in San Leandro,
21 California. In or around November 2022, Plaintiff Noori purchased KinderMed Kids’ Pain &
22 Fever (the “Product”) for her personal use in the home for approximately \$6.99 from a brick and
23 mortar Walgreens store in San Leandro, California. Prior to her purchase of the Product, Plaintiff
24 Noori reviewed the product’s labeling and packaging and saw that the Product was purportedly
25 “non-toxic” on the side panel. Plaintiff Noori relied on that representation to choose her
26 medication over comparable products. Plaintiff Noori saw these representations prior to, and at the
27 time of purchase, and understood them as representations and warranties that her Product was
28 “non-toxic.” Plaintiff did not realize that the Product included active ingredients inconsistent with

1 that representation. Plaintiff Noori relied on the representations and warranties that her Product
2 was “non-toxic” in deciding to purchase her Product. Accordingly, these representations and
3 warranties were part of the basis of the bargain, in that she would not have purchased the Product
4 on the same terms had she known these representations were not true. However, Plaintiff Noori
5 remains interested in purchasing non-toxic children’s medications and would consider KinderMed
6 in the future if Defendant ensured the Products were actually non-toxic. In making her purchase,
7 Plaintiff Noori paid a substantial price premium due to the false and misleading Toxicity
8 Representations. However, Plaintiff Noori did not receive the benefit of her bargain because her
9 Product, in fact, was toxic. Plaintiff Noori further understood that the purchase came with
10 Defendant’s representation and warranties that her Product was “non-toxic.”

11 8. Defendant KinderFarms, LLC is a limited liability company organized and existing
12 under the laws of the state of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Redondo Beach,
13 California. KinderFarms manufactures, sells, and/or distributes KinderMed-branded products, and
14 is responsible for the advertising, marketing, trade dress, and packaging of the Products.
15 KinderFarms manufactured, marketed, and sold the Products during the class period. The planning
16 and execution of the advertising, marketing, labeling, packaging, testing, and corporate operations
17 concerning the Products and the Toxicity Representations was primarily carried out at
18 KinderFarms’ headquarters and facilities within California. The policies, practices, acts, and
19 omissions giving rise to this action were developed in, and emanated from, KinderFarms’
20 headquarters in Redondo Beach, California.

21 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

22 9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
23 1332(d)(2)(a) because there are more than 100 Class Members, the aggregate amount in
24 controversy exceeds \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest, fees, and costs, and at least one Class
25 member is a citizen of a state different from at least one Defendant.

26 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it conducts substantial
27 business within California, including the manufacturing, sale, marketing, and advertising of the
28 Products. Defendant also maintains its headquarters and principal place of business in this State.

1 Furthermore, a substantial portion of the events giving rise to Plaintiff Noori’s claims occurred in
2 this State, including Plaintiff Noori’s purchase of her Product.

3 11. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of
4 the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiff’s claims occurred in this District. In addition,
5 Plaintiff purchased the unlawful Products in this District, and Defendant has marketed, advertised,
6 and sold the Products within this District.

7 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

8 **A. Background On The “Clean” Medication Industry**

9 12. In recent years, consumers have become progressively more aware and
10 apprehensive about unnecessary and harmful extra ingredients in OTC medications that remedy
11 and reduce common ailments, including coughs, congestion, and fevers. The most common OTC
12 medications manufactured and sold by conventional pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer,
13 Procter & Gamble, or Johnson & Johnson have effective active ingredients, but also contain as
14 inactive ingredients many artificial substances including dyes, preservatives, sweeteners, common
15 allergens, and other synthetic fillers (*e.g.*, FD&C red dye no. 40, sucralose and titanium dioxide),
16 including ingredients banned or requiring warning labels in other countries. Indeed, a study found
17 that 75% of common pills are filled with these inactive ingredients.¹

18 13. While these miniscule amounts are unlikely to affect most people, unnecessary
19 inactive ingredients can cause allergic or adverse reactions.² Researchers have discovered that “at
20 least 55% of drugs contained at least one hard-to-digest sugar linked to gas, bloating, abdominal
21 pain, diarrhea, and constipation.³ These adverse and problematic effects, as caused by the inactive
22 ingredients, are as unnecessary as the inactive ingredients themselves.

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26 ¹ See Rina Raphael, “Are ‘clean meds’ the next big wellness frontier?”
<https://www.fastcompany.com/90330368/are-clean-meds-the-next-big-wellness-frontier> (April 5,
2019).

27 ² *Id.*

28 ³ *Id.*

1 14. As a result, consumers concerned about these inactive ingredients are increasingly
2 seeking clean alternatives to the big brand-name OTC medications—medications that do not
3 include the unnecessary inactive ingredients.

4 15. In response to consumers’ desire for safe and “clean” OTC medications, some
5 companies, including Defendant, “greenwash” their products by deceptively claiming that their
6 medications are safe. Unfortunately, rather than acknowledging that a certain amount of toxicity is
7 present when active ingredients such as acetaminophen, dextromethorphan, or diphenhydramine
8 are in the medications, companies, like Defendant, have chosen instead to “greenwash” their
9 products through deceptive labeling, suggesting and outright stating that their medications are safe
10 and non-toxic when, in fact, they can cause harm to humans.

11 16. Recognizing this problem, the United States Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”)
12 created the “Green Guides” to help companies avoid making misleading and deceptive claims.⁴
13 The Green Guides specifically address the use of the term “non-toxic” in the marketing of a
14 product, stating, “A non-toxic claim likely conveys that a product, package, or service is non-toxic
15 both for humans and for the environment generally.”⁵ Accordingly, “[i]t is deceptive to
16 misrepresent, directly or by implication, that a product, package, or service is non-toxic. Non-toxic
17 claims should be clearly and prominently qualified to the extent necessary to avoid deception.”⁶

18 17. Indeed, in commenting on the Green Guides, the Environmental Protection Agency
19 (“EPA”) **“believes that marketers will ‘rarely, if ever, be able to adequately qualify and
20 substantiate such a claim of ‘non-toxic’ in a manner that will be clearly understood by
21 consumers.”**⁷ The EPA further explained:

22 [A] “non-toxic” claim conveys that a product is non-toxic for both humans and for
23 the environment generally. Demonstrating a lack of toxicity in a generic sense
24 involves testing for a broad array of endpoints (e.g., acute toxicity, carcinogenicity
and other chronic effects, developmental and reproductive toxicity, neurotoxicity,

25 ⁴ See generally 16 C.F.R. § 260 – Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims.

26 ⁵ 16 C.F.R. § 260.10(b).

27 ⁶ 16 C.F.R. § 260.10(a).

28 ⁷ EPA Comments on Proposed Revisions to Green Guides (2010),
https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public_comments/guides-use-environmental-marketing-claims-project-no.p954501-00288%C2%A0/00288-57070.pdf.

1 sensitization, etc.) across a variety of species. It is highly unlikely that the typical
2 consumer product will have been subjected to this degree of testing with a resulting
finding of “no adverse effect” for each of the endpoints evaluated.⁸

3 18. “According to the EPA, this inference might prevent consumers from taking
4 necessary precautions in handling a product.”⁹

5 19. The Green Guides also provide examples of marketing claims to “provide the
6 Commission’s views on how **reasonable consumers** likely interpret certain claims.”¹⁰ The FTC
7 provided the following relevant example:¹¹

8 A marketer advertises a cleaning product as “essentially non-toxic” and “practically
9 non-toxic.” **The advertisement likely conveys that the product does not pose
any risk to humans** or the environment, including household pets.

10 20. This example demonstrates that even when “non-toxic” claims are qualified by such
11 terms as “essentially” or “practically,” they are nonetheless construed by reasonable consumers as
12 “not pos[ing] any risk to humans.” Thus, broad and unqualified non-toxic claims, such as the
13 Toxicity Representations present on the Products, would even more strongly convey the meaning
14 that the Products do not pose any risk of harm to humans.

15 **B. The KinderFarms Products And Representations At Issue**

16 21. As described *supra*, Defendant manufactures, markets, advertises, labels, and sells
17 “non-toxic” KinderMed Kids’ Products, including “Pain & Fever,” “Cough & Congestion,” and
18 “Nighttime Cold & Cough” OTC medicines.

19 22. True and correct images of the Products and Toxicity Representations are as follows
20 (red boxes added to highlight relevant text):

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23 ⁸ *Id.* See also Fed. Trade Comm’n, The Green Guide Statement and Business Purpose (2012),
24 [https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/press-releases/ftc-issues-revised-green-](https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/press-releases/ftc-issues-revised-green-guides/greenguidesstatement.pdf)
25 [guides/greenguidesstatement.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/press-releases/ftc-issues-revised-green-guides/greenguidesstatement.pdf) (“Similarly, [Consumers Union] suggested that because ‘non-
26 toxic’ claims are so difficult to substantiate and for consumers to verify, the marketplace would be
better served with ‘specific claims of how a product contains less toxic or no toxic materials rather
than using a ‘non-toxic’ claim.’”).

27 ⁹ *Id.*

28 ¹⁰ 16 C.F.R. § 260.1(d).

¹¹ 16 C.F.R. § 260.10.

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KinderMed Kids' Pain & Fever

OUR PROMISE

We founded **KinderFarms**® to make the effective, **non-toxic** health products we wanted for our own families available to everyone. By offering cleaner options that are backed by science, we promise to do our part to create a kinder future for every family.

Jessica
Jessica Biel
 Co-founder and Parent



KinderMed Kids' Cough & Congestion

OUR PROMISE

We founded **KinderFarms**® to make the effective, **non-toxic** health products we wanted for our own families available to everyone. By offering cleaner options that are backed by science, we promise to do our part to create a kinder future for every family.

Jessica
Jessica Biel
 Co-founder and Parent



KinderMed Kids’ Nighttime Cold & Cough

OUR PROMISE

We founded **KinderFarms®** to make the effective, **non-toxic** health products we wanted for our own families available to everyone. By offering cleaner options that are backed by science, we promise to do our part to create a kinder future for every family.

Jessica
Jessica Biel
 Co-founder and Parent



23. Each of the Products prominently displays Defendant’s “Promise,” signed by famous actress Jessica Biel, declaring these medications “non-toxic.” In addition to the representations on the boxes of each Product, Ms. Biel commercially promotes KinderMed Products on social media and other platforms, including appearances on national television.

C. Defendant’s “Non-Toxic” Marketing Scheme Is False And Misleading

24. As demonstrated *supra*, the majority of KinderMed Products prominently display the “OUR PROMISE” box containing the Toxicity Representations (“non-toxic health products”) at issue. Defendant’s statement that it makes “non-toxic” health products (outlined in red in the above Product images for ease of reference) – is false and misleading. Defendant repeats these false statements in materially identical form on its website.¹²

25. In fact, KinderFarms’ KinderMed Products are *not* “non-toxic” health products. KinderMed’s “Kids’ Pain & Fever” products contain acetaminophen. It is the sole active ingredient found in KinderMed’s Kids’ Pain & Fever products. When used properly and in accordance with the recommended daily dosage, acetaminophen is an effective pain-relieving and

¹² See e.g., <https://kinderfarms.com/products/kindermed-kids-pain-fever>.

1 fever-reducing agent. But its potential potency cannot be taken lightly, nor can it accurately be
2 described as “non-toxic.”

3 26. There is a consensus in the medical community, also reflected in guidance by the
4 federal Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”), that acetaminophen is a toxic substance.
5 Although many perceive that acetaminophen is safe and can be taken with impunity, the truth,
6 however, is that acetaminophen is toxic when taken in excess both acutely and chronically.
7 Acetaminophen toxicity is a common cause of acute liver failure in children and adolescents.¹³ It
8 has the potential to cause serious liver damage if more than directed is used.¹⁴ And, an
9 acetaminophen overdose can be fatal.

10 27. Defendant’s Toxicity Representations on its Products are contrary to the widespread
11 expert consensus that acetaminophen carries toxicity potential, as reflected in FDA information and
12 guidance from health professionals, making KinderFarms’ “Promise” objectively false and
13 misleading.

14 28. An average consumer does not carefully read the fine print containing FDA
15 warnings with a variety of nuances about the active ingredient(s). In one particular study, only
16 26% of those surveyed indicated that they bothered to read the active ingredients on the OTC
17 label.¹⁵ Similarly, another study indicated that only 42% of subjects said they read everything on
18 the label when taking an OTC medication for the first time.¹⁶ Further, studies also suggest that
19 consumers spend less time viewing warnings compared to other aspects of package labeling (*e.g.*,

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21 ¹³ See UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, “Acetaminophen Toxicity Symptoms and
22 Treatment,” [https://www.chp.edu/our-services/transplant/liver/education/liver-disease-
23 states/acetaminophen-
24 toxicity#:~:text=The%20maximum%20recommended%20acetaminophen%20dosage,chemicals\)%20with%20use%20of%20acetaminophen.](https://www.chp.edu/our-services/transplant/liver/education/liver-disease-states/acetaminophen-toxicity#:~:text=The%20maximum%20recommended%20acetaminophen%20dosage,chemicals)%20with%20use%20of%20acetaminophen.)

25 ¹⁴ See Cleveland Clinic, “Acetaminophen Toxicity in Children and Adolescents,”
26 [https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/21188-acetaminophen-toxicity-in-children-and-
27 adolescents.](https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/21188-acetaminophen-toxicity-in-children-and-adolescents.)

28 ¹⁵ See The People’s Pharmacy, “Do You Read OTC Medication Labels? You Should!”
<https://www.peoplespharmacy.com/articles/do-you-read-otc-medication-labels-you-should.>

¹⁶ Jesse R. Catlin and Eric P. Brass, “The Effectiveness of Nonprescription Drug Labels in the
United States: Insights from Recent Research and Opportunities for the Future,”
[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6306891/#:~:text=Unfortunately%2C%20multiple
%20studies%20suggest%20that,relievers%20before%20use%20%5B3%5D.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6306891/#:~:text=Unfortunately%2C%20multiple%20studies%20suggest%20that,relievers%20before%20use%20%5B3%5D.) (2018).

1 the brand name).¹⁷ An average consumer is more likely to credit the simple, declarative, and
2 unconditional statement on the product he or she is considering purchasing than to parse the
3 complex verbiage on an FDA drug label.

4 29. Even for the select few customers who may read the back of the KinderMed
5 packaging that contains various warnings, the vast majority of parents do not possess the scientific
6 knowledge or expertise to parse through such warnings and understand how to interpret these in
7 light of the statement on a separate side of the packaging concerning the “non-toxic” nature of the
8 company’s products.

9 30. Nothing in the “non-toxic” claim language on KinderMed’s packaging suggests that
10 this language applies strictly to the non-active ingredients. Therefore, an average consumer would
11 likely interpret the statement to refer to all ingredients—both the active and non-active ingredients.
12 The bottom line is, the claims about the “non-toxic” nature of KinderFarms’ KinderMed products
13 are dangerous to the consuming public and injunctive relief should issue requiring the correction of
14 KinderMed packaging and the recall of products in the marketplace.

15 31. Likewise, KinderFarms’ statements that its Kids’ Cough & Congestion product,
16 which contains active ingredients Dextromethorphan HBr and Guaifenesin and Kids’ Nighttime
17 Cold & Cough product, which contains Diphenhydramine HCl and Phenylephrine HCl, are “non-
18 toxic” are false and misleading. Diphenhydramine, an ingredient commonly found in OTC drug
19 products such as Benadryl, is a common cause of anticholinergic toxicity. In September 2020, the
20 FDA released a warning regarding the dangers of taking more than the recommended doses of
21 Benadryl.¹⁸ Additionally, reports of adolescents intentionally overdosing on diphenhydramine has
22 recently drawn national attention.¹⁹ Dextromethorphan poisoning can also occur. Though these
23 substances can be safe and effective cough suppressants, recreational and accidental abuse can, and

24 ¹⁷ *Id.*

25 ¹⁸ U.S. Food & Drug Administration, “FDA warns about serious problems with high doses of the
26 allergy medicine diphenhydramine (Benadryl),” <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-warns-about-serious-problems-high-doses-allergy-medicine-diphenhydramine-benadryl> (2020).

27 ¹⁹ University of Utah Health, “Diphenhydramine Toxicity,”
28 <https://poisoncontrol.utah.edu/news/2021/11/diphenhydramine-toxicity> (2021).

1 has, occurred with dire consequences because of the inherent toxicity of these substances.²⁰ Thus,
2 again, KinderFarms' statement that these products are "non-toxic" is not only false and misleading,
3 but dangerous to consumers. Injunctive relief should likewise be issued, barring these statements
4 and requiring the recall of Products already in the marketplace.

5 32. Because the entire premise of "clean" medicines is to reduce synthetic, potentially
6 harmful inactive ingredients and incorporate organic and naturally occurring ingredients,
7 consumers electing to purchase clean medicine products care about what they and their children are
8 ingesting and are selecting KinderMed products because of its messaging. Consumers' desire for
9 reassurance that they will receive safe and effective medicine is illustrated by the fact that
10 KinderFarms describes the KinderMed Kids' Pain & Fever, for example, on KinderFarms' website
11 as "made with the same effective, active ingredient...so you can trust it to provide safe and
12 effective relief for your child."

13 33. Given the motivations and predilections of consumers seeking to purchase "clean"
14 medicines, Defendant's misleading Toxicity Representations trick reasonable consumers into
15 choosing its Products over comparable brands. Indeed, consumers choosing between two "clean"
16 medicine products, one offering the assurance that it is non-toxic and the other not making that
17 claim, are likely to choose the former—at the expense of unwitting consumers and Defendant's
18 lawfully acting competitors, over whom Defendant maintains an unfair competitive advantage.

19 34. The Toxicity Representations were and are material to reasonable consumers,
20 including Plaintiff, in making purchasing decisions. Indeed, Plaintiff relied on Defendant's
21 misrepresentations, described herein, in making the decision to purchase the Products. At the time
22 Plaintiff purchased the Products, Plaintiff did not know, and had no reason to know, that the
23 Products' labeling and advertising were false, misleading, deceptive, and unlawful as set forth
24 herein.

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26 _____
27 ²⁰ Poison Control, "Dextromethorphan Abuse,"
28 <https://www.poison.org/articles/dextromethorphan#:~:text=Dextromethorphan%20poisoning%20can%20also%20cause%20slow%20breathing%2C%20fast,intent%20such%20as%20insomnia%20and%20dysphoria%20%28unease%2C%20unhappiness%29.>

1 California. Accordingly, it would be impracticable to join all members of the Class before the
2 Court.

3 40. **Common Questions Predominate:** There are numerous and substantial questions
4 of law or fact common to all members of the Class that predominate over any individual issues.

5 Included within the common questions of law or fact are:

- 6 a. Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair or deceptive business practices by
7 advertising and selling the Products.
- 8 b. Whether Defendant’s conduct of advertising and selling the Products as containing
9 only “non-toxic” ingredients when they do not constitutes an unfair method of
10 competition, or unfair or deceptive act or practice, in violation of Civil Code section
11 1750, *et seq.*;
- 12 c. Whether Defendant used deceptive representations in connection with the sale of the
13 Products in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
- 14 d. Whether Defendant represented that the Products have characteristics or quantities
15 that they do not have in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
- 16 e. Whether Defendant advertised the Products with intent not to sell them as advertised
17 in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
- 18 f. Whether Defendant’s labeling and advertising of the Products are untrue or
19 misleading in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17500, *et seq.*;
- 20 g. Whether Defendant knew or by the exercise of reasonable care should have known
21 its labeling and advertising was and is untrue or misleading in violation of Business
22 and Professions Code section 17500, *et seq.*;
- 23 h. Whether Defendant’s conduct is an unfair business practice within the meaning of
24 Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*;
- 25 i. Whether Defendant’s conduct is a fraudulent business practice within the meaning
26 of Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*;
- 27 j. Whether Defendant’s conduct is an unlawful business practice within the meaning
28 of Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*;
- k. Whether Plaintiff and the Class paid more money for the Products than they actually
received;
- l. How much more money Plaintiff and the Class paid for the Products than they
actually received;
- m. Whether Defendant’s conduct constitutes breach of warranty;
- n. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to injunctive relief; and
- o. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched by its unlawful conduct.

1 41. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members she
2 seeks to represent because Plaintiff, like the Class Members, purchased Defendant's misleading
3 and deceptive Products. Defendant's unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concern the same
4 business practices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were experienced.
5 Plaintiff and the Class sustained similar injuries arising out of Defendant's conduct. Plaintiff's and
6 Class Members' claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct and are based on the
7 same legal theories.

8 42. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class she seeks to represent
9 because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class Members Plaintiff seeks to
10 represent. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect Class Members' interests and has retained
11 counsel experienced and competent in the prosecution of complex class actions, including complex
12 questions that arise in consumer protection litigation.

13 43. **Superiority and Substantial Benefit:** A class action is superior to other methods
14 for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual joinder of all members of
15 the Class is impracticable and no other group method of adjudication of all claims asserted herein
16 is more efficient and manageable for at least the following reasons:

- 17 a. The claims presented in this case predominate over any questions of law or fact, if
18 any exist at all, affecting any individual member of the Class;
- 19 b. Absent a Class, the members of the Class will continue to suffer damage and
20 Defendant's unlawful conduct will continue without remedy while Defendant
21 profits from and enjoys its ill-gotten gains;
- 22 c. Given the size of individual Class Members' claims, few, if any, Class Members
23 could afford to or would seek legal redress individually for the wrongs Defendant
24 committed against them, and absent Class Members have no substantial interest in
25 individually controlling the prosecution of individual actions;
- 26 d. When the liability of Defendant has been adjudicated, claims of all members of the
27 Class can be administered efficiently and/or determined uniformly by the Court; and
- 28 e. This action presents no difficulty that would impede its management by the Court as
a class action, which is the best available means by which Plaintiff and Class
Members can seek redress for the harm caused to them by Defendant.

44. **Inconsistent Rulings.** Because Plaintiff seeks relief for all members of the Class,
the prosecution of separate actions by individual members would create a risk of inconsistent or

1 51. **Defendant’s Deliberately False and Fraudulent Marketing Scheme.** Defendant
2 does not have any reasonable basis for the claims about the Products made in Defendant’s
3 advertising and on Defendant’s packaging or labeling because the Products contain ingredients that
4 are toxic. Defendant knew and knows that the Products are not truly non-toxic medications,
5 though Defendant intentionally advertised and marketed the Products to deceive reasonable
6 consumers into believing that Products contain only non-toxic ingredients.

7 52. **False Advertising Claims Cause Purchase of Products.** Defendant’s labeling and
8 advertising of the Products led to, and continues to lead to, reasonable consumers, including
9 Plaintiff, believing that the Products are truly non-toxic and thus safer than similar medications.

10 53. **Injury in Fact.** Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost
11 money or property as a result of and in reliance upon Defendant’s False Advertising Claims—
12 namely Plaintiff and the Class lost the purchase price for the Products they bought from the
13 Defendant.

14 54. **Conduct Violates the UCL.** Defendant’s conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes
15 unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices pursuant to the UCL. The UCL prohibits unfair
16 competition and provides, in pertinent part, that “unfair competition shall mean and include
17 unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading
18 advertising.” Cal. Bus & Prof. Code § 17200. In addition, Defendant’s use of various forms of
19 advertising media to advertise, call attention to, or give publicity to the sale of goods or
20 merchandise that are not as represented in any manner constitutes unfair competition, unfair,
21 deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising, and an unlawful business practice within the meaning
22 of Business and Professions Code Sections 17200 and 17531, which advertisements have deceived
23 and are likely to deceive the consuming public, in violation of Business and Professions Code
24 Section 17200.

25 55. **No Reasonably Available Alternatives/Legitimate Business Interests.** Defendant
26 failed to avail itself of reasonably available, lawful alternatives to further its legitimate business
27 interests.
28

1 advertising of the Products. Accordingly, the injuries caused by Defendant’s deceptive labeling
2 and advertising outweigh any benefits.

3 61. **Balancing Test.** Some courts conduct a balancing test to decide if a challenged
4 activity amounts to unfair conduct under California Business and Professions Code Section 17200.
5 They “weigh the utility of the defendant’s conduct against the gravity of the harm to the alleged
6 victim.” *Davis v. HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.*, 691 F.3d 1152, 1169 (9th Cir. 2012).

7 62. **No Utility.** Here, Defendant’s conduct of labeling the Products with the Toxicity
8 Representations when the Products contain toxic active ingredients that are dangerous has no utility
9 and financially harms purchasers. Thus, the utility of Defendant’s conduct is vastly outweighed by
10 the gravity of harm.

11 63. **Legislative Declared Policy.** Some courts require that “unfairness must be tethered
12 to some legislative declared policy or proof of some actual or threatened impact on competition.”
13 *Lozano v. AT&T Wireless Servs. Inc.*, 504 F. 3d 718, 735 (9th Cir. 2007).

14 64. **Unfair Conduct.** Defendant’s labeling and advertising of the Products, as alleged
15 herein, is false, deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitutes unfair conduct.
16 Defendant knew or should have known of its unfair conduct. Defendant’s misrepresentations
17 constitute an unfair business practice within the meaning of California Business and Professions
18 Code Section 17200.

19 65. **Reasonably Available Alternatives.** There existed reasonably available
20 alternatives to further Defendant’s legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described
21 herein. Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products with the Toxicity
22 Representations.

23 66. **Defendant’s Wrongful Conduct.** All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and
24 continues to occur in Defendant’s business. Defendant’s wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or
25 generalized course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.

26 67. **Injunction.** Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17203, Plaintiff
27 and the Class seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or
28 employ its practices of labeling the Products with the Toxicity Representations.

1 Professions Code sections 17200-17208. Additionally, Defendant's misrepresentations of material
2 facts, as set forth herein, violate California Civil Code sections 1572, 1573, 1709, 1710, 1711, and
3 1770, as well as the common law.

4 80. **Unlawful Conduct.** Defendant's packaging, labeling, and advertising of the
5 Products, as alleged herein, are false, deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitute
6 unlawful conduct. Defendant knew or should have known of its unlawful conduct.

7 81. **Reasonably Available Alternatives.** Defendant had reasonably available
8 alternatives to further its legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.
9 Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products with the Toxicity Representations.

10 82. **Business Practice.** All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur
11 in Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized course
12 of conduct.

13 83. **Injunction.** Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17203, Plaintiff
14 and the Class seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or
15 employ its practice of false and deceptive advertising of the Products.

16 84. **Plaintiff and The Class Lack an Adequate Remedy at Law.** Plaintiff and Class
17 Members have suffered an injury in fact resulting in the loss of money and/or property as a
18 proximate result of the violations of law and wrongful conduct of Defendant alleged herein, and
19 they lack an adequate remedy at law to address the unfair conduct at issue here. Legal remedies
20 available to Plaintiff and Class Members are inadequate because they are not equally prompt and
21 certain and in other ways efficient as equitable relief. Damages are not equally certain as
22 restitution because the standard that governs restitution is different than the standard that governs
23 damages. Hence, the Court may award restitution even if it determines that Plaintiff fails to
24 sufficiently adduce evidence to support an award of damages. Damages and restitution are not the
25 same amount. Unlike damages, restitution is not limited to the amount of money Defendant
26 wrongfully acquired plus the legal rate of interest. Equitable relief, including restitution, entitles
27 the plaintiff to recover all profits from the wrongdoing, even where the original funds taken have
28 grown far greater than the legal rate of interest would recognize. Legal claims for damages are not

1 95. **Nationwide Class & California Subclass.** Plaintiff brings this claim individually
2 and on behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Subclass (the Class) who purchased the
3 Products within the applicable statute of limitations.

4 96. **CLRA Standard.** The CLRA provides that “unfair methods of competition and
5 unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person in a transaction intended to result or
6 which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are unlawful.”

7 97. **Goods/Services.** The Products are “goods,” as defined by the CLRA in California
8 Civil Code §1761(a).

9 98. **Defendant.** Defendant is a “person,” as defined by the CLRA in California Civil
10 Code §1761(c).

11 99. **Consumers.** Plaintiff and members of the Class are “consumers,” as defined by the
12 CLRA in California Civil Code §1761(d).

13 100. **Transactions.** The purchase of the Products by Plaintiff and members of the Class
14 are “transactions” as defined by the CLRA under California Civil Code section 1761(e).

15 101. **Violations of the CLRA.** Defendant violated the following sections of the CLRA
16 by selling the Products to Plaintiff and the Class through the false, misleading, deceptive, and
17 fraudulent Toxicity Representations:

- 18 a. Section 1770(a)(5) by representing that the Products have “characteristics, . . . uses
19 [or] benefits . . . which [they] do not have.”
- 20 b. Section 1770(a)(7) by representing that the Products “are of a particular standard,
21 quality, or grade . . . [when] they are of another.”
- 22 c. Section 1770(a)(9) by advertising the Products “with [the] intent not to sell them as
23 advertised.”

24 102. **Knowledge.** Defendant’s uniform and material representations and omissions
25 regarding the Products were likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or should have known that its
26 representations and omissions were untrue and misleading.

