

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION**

Krystal Rampalli, Individually and on
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Publix Super Markets, Inc.,

Defendant.

Case No. 23-cv-2226

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Krystal Rampalli ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, files this Class Action Complaint ("CAC") against Defendant Publix Super Markets, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Publix") and in support states the following.

NATURE OF THE SUIT

1. This is a class action lawsuit by Plaintiff on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated who purchased Defendant's tablet style phenylephrine medicine, "Publix Daytime, Cold & Flu Relief, Multi-Symptom, Softgels" branded products, containing phenylephrine, ("Medicine", or "Drugs")¹, that were manufactured, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold by Defendant. The above-described group of persons who purchased Defendant's Drugs are to be referred to as the Putative Class hereinafter.

¹ <https://www.publix.com/pd/publix-daytime-cold-and-flu-relief-multi-symptom-softgels/RIO-PCI-138097?origin=search5>

2. These Drugs are designed to combat sinus issues, such as congestion, among other things. Unfortunately, the Drugs do not.² In fact, the Drugs are ineffective according to a United States Food & Drug Administration (“FDA”) advisory board panel, which is due to their active ingredient being phenylephrine.³

3. Medicines similar to these Drugs, containing phenylephrine, generated almost 2 billion in sales in 2022.⁴

4. Further: "According to the FDA review, 242 million packages or bottles of phenylephrine products were sold in 2022, resulting in \$1.76 billion in sales."⁵

5. Plaintiff brings this action because of Defendant’s fraud, false marketing, false advertising, breach of contract, breach of warranty, and breaches of state law consumer protection statutes.

6. Defendant is a massive retailing business that often specializes in generic brand medicine, that is comparable to other national brands, as documented in its corporate wordmark, and website branding, and content, as seen below: "Pain reliever. Fever reducer. Cough suppressant. Nasal decongestant. Compare to the active ingredients in Vicks DayQuil Cold & Flu

² <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/12/health/phenylephrine-tablets-ineffective-fda-panel-says/index.html#:~:text=Phenylephrine%2C%20a%20popular%20ingredient%20in,and%20Drug%20Administration%20agreed%20Tuesday>

³ *Id.* ; <https://www.fda.gov/media/171917/download>

⁴ <https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/its-unanimous-fda-panel-says-decongestant-drug-phenylephrine-does-not-work#:~:text=Products%20that%20include%20the%20ingredient,congestion%20when%20given%20by%20mouth.>

⁵ <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/996369#:~:text=The%20vote%20that%20formally%20declared,and%20based%20on%20outdated%20technology.>

(This product is not manufactured or distributed by the owner of the registered trademarks Vicks DayQuil)."⁶ Unfortunately, Defendant's provide and sell Drugs that do not work.

7. Through its own marketing, as demonstrated above, Defendant is seeking out consumers who are vulnerable positions given their need for medicine related to nasal and sinus issues.

8. Unfortunately, Defendant's "Daytime" branded Drugs, containing phenylephrine, are ineffective as decongestants.⁷

9. These Drugs, specifically those containing phenylephrine, were brought to market as alternatives for other types of medicines that were prone to abuse by illicit drug producers, as to create methamphetamine.⁸

10. In fact, these Drugs took the shelf space of older, truly effective drugs.⁹

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. This Court possesses subject-matter jurisdiction to adjudicate the claims set forth herein under the provisions of the Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because (1) the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, (2) the action is a class action, (3) there are members of the Class who are diverse from Defendant, and (4) there are more than 100 class members.

⁶ <https://www.publix.com/pd/publix-daytime-cold-and-flu-relief-multi-symptom-softgels/RIO-PCI-138097?origin=search5>

⁷ <https://www.fda.gov/media/171971/download>

⁸ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nasal-decongestant-phenylephrine-congestion-fda-experts/#:~:text=A%202006%20law%20had%20forced,billion%20market%20for%20oral%20decongestants.>

⁹ *Id.*

12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because they have their principal place of business located in this judicial district or are registered to do business within this district.

13. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant is headquartered in this district, transacts business in this district, is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district, and therefore is deemed to be a citizen of this district.

14. Given that Defendant's headquarters are located within this district, the design, approval, and distribution process of the Drugs occurred or originated within this District. Additionally, Defendant has advertised in this district and has received substantial revenue and profits from its sales of Drugs in this district; therefore, a substantial part of the events and/or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred, in part, within this district.

PARTIES

A. Plaintiff

15. Plaintiff is a resident of Columbia, South Carolina which is located within Richland County, S.C.

16. From October 2022-April 2023, Plaintiff purchased Defendant's Drugs from a Publix store located at 2800 Rosewood Dr, Columbia, SC 29205.

17. Unfortunately, Plaintiff was suffering from nasal issues/congestion and purchased Drugs produced by Defendant to treat such nasal and sinus issues.

18. Plaintiff used Defendant's Drugs but to no relief.

19. Plaintiff, along with many others, has spent countless dollars on these Drugs while expecting to be relieved of sinus pain but to no avail.

B. Defendant

20. Defendant is a Florida based corporation, with its principal place of business at: 3300 Publix Corporate Pkwy, Lakeland Florida 33811.

21. Defendant has repeatedly touted the effectiveness of the Drugs.¹⁰

22. Defendant has profited largely off of the sale of these Drugs, with total revenue from phenylephrine products totaling nearly 1.8 billion.¹¹

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

23. Plaintiff purchased Defendant's Drugs from October 2022-April 2023.

24. Specifically, Plaintiff purchased Publix Daytime, Cold & Flu Relief, Multi-Symptom, Softgels, containing phenylephrine. As demonstrated below:

¹⁰ <https://www.publix.com/pd/publix-daytime-cold-and-flu-relief-multi-symptom-softgels/RIO-PCI-138097>

¹¹ <https://www.fda.gov/media/171971/download>



25. When Plaintiff took these Drugs, her nasal and sinus conditions were not improved, and Plaintiff received no relief.

26. Plaintiff would not have purchased this Drug had she known of the truly ineffective nature of Defendant's Drugs.

27. Plaintiff was deprived of her benefit of the bargain and was monetarily harmed by Defendant's Drugs.

28. As documented above, Defendant has a history of defrauding customers through their deceptive medicinal sales and marketing practices. In 2015, similar drugs were noted to be ineffective.¹² Instead of telling the truth, Defendant chose to keep touting the Drugs as effective.

29. Specifically, when put in tablet form, the phenylephrine is ineffective as a treatment for sinus/nasal conditions.¹³

30. In general, the human sinuses are an extensive system of airways and passages that provide a number of functions for the human body. The main function of sinuses is to humidify and purify the air that is breathed in by a human.¹⁴

31. The human sinuses are prone to complications given the rapid change of inhaled air temperatures and the contaminants inhaled from the outside world.¹⁵

32. The sinuses are an extensive cavity system as well, and inflamed sinuses can cause great pain throughout the human face and body.¹⁶

33. The most relevant condition to the matter at hand here is sinus congestion. Sinus congestion is painful and can cause breathing trouble.¹⁷

34. To get relief from this condition, people take sinus medicines that help to relieve congestion, such as Defendant's Drugs.¹⁸

¹² <https://www.law360.com/articles/727379/fda-urged-to-block-sales-of-otc-congestion-drug>

¹³ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nasal-decongestant-phenylephrine-congestion-fda-experts/> ; <https://www.fda.gov/media/171917/download>

¹⁴ <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1899145-overview#:~:text=They%20are%20centered%20on%20the,the%20event%20of%20facial%20trauma.>

¹⁵ <https://getcleared.com/blog/barometric-pressure-and-sinuses>

¹⁶ <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/322108#:~:text=The%20pressure%20and%20pain%20of,problems%20or%20even%20neck%20pain.>

¹⁷ <https://www.mountsinai.org/health-library/diseases-conditions/sinusitis#:~:text=That%20extra%20mucus%20can%20block,you've%20got%20chronic%20sinusitis.>

¹⁸ <https://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/drug-54384/sinus-tablet-oral/details>

35. For decades, consumers bought and ingested medicines containing psuedophedrine.¹⁹

36. In detail: "The agency approved phenylephrine for over-the-counter use in the 1970s, but it became even more common after 2005, when legislation restricted access to OTC drugs that use a similar decongestant ingredient called pseudoephedrine."²⁰

37. As best stated: "Phenylephrine gained popularity in the early 2000s as a replacement for pseudoephedrine, the decongestant used in Sudafed, which was moved behind the pharmacy counter in 2006 in an attempt to curb its misuse as an ingredient to make methamphetamine."²¹

38. Psuedophedrine was, and is, an effective medicine for relieving congestion.²² Unfortunately, the psuedophedrine drugs were taken off of shelves, and moved behind the pharmacy counter, because illicit drug manufacturers were using the medicines to create methamphetamine.²³

39. Once taken off the shelves, psuedophedrine had its place taken by the current Drugs at hand, the phenylephrine-based drugs.²⁴

¹⁹ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/popular-nasal-decongestant-doesnt-actually-relieve-congestion-fda-advisers-say#:~:text=Like%20many%20other%20over%2Dthe,own%20regulations%20on%20drug%20effectiveness.>

²⁰ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/12/health/phenylephrine-tablets-ineffective-fda-panel-says/index.html>

²¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fda-panel-says-common-counter-decongestant-phenylephrine-doesnt-work-rcna104424>

²² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15794071/>

²³ <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fda-panel-says-common-counter-decongestant-phenylephrine-doesnt-work-rcna104424>

²⁴ <https://news.yahoo.com/fda-panel-says-common-over-171404910.html>

40. For over 15 years, this Drug has been ineffective.²⁵

41. As stated best below: "But eight years is long enough to wait, you know what I mean? That's millions and millions of dollars wasted on ineffective drugs."²⁶

42. Once phenylephrine was forced on the shelves, and the psuedophederine removed and put behind the counter, consumers had two choices. The first choice is to buy phenylepherine based products as they would normally do, on the shelves; or consumers could opt to wait in a pharmacy line, often long and full of other likely sick individuals who wanted effective psuedophederine based products.

43. As one does when sick, many consumers, including Plaintiff, opted for the phenylepherine based products. The consumers opted for these Drugs specifically because the Drugs were marketed as safe and effective and were readily accessible.

44. Unfortunately, the Drugs did not, and do not, work. The entire basis for consumers choosing these Drugs was a facade.

45. In general, the Drugs do not work because, in sum, the active ingredients do not survive the human stomach conditions and never reach the bloodstream: "Why is oral phenylephrine so useless? It is extensively metabolized, starting in the gut wall. You can find a bioavailability figure of 38% in the literature, but that appears to be the most optimistic number possible, and you can also find studies that show 1% or less."²⁷ In sum, the Drugs do not actually survive the stomach, and thus do not reach the bloodstream in the nose.

²⁵ <https://www.theverge.com/2023/9/13/23871534/fda-panel-phenylephrine-ineffective-cold-medication-allergy> ; <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17692721/>.

²⁶ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fda-decongestant-phenylephrine-criticized-as-useless/>.

²⁷ <https://www.science.org/content/blog-post/uselessness-phenylephrinehttps://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/996369#:~:text=The%20vote%20that%20formally%20declared,and%20based%20on%20outdated%20technology.>

46. The Drugs reaching of the nasal bloodstream is critical, as phenylephrine is: "thought to relieve congestion by reducing the swelling of blood vessels in the nasal passages."²⁸

47. Further, in reference to the FDA Panel's opinion: "The panel's vote reflects damning evidence provided by the FDA that found that when phenylephrine is taken orally, a very small amount of the drug actually reaches the nose to relieve congestion."²⁹

48. And, as stated earlier, this ineffectiveness has been known for years.³⁰

49. As best summarized by the following quote: "This drug and this oral dose should have been removed from the market a long time ago... The patient community requires and deserves medications that treat their symptoms safely and effectively and I don't believe that this medication does."³¹

50. Essentially, Defendant, along with many other manufacturers, have produced a Drug that is marketed as being safe, effective, and helpful for society due to its lack of use in the methamphetamine production system, but instead, the Drugs are ineffective wastes of time, money, and energy.

²⁸ <https://www.ktvh.com/decongestant-pills-like-dayquil-and-sudafed-don-t-work-fda-panel-says#:~:text=Phenylephrine%20has%20been%20thought%20to,the%20nose%20to%20relieve%20congestion.>

²⁹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fda-panel-says-common-counter-decongestant-phneylephrine-doesnt-work-rcna104424>

³⁰ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2023/09/12/fda-says-phenylephrine-decongestant-doesnt-work/70832405007/#:~:text=The%20same%20researchers%20also%20challenged,a%20benefit%20for%20the%20drug.>

³¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fda-panel-says-common-counter-decongestant-phneylephrine-doesnt-work-rcna104424.>

51. In addition to wasting time and money, these drugs have negative side effects such as: "Mild upset stomach, trouble sleeping, dizziness, lightheadedness, headache, nervousness, shaking, or fast heartbeat."³²

52. In all, these Drugs are ineffective and unsafe. These Drugs are fraudulently marketed, as being safe and effective, even though the Drugs ineffective nature has been known for over a decade.

53. In addition to the lack of effectiveness, the Drugs are ripe with side effects that can harm its users. The Drugs themselves, due to their ineffectiveness, can and will cause users to suffer longer than necessary. Prolonged sinus issues can cause long term, incurable sinus problems.³³

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

54. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself, and all others similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23(a) and Rule 23 (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff seeks class certification on behalf of the class defined as follows ("the Nationwide Class").

Nationwide Class: All persons in the United States who purchased Drugs sold by Defendant from 2020 to the Present.

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

³² <https://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/drug-21821/phenylephrine-oral/details#:~:text=Mild%20upset%20stomach%2C%20trouble%20sleeping,causing%20them%20to%20feel%20cold.>

³³ <https://www.kaplansinusrelief.com/blog/dangers-chronic-untreated-sinusitis-complications/>

56. The Nationwide Class shall be referred to as the "Class". Proposed Members of said Class will be referred to as "Class Members", or otherwise referenced as "members of the Class".

57. **Numerosity:** The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the proposed Class contains thousands of purchasers who have been damaged by Defendant's conduct as alleged herein. The precise number of Class Members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time.

58. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical to those of all Class Members because members of the Class are similarly injured through Defendant's uniform misconduct described above and were subject to Defendant's deceptive claims. Plaintiff is advancing the same claims and legal theories on behalf of herself and all members of the Class.

59. **Commonality:** Plaintiff's claims raise questions of law and fact common to all members of the Class, and they predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members. The claims of Plaintiff and all prospective Class Members involve the same alleged defect. These common legal and factual questions include the following:

- a. Whether Defendant's Drugs are defective and/or inoperable;
- b. Whether Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiff and the Class;
- c. Whether Defendant knew or should have known that the Drugs were defective and/or inoperable;
- d. Whether Defendant wrongfully represent, and continue to represent, that their Drugs are operable, thus granting sinus/nasal condition relief;
- e. Whether Defendant's omissions are true, or are misleading, or objectively reasonably likely to deceive;
- f. Whether the alleged conduct constitutes violations of the laws asserted;

- g. Whether Defendant's alleged conduct violates public policy;
- h. Whether Defendant's representations in advertising, warranties, packaging, and labeling are false, deceptive, and misleading;
- i. Whether those representations are likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;
- j. Whether a reasonable consumer would consider the risk of the Drugs not working;
- k. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched as a result of its marketing, advertising, and sale of the Drugs;
- l. Whether Defendant breached their express warranties;
- m. Whether Defendant breached their implied warranties;
- n. Whether certification of any or all of the classes proposed herein is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23;
- o. Whether Plaintiff and the Class Members are entitled to damages and/or restitution and the proper measure of that loss; and
- p. Whether an injunction is necessary to prevent Defendant from continuing to market and sell the Drugs.

60. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff and her counsel will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of each member of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in complex litigation and class actions. Plaintiff's counsel has successfully litigated other class action cases similar to that here and has the resources and abilities to fully litigate and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff intends to prosecute this claim vigorously. Plaintiff has no adverse or antagonistic interests to those of the Class, nor is Plaintiff subject to any unique defenses.

61. **Superiority:** A class action is superior to the other available methods for a fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The damages or other financial detriment suffered by Plaintiff and the individual Class Members is relatively small compared to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual litigation of their claims against Defendants. It would thus be virtually impossible for Plaintiff and Class Members, on an individual basis, to obtain meaningful and effective redress for the wrongs done to them. Further, it is desirable to concentrate the litigation of the Class Members' claims in one forum, as it will conserve party and judicial resources and facilitate the consistency of adjudications. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that would be encountered in the management of this case that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

62. The Class also may be certified because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final declaratory and/or injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

63. Plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive and equitable relief on behalf of the entire Class, on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, to enjoin and prevent Defendant from engaging in the acts described above, such as continuing to market and sell Drugs that may be defective. Further, Plaintiff seeks for Defendant to provide a full refund of the purchase price of the Drugs to Plaintiff and the Class Members.

64. Unless a Class is certified, Defendant will retain monies received as a result of their conduct that was taken from Plaintiff and the Class Members. Unless a Class-wide injunction is issued, Defendant may continue to commit the violations alleged and the members of the Class and the general public will continue to be misled and placed in harms' way.

CAUSES OF ACTION
FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

65. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as if fully set forth herein.
66. Defendant has a duty to provide operable Drugs to consumers.
67. Defendant breached this duty by designing, producing, marketing, and selling inoperable Drugs.
68. Defendant's breach of this duty to provide operable Drugs caused damages to Plaintiff.
69. Plaintiff was damaged in that she lost her benefit of the bargain, has suffered economic loss through the retention of her funds paid for Drugs, has suffered inconveniences due to the constant denial of relief from sinus conditions.
70. Defendant's actions caused these damages both factually and proximately.
71. But for Defendant's design, production, marketing, and sale of inoperable Drugs, Plaintiff and the Class would not have been damaged.
72. In addition, it is foreseeable that producing an inoperable or ineffective Drug would cause damages as Plaintiff and the Class purchased the Drugs to be relieved of sinus congestion and the ineffective Drugs would not grant Plaintiff and the Class their bargained for relief from sinus/nasal conditions.
73. Due to Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was damaged by Defendant in that Plaintiff has been deprived of her benefit of the bargain and loss of purchase price.
74. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available thereunder for Defendant's negligent failure to deliver the bargained for Drugs.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

**Negligent Misrepresentation
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

75. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

76. Through their advertising and the course of their regular business, Defendant made representations to Plaintiff and the Class concerning the function, operability, and validity of the Drugs.

77. Defendant did not practice reasonable care in the above-mentioned design, creation, production, sale, and marketing of the Drugs.

78. Defendant made these statements as to guide consumers, such as Plaintiff and the Class, in the transactional process.

79. Defendant knew that such statements would be relied upon, the fact that Defendant's Drugs were operable and offered sinus/nasal condition relief, by Plaintiff and the Class, given that the statements were the entire reasoning for the purchase of the Drugs.

80. Plaintiff and the Class would not have purchased the Drugs without such statements and assertions put forth by Defendant.

81. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and the Class rely on the representations made by Defendant regarding the Drugs.

82. Plaintiff reasonably relied upon such representations and omissions to her detriment as she suffered damages.

83. By reason thereof, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

84. Due to Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was damaged by Defendant in that Plaintiff has been deprived of her benefit of the bargain and loss of purchase price.

85. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available thereunder for Defendant's negligent misrepresentation of the Drugs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Unjust Enrichment
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

86. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

87. Plaintiff and the Class bestowed benefits upon Defendant in the form of monies that were paid in exchange for Defendant's Drugs.

88. These benefits bestowed by Plaintiff were not a donation to Defendant as these monies were given for the purchase of the Drugs.

89. As a result of Defendant's wrongful and deceptive conduct alleged herein, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily accepted and retained wrongful benefits in the form of money paid by the Plaintiff and members of the Class when they purchased the Drugs.

90. In so doing, Defendant acted with conscious disregard for the rights of Plaintiff and members of the Class.

91. Plaintiff and the Class paid for Drugs that were properly functioning, Drugs whose sole function was providing/granting sinus/nasal condition relief. Instead, they received something entirely different and relatively unusable.

92. As a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct as alleged herein, Defendant has been unjustly enriched at the expense of, and to the detriment of, Plaintiff and members of the Class.

93. Defendant's unjust enrichment is traceable to, and resulted directly and proximately from, the conduct alleged herein.

94. Under the common law doctrine of unjust enrichment, it is inequitable for Defendant to be permitted to retain the benefits it received, and is still receiving, without

justification, from the false and deceptive manufacturing, labeling, and marketing of the Drugs to Plaintiff and members of the Class.

95. Defendant's retention of such funds under circumstances making it inequitable to do so, constitutes unjust enrichment.

96. The financial benefits derived by Defendant rightfully belong to Plaintiff and members of the Class.

97. Given the above, the circumstances make Defendant's retention of funds inequitable, without reimbursement for the funds to Plaintiff and the Class.

98. Defendant should be compelled to disgorge in a common fund for the benefit of Plaintiff and members of the Class all wrongful or inequitable proceeds received by them, plus interest thereon.

99. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Breach of Express Warranty
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

100. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

101. As detailed above, Defendant, through its advertising and marketing expressly warranted that the Drugs were for the purposes intended, that they were of merchantable quality, and that they actually provided sinus/nasal condition relief.

102. Moreover, the description for the Drugs represents the use of these Drugs serve to provide, i.e. granting sinus/nasal condition relief. Such statements constitute an affirmative promise that these Drugs will indeed provide sinus pressure relief.

103. Defendant breached this express warranty by providing Drugs that were inoperable and could not provide such promised relief. The Drugs, through whatever means, are inoperable.

104. Plaintiff and the other Class Members read and relied on these express warranties provided by Defendant in the description of the product and subsequent advertisements.

105. Defendant breached their express warranties because the Drugs at issue are defective and unfit for their intended use.

106. Defendant's breach of warranty proximately caused damages as it is foreseeable that such defective Drugs, incapable of delivering on their warranties, would deprive Plaintiff of her benefit of the bargain and monies paid for such Drugs.

107. Plaintiff and the other Class Members have suffered harm on account of Defendant's breach of its express warranty regarding the fitness for use of the Drugs and are entitled to damages to be determined at trial.

108. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief thereunder for Defendant's failure to deliver Drugs conforming to their express warranties and resulting breach.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Breach of Implied Warranty of Fitness For A Particular Purpose (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

109. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as though fully set forth herein.

110. Defendant's Drugs were to be used as Drugs to provide sinus/nasal condition relief in the context of getting relief from sinus pressure. Thus, Defendant's Drugs were of a particular purpose.

111. Defendant knew of this particular purpose as Defendant produced, marketed, sold, and advertised the Drugs as providing/granting sinus/nasal condition relief.

112. Defendant knew that Plaintiff relied on this promise of particularity as Defendant was aware of the assertions put forth regarding specificity and Plaintiff's required reliance on such a product.

113. Plaintiff relied on Defendant's skill and capability to provide such a specific product.

114. Due to Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was damaged by Defendant in that Plaintiff has been deprived of her benefit of the bargain and loss of purchase price.

115. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

116. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as though fully set forth herein.

117. Defendant sold the Drugs to Plaintiff and other consumers.

118. Plaintiff is a person who is reasonably expected to use such Drugs, given that the Drugs were sold to the public and Plaintiff is a consumer.

119. Defendant is a medical corporation providing medicines to consumers worldwide.

120. Defendant presented the Drugs as operable/effective drugs that granted access to granting sinus/nasal condition relief for Plaintiff and other consumers.

121. The Drugs were not merchantable at the time of sale given that they did not provide sinus/nasal condition relief, as marketed and promised by Defendant.

122. This lack of merchantability is a breach of warranty.

123. This breach both factually and proximately caused damages to Plaintiff through her loss of funds and the deprivation of her benefit of the bargain.

124. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available thereunder for Defendant's failure to deliver goods conforming to their implied warranties and resulting in breach.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Breach of Contract
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

125. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 as if fully set forth herein.

126. Through their marketing, advertisements, and promises, Defendant created a contract with Plaintiff.

127. Specifically, Plaintiff was to receive granting sinus/nasal condition relief in exchange for the purchase price of Defendant's Drugs.

128. Plaintiff performed her obligation under the contract through her paid purchase price of the Drugs.

129. Defendant failed to perform its obligation under the contract in that Defendant failed to provide granting sinus/nasal condition relief as indicated in the Drugs.

130. Plaintiff and the Class have been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach.

131. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Strict Product Liability for Misrepresentation
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

132. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 as if fully set forth herein.

133. Defendant was engaged in the business of selling sinus/nasal congestion relief pills.

134. Defendant misrepresented the material fact that its Drugs provided sinus/nasal condition relief to those who purchased such Drugs.

135. This fact is material because it is the entire nature of the Drugs themselves and Plaintiff would not have purchased the Drugs had she known of the true nature of the Drugs.

136. Defendant's misrepresentations were made to the public at large and potential consumers through Defendant's advertising and marketing.

137. Plaintiff was and is a person who reasonably expected to use the Drugs as marketed by Defendant. This reasonability is based upon the fact that Plaintiff is a consuming member of the public who purchased the Drugs relying on Defendant's marketing.

138. It is reasonably foreseeable that Plaintiff would be harmed by Defendant's misrepresentation.

139. Plaintiff suffered damages due to Defendant's misrepresentation.

140. Due to Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was damaged by Defendant in that Plaintiff has been deprived of her benefit of the bargain and loss of purchase price that she may never get back.

141. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Fraud
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

142. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 as if fully set forth herein.

143. Defendant made a fraudulent misrepresentation of material fact in that Defendant marketed, sold, and promised Plaintiff a Drug that would provide sinus/nasal condition relief.

144. This fact of the Drugs providing/granting sinus/nasal condition relief is material as that was the entire purpose of the Drugs and without such a promise, Plaintiff would not have purchased the Drugs.

145. Had Plaintiff known of the true inoperable and defective nature of the Drugs, Plaintiff would not have purchased the Drugs.

146. Plaintiff relied on Defendant's misrepresentation in her purchase of the Drugs.

147. Plaintiff was justified in relying on this misrepresentation as the true nature of the Drugs was not known to Plaintiff and Defendant promised a Drug that would provide sinus/nasal condition relief.

148. Plaintiff has suffered damages as a direct and proximate result of this justification as Plaintiff has lost out on her benefit of the bargain, lost funds stemming from her purchase price, has suffered emotional duress, and has been greatly inconvenienced by Defendant's inoperable Drugs.

149. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Fraudulent Misrepresentation
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

150. Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1-64 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

151. Defendant made a fraudulent misrepresentation of material fact in that Defendant stated that the Drugs would provide sinus/nasal condition relief.

152. These Drugs did not provide sinus/nasal condition relief and this assertion of granting sinus/nasal condition relief was the entire basis for Plaintiff's purchase.

153. Plaintiff relied on the above misrepresentation as the promise of granting sinus/nasal condition relief was the entire reason for her purchase of the Drugs.

154. Plaintiff was justified in relying upon the above misrepresentation that Defendant's Drugs would provide granting sinus/nasal condition relief.

155. Plaintiff's reliance resulted in damages as Plaintiff would not have purchased, thus losing the money related to such purchase, the Drugs.

156. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was damaged by Defendant in that Plaintiff has been deprived of her benefit of the bargain and loss of purchase price.

157. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages, attorneys' fees, costs and any other just and proper relief available under the laws.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, prays for judgement against Defendant as to each and every count, including:

- A. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiff and her counsel to represent the Class, and requiring Defendant to bear the costs of class notice;
- B. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Drugs;
- C. An order enjoining Defendant from suggesting or implying that the Drugs are effective for their intended purpose of granting sinus/nasal condition relief;
- D. An order requiring Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign and engage in any further necessary affirmative injunctive relief;

- E. An order awarding declaratory relief and any further retrospective or prospective injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendant from continuing the unlawful practices alleged herein, and injunctive relief to remedy Defendant's past conduct;
- F. An order requiring Defendant to pay restitution/damages to restore all funds acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice, plus pre- and post-judgment interest thereon;
- G. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge any ill-gotten benefits received from Plaintiff and members of the Class as a result of any wrongful or unlawful act or practice;
- H. An order requiring Defendant to pay all actual and statutory damages permitted under the counts alleged herein;
- I. An order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiff and Class; and
- J. An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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

[Signatures to Follow on Next Page]

Dated: October 2, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Bryan F. Aylstock

Bryan F. Aylstock (FL Bar # 0078263)

R. Jason Richards (FL Bar # 18207)

**AYLSTOCK, WITKIN,
KREIS, & OVERHOLTZ, PLLC**

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Phone: (850) 202-1010

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-AND-

Roy T. Willey, IV (*Pro Hac Vice* Forthcoming)

Paul J. Doolittle (*Pro Hac Vice* Forthcoming)

Blake G. Abbott (*Pro Hac Vice* Forthcoming)

**POULIN | WILLEY
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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

Krystal Rampalli

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Bryan F. Aylstock AYLSTOCK, WITKIN,KREIS, & OVERHOLTZ, PLLC 17 E. Main Street, Suite 200, Pensacola, FL 32502 Phone: (850) 202-1010 baylstock@awkolaw.com

DEFENDANTS

Publix Supermarkets, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Polk, FL (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, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

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

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation - 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. 1332d Brief description of cause: Class action suit stemming from defective consumer decongestant medicines

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 10/02/2023 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Bryan F. Aylstock

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

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.

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida

Krystal Rampalli, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Publix Supermarkets, Inc.,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 23-cv-2226

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Publix Supermarkets, Inc. 3300 Publix Corporate Pkwy Lakeland, FL 33801

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Poulin | Willey | Anastopoulos, LLC; Roy T. Willey, IV; Paul J. Doolittle; Blake G. Abbott; 32 Ann Street; Charleston, SC 29403; AYLSTOCK, WITKIN, KREIS, & OVERHOLTZ, PLLC; Bryan F. Aylstock; R. Jason Richards; 17 E. Main Street, Suite 200; Pensacola, FL 32502

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____ .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: