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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

SARABETH EAVES and BONNIE EAVES,  
individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

OCTAPHARMA PLASMA, INC.

Defendant.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs Sarabeth Eaves and Bonnie Eaves (“Plaintiffs”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (collectively, “Class members”), by and through their attorneys, bring this Class Action Complaint against Defendant Octapharma Plasma, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Octapharma”) and complain and allege upon personal knowledge as to themselves and upon information and belief as to all other matters.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This class action arises out of the recent targeted cyberattack and data breach that occurred on April 17, 2024, which affected Octapharma’s inadequately protected computer systems and/or network, and which did result in the unauthorized access to Plaintiffs’ and many other individuals’ personally identifiable information (“PII”) and personal health information (“PHI”) (hereinafter the “Data Breach”).

2. PII and PHI includes, among other sensitive information, confidential medical information, names, date of birth, addresses, payment card information, Social Security numbers (“SSNs”), medical record numbers, health plan beneficiary numbers, treatment information, diagnosis information, and/or other medical information.



1 numbers, dates of birth, addresses, laboratory data, financial data, employee data, business data,  
2 and other data taken from shares and personal folders.”<sup>2</sup>

3 10. The exposure of a person’s PII and PHI through a data breach substantially  
4 increases that person’s risk of identity theft, fraud, misappropriation of health insurance benefits,  
5 and similar forms of criminal mischief, potentially for the rest of their lives. Mitigation of such  
6 risk requires individuals to expend a significant amount of time and money to closely monitor  
7 their credit, financial accounts, health records, and email accounts. Mitigation of the risk of  
8 misuse of their sensitive and private information may not even be possible.

9 11. As a result of Defendant’s inadequate security and breach of its duties and  
10 obligations, the Data Breach occurred, and Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and/or PHI was  
11 accessed and disclosed. Plaintiffs and Class members are now at a substantially increased risk of  
12 experiencing misuse of their PII/PHI in the coming years. This action seeks to remedy these  
13 failings and their consequences.

14 12. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all other Class members whose PII/PHI was  
15 exposed in the Data Breach, assert claims for negligence, negligence per se, breach of fiduciary  
16 duty, breach of implied contract, and unjust enrichment, and seek declaratory relief, injunctive  
17 relief, monetary damages, statutory damages, punitive damages, equitable relief, and all other  
18 relief authorized by law.

### 19 **PARTIES**

20 13. Plaintiffs Sarabeth Eaves and Bonnie Eaves are citizens residing in Crandall,  
21 Georgia.

22 14. Plaintiffs are married and share assets, including, among others, bank accounts.

23 15. Plaintiffs were plasma donors of Defendant and were required to submit their  
24 personal information to Defendant as a condition of donating plasma, including their names,  
25 Social Security numbers, and full health and financial information.

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26 <sup>2</sup> [https://www.cyberdaily.au/security/10466-exclusive-black-suit-ransomware-gang-claims-hack-](https://www.cyberdaily.au/security/10466-exclusive-black-suit-ransomware-gang-claims-hack-on-octapharma-plasma)  
27 [on-octapharma-plasma](https://www.cyberdaily.au/security/10466-exclusive-black-suit-ransomware-gang-claims-hack-on-octapharma-plasma) (last visited Apr. 29, 2024).



1 Defendant collects and maintains the aforementioned information to provide medical services to  
2 donors.

3 23. Upon information and belief, the type of information that Defendant maintains  
4 includes, *inter alia*: patients' full name, address, date of birth, Social Security number ("SSN"),  
5 credit/debit card information, medical history, insurance information, billing information,  
6 medical records, photo identification, and any other information necessary to provide care.

7 24. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the information Defendant collects and  
8 maintains, Defendant is obligated provide confidentiality and adequate security for donor safety  
9 through its applicable privacy policy, and otherwise in compliance with statutory privacy  
10 requirements.

11 25. In the course of their relationship, Plaintiffs and Class Members provided  
12 Defendants with at least their PII and/or PHI.

13 26. Plaintiffs and Class Members, as current donors of Defendant, relied on Defendant  
14 to keep their sensitive PII/PHI confidential and secured, to use such information for business  
15 purposes only, and to make only authorized disclosures of this information.

16 ***The Data Breach***

17  
18 27. On or about April 17, 2024, Defendant detected unauthorized activity within its  
19 systems. In response, it launched an investigation into the source of the disruption.

20 28. Notably, Defendant has yet to publicly disclose the details of the attack, including  
21 when the breach occurred, or the full spectrum of information stolen. Defendant has simply told  
22 the public that the investigation was pending and that it hoped to open its plasma centers soon.

23 29. Defendant never confirmed that their investigation revealed that an unauthorized  
24 party gained access to files on its network that contained sensitive PII/PHI.

25 30. Yet the ransomware group "BlackSuit" took responsibility for the attack on or  
26 about April 24, 2024. The stolen information has been confirmed to include patients' sensitive PII  
27

1 and/or PHI.<sup>5</sup>

2 31. Healthcare entities such as Defendant were notified by the US Department of  
3 Health and Human Services (“HHS”) in November 2023 that the sector is at risk for an attack from  
4 Blacksuit.<sup>6</sup>

5 32. Based on the unfortunate events described throughout this Complaint, Defendant  
6 did not heed HHS’ warning and failed to take action to prevent the Data Breach by implementing  
7 data security measures to protect its network from unauthorized breach.

8 33. Upon information and belief, the cyberattack was targeted at Defendant, due to its  
9 status as a healthcare entity that collects, creates, and maintains PII/PHI on its computer network  
10 and/or systems.

11 34. Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ PII/PHI was compromised and acquired in the  
12 Data Breach.

13 35. Plaintiffs further believe that their PII/PHI was or soon will be published to the  
14 dark web, where it will be available to purchase, which is the *modus operandi* of cybercriminals.

15 36. Plaintiffs and Class Members now face a heightened and continued threat of  
16 identity theft and other types of criminal mischief resulting from the Data Breach.

17 37. Defendant has failed to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members with assurances that  
18 their sensitive information has not been stolen. Defendant has also failed to provide Plaintiffs and  
19 Class Members with identity theft countermeasures such as credit reports.

20 ***Defendant Knew that PII/PHI is Valuable to Cybercriminals and Failed to Take Action to***  
21 ***Prevent its Theft***

22 38. At all relevant times, Defendant knew, or should have known, that Plaintiffs’ and  
23 Class Members’ PII/PHI was a target for cybercriminals. Despite such knowledge, Defendant  
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25 <sup>5</sup> See supra n.2

26 <sup>6</sup> American Hospital Association, *HHS alerts health care sector to new ransomware threat* (Nov.  
27 9, 2023), <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2023-11-09-hhs-alerts-health-care-sector-new-ransomware-threat>.

1 failed to implement and maintain reasonable and appropriate data privacy and security measures  
2 to protect Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII/PHI from cyberattacks.

3 39. By acquiring, collecting, and using Plaintiffs' and Class Members PII/PHI,  
4 Defendant assumed legal and equitable duties created by the HIPPA, the FTCA, industry  
5 standards, contract, and common law to keep Plaintiffs' and Class Members PII/PHI confidential,  
6 and to protect it from unauthorized access and disclosure.

7 40. Additionally, Defendant's data security obligations were of particular importance  
8 due to the steady increase over the years of data breaches targeting medical information.

9 41. The healthcare industry is a known target for cyber criminals. "High demand for  
10 patient information and often-outdated systems are among the nine reasons healthcare is not the  
11 biggest target for online attacks."<sup>7</sup> They are also more likely to pay for a hacker's ransom due to  
12 the sensitive information that they maintain and collect, and an incentive to regain access to their  
13 data quickly.<sup>8</sup>

14 42. The number of data breaches experienced by healthcare entities continues to rise.  
15 In a 2024 report, the healthcare compliance company Protenus found that there were 942 medical  
16 data breaches in 2023, leaving over 171 million patient records exposed. This is an increase from  
17 the 905 medical data breaches that Protenus compiled in 2021.<sup>9</sup>

18 43. According to Mimecast, a cybersecurity firm, 90% of healthcare organizations  
19 experienced cyberattacks in 2020.<sup>10</sup>

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20 <sup>7</sup> Swivel Secure, *The healthcare industry is at risk*,  
21 <https://swivelsecure.com/solutions/healthcare/healthcare-is-the-biggest-target-for-cyberattacks/>  
22 (last visited Apr. 24, 2024).

23 <sup>8</sup> Elise Takahama, *Why health care has become a top target for cybercriminals*, The Seattle  
24 Times (Feb. 25, 2024),  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/why-health-care-has-become-a-top-target-for-cybercriminals/>. (last visited Apr. 26, 2024).

25 <sup>9</sup> *2024 Breach Barometer*, PROTENUS, <https://www.protenus.com/breach-barometer-report> (last  
26 visited Apr. 23, 2024).

27 <sup>10</sup> Maria Hernandez, *Iowa City Hospital Suffers Phishing Attack*, Security Magazine (Nov. 23,  
28 2020), <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/93988-iowa-city-hospital-suffers-phishing-attack> (last visited April 29, 2024).





1           48. Consumers also place a high value on the privacy of their data. Studies confirm  
2 that “when privacy information is made more salient and accessible, some consumers are willing  
3 to pay a premium to purchase from privacy protective websites.”<sup>14</sup> Recently, more consumers  
4 are exercising their Data Subject Access Rights and leaving providers over their data practices  
5 and policies.<sup>15</sup>

6           49. Considering the value behind PII/PHI, any company that transacts business with a  
7 consumer and then compromises the privacy of consumers’ PII/PHI has thus deprived that  
8 consumer of the full monetary value of the consumer’s transaction with the company.

9           50. PII/PHI is also of high value to identity thieves, as evidenced by their practice of  
10 trading such private information including, SSNs, on the black market or “dark web.” PII/PHI is  
11 a measurable commodity on the black market.<sup>16</sup> PHI is particularly valuable and has been referred  
12 to as a “treasure trove for criminals.”<sup>17</sup> In 2021, it was reported that stolen healthcare records can  
13 also fetch for as much as \$1000 on the black market.<sup>18</sup> That price is likely much higher today.

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18 <sup>14</sup> Janice Y. Tsai et al., *The Effect of Online Privacy Information on Purchasing Behavior, An*  
19 *Experimental Study*, 22(2) INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH 254 (June 2011), available for  
20 download at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23015560?seq=1>.

21 <sup>15</sup> CISCO, *Cisco 2023 Consumer Privacy Survey* (April 2023), available at  
22 [https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/trust-center/consumer-privacy-](https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/trust-center/consumer-privacy-survey.html?CCID=cc000742)  
23 [survey.html?CCID=cc000742](https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/trust-center/consumer-privacy-survey.html?CCID=cc000742)

24 <sup>16</sup> See Robert Lowes, *Stolen EHR [Electronic Health Record] Charts Sell for \$50 Each on Black*  
25 *Market*, MEDSCAPE (Apr. 28, 2014), <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/824192>.

26 <sup>17</sup> See Andrew Steger, *What Happens to Stolen Healthcare Data?*, HEALTHTECH MAGAZINE (Oct.  
27 30, 2019), [https://healthtechmagazine.net/article/2019/10/what-happens-stolen-healthcare-data-](https://healthtechmagazine.net/article/2019/10/what-happens-stolen-healthcare-data-perfcon)  
28 [perfcon](https://healthtechmagazine.net/article/2019/10/what-happens-stolen-healthcare-data-perfcon) (quoting Tom Kellermann, Chief Cybersecurity Officer, Carbon Black, stating “Health  
information is a treasure trove for criminals.”) (last visited Apr. 23, 2024).

<sup>18</sup> Paul Nadrag, *Industry Voices-Forget credit card numbers. Medical records are the hottest*  
items on the dark web, FIERCE HEALTHCARE (Jan. 26, 2021),  
[https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/industry-voices-forget-credit-card-numbers-medical-](https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/industry-voices-forget-credit-card-numbers-medical-records-are-hottest-items-dark-web)  
[records-are-hottest-items-dark-web](https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/industry-voices-forget-credit-card-numbers-medical-records-are-hottest-items-dark-web) (last visited Apr. 29, 2024).

1           51.     According to a report released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (“FBI”)  
2 Cyber Division, criminals can sell healthcare records for 50 times the price of a stolen Social  
3 Security or credit card number.<sup>19</sup>

4           52.     Another report demonstrates that cybercriminals continue to profit from  
5 ransomware attacks: “The largest ransom paid in 2023 was more than \$10 million, an increase  
6 from the \$8 million payment high from 2022, and the average ransom paid in 2023 was \$747,651,  
7 which nearly matches the average payment high that was set in 2020 during the height of the  
8 ransomware epidemic, the report noted.”<sup>20</sup>

9           53.     Companies like Defendant are aware that consumers value the privacy of their  
10 sensitive data such as PII/PHI and that cybercriminals continue to successfully target that data to  
11 obtain significant profits. As such, companies like Defendant remain on high alert and must act  
12 in accordance with their legal and equitable obligations to implement reasonable security  
13 measures to prevent targeted data attacks aimed at their patients’ PII/PHI.

14           54.     Armed with this knowledge, Defendant breached its duties by failing to implement  
15 and maintain reasonable security measures to protect Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII/PHI from  
16 being stolen.

17 ***Theft of PII/PHI Has Grave and Lasting Consequences for Victims***

18           55.     The theft of PII/PHI is costly for those affected. A cybercriminal who steals a  
19 person’s PHI can end up with as many as “seven to 10 personal identifying characteristics of an  
20 individual.”<sup>21</sup> A study by Experian found that the “average total cost” of medical identity theft is  
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24 <sup>19</sup> See *Health Care Systems and Medical Devices at Risk for Increased Cyber Intrusions for*  
25 *Financial Gain*, FBI CYBER DIVISION (Apr. 8, 2014), [https://www.illumweb.com/wp-](https://www.illumweb.com/wp-content/uploads/ill-mo-uploads/103/2418/health-systems-cyber-intrusions.pdf)  
26 [content/uploads/ill-mo-uploads/103/2418/health-systems-cyber-intrusions.pdf](https://www.illumweb.com/wp-content/uploads/ill-mo-uploads/103/2418/health-systems-cyber-intrusions.pdf).

27 <sup>20</sup> *Supra* n.11.

28 <sup>21</sup> *Supra* n.17.

1 “about \$20,000” per incident, and that a majority of victims of medical identity theft were forced  
2 to pay out-of-pocket costs for healthcare they did not receive in order to restore coverage.<sup>22</sup>

3 56. Identity thieves use personal information for a variety of crimes, including credit  
4 card fraud, phone or utilities fraud, and bank/finance fraud. According to Experian, one of the  
5 largest credit reporting companies in the world, identity theft can happen in many ways: fraudsters  
6 can obtain and sell personal data to other criminals, or use personal data to open a new credit  
7 card or loan, open a bank account and write bad checks, apply for government benefits, take  
8 over existing debit and credit accounts, withdraw funds, and even get medical procedures.<sup>23</sup>

9 57. The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) also warns consumers about the type of  
10 fraud that identity thieves use PII/PHI to achieve.<sup>24</sup> Criminals can also obtain a driver’s license  
11 or official identification card in the victim’s name, but with the thief’s picture, use the victim’s  
12 name and SSN to obtain government benefits, or filing a fraudulent tax return using the victim’s  
13 information. In addition, identity thieves may obtain a job using the victim’s SSN, rent a house,  
14 or receive medical services in the victim’s name, and may even give the victim’s personal  
15 information to police during an arrest, resulting in an arrest warrant being issued in the victim’s  
16 name.<sup>25</sup>

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19 <sup>22</sup> Elinor Mills, *Study: Medical identity theft is costly for victims*, CNET (Mar. 3, 2010),  
20 <https://www.cnet.com/news/study-medical-identity-theft-is-costly-for-victims> (last visited Apr.  
21 24, 2024).

22 <sup>23</sup> Louis DeNicola, *What Can Identity Thieves Do with Your Personal Information and How Can*  
23 *You Protect Yourself?*, EXPERIAN (May 21, 2023), [https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-  
experian/what-can-identity-thieves-do-with-your-personal-information-and-how-can-you-  
protect-yourself/](https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/what-can-identity-thieves-do-with-your-personal-information-and-how-can-you-protect-yourself/) (last visited Apr. 25, 2024).

24 <sup>24</sup> *See What to Know About Identity Theft*, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION CONSUMER ADVICE,  
25 <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-identity-theft> (last visited Apr. 25,  
2024).

26 <sup>25</sup> *See Warning Signs of Identity Theft*, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,  
27 <https://www.identitytheft.gov/Warning-Signs-of-Identity-Theft> (last visited Apr. 25, 2024).

1           58.     Alarminglly, a thief can use stolen medical information to extort a financial  
2 payment by “leveraging details specific to a disease or terminal illness.”<sup>26</sup>

3           59.     Identity theft is not an easy problem to solve. In a survey, the Identity Theft  
4 Resource Center found that most victims of identity crimes need more than a week to resolve  
5 issues stemming from identity theft and some need months to a year.<sup>27</sup>

6           60.     Theft of SSNs also creates a particularly alarming situation for victims because  
7 those numbers cannot easily be replaced. To obtain a new number, a breach victim has to  
8 demonstrate ongoing harm from misuse of her SSN, and a new SSN will not be provided until  
9 after the harm has already been suffered by the victim.

10          61.     Victims of medical identity theft face another set of problems. A report published  
11 by the World Privacy Forum and presented at the US FTC Workshop on Informational Injury  
12 describes what medical identity theft victims may experience:

- 13           •     Changes to their health care records, most often the addition of falsified  
14 information, through improper billing activity or activity by imposters. These  
15 changes can affect the healthcare a person receives if the errors are not caught  
16 and corrected;
- 17           •     Significant bills for medical goods and services not sought nor received;
- 18           •     Issues with insurance, co-pays, and insurance caps;
- 19           •     Long-term credit problems based on problems with debt collectors reporting debt  
20 due to identity theft;
- 21           •     Serious life consequences resulting from the crime; for example, victims have  
22 been falsely accused of being drug users based on falsified entries to their medical  
23 files; victims have had their children removed from them due to medical activities  
24 of the imposter; victims have been denied jobs due to incorrect information  
25 placed in their health files due to the crime;

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26 <sup>26</sup> *Supra* n.17.

27 <sup>27</sup> Identity Theft Resource Center, 2023 Consumer Impact Report, available for download at:  
28 <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/publications/>

- 1 • As a result of improper and/or fraudulent medical debt reporting, victims may not  
2 qualify for mortgage or other loans and may experience other financial impacts;
- 3 • Phantom medical debt collection based on medical billing or other identity  
4 information; and
- 5 • Sales of medical debt arising from identity theft can perpetuate a victim's debt  
6 collection and credit problems, through no fault of their own.<sup>28</sup>

7 62. Further complicating victims' ability to defend themselves from identity theft is  
8 the time lag between when PII/PHI is stolen, when it is used, and when a person discovers it has  
9 been used. On average it takes approximately three months for consumers to discover their  
10 identity has been stolen and used, and it takes some individuals up to three years to learn that  
11 information.<sup>29</sup>

12 63. Plaintiffs and Class members now live with their PII/PHI exposed in cyberspace  
13 and available to people willing to purchase and use the information for any number of improper  
14 purposes and crimes.

15 64. Plaintiffs and Class Members now face constant surveillance of their financial and  
16 personal records, monitoring, and loss of rights. Plaintiffs and Class Members are incurring and  
17 will continue to incur such damages, in addition to any fraudulent use of their PII/PHI.

18 ***Defendant Failed to Comply with Statutory Regulations***

19 65. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPPA") requires  
20 covered entities to implement reasonable security measures to protect patient information,  
21 including protected health information, defined as "individually identifiable health information"  
22 which either "identifies the individual" or where there is a "reasonable basis to believe the  
23 information can be used to identify the individual," that is held or transmitted by a healthcare  
24 provider. *See* 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

25 <sup>28</sup> World Privacy Forum, *The Geography of Medical Identity Theft* (Dec. 12, 2017), available for  
26 download at: [https://www.worldprivacyforum.org/2017/12/new-report-the-geography-of-  
27 medical-identity-theft/](https://www.worldprivacyforum.org/2017/12/new-report-the-geography-of-medical-identity-theft/)

28 <sup>29</sup> John W. Coffey, *Difficulties in Determining Data Breach Impacts*, 17 JOURNAL OF SYSTEMICS,  
CYBERNETICS AND INFORMATICS 9 (2019),  
<http://www.iiisci.org/journal/pdv/sci/pdfs/IP069LL19.pdf>



- c. Failing to protect against any reasonably anticipated uses or disclosure of electronic PHI that is not permitted. 45 C.F.R. § 164.306(a)(3);
- d. Failing to ensure compliance with HIPPA security standards by Defendant’s workforce. 45 C.F.R. § 164.306(a)(4);
- e. Failing to implement technical policies and procedures for electronic information systems that maintain electronic PHI to allow access only to those persons or software programs that have been granted access rights. 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1);
- f. Failing to implement policies and procedures to prevent, detect, contain and correct security violations. 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1);
- g. Failing to identify and respond to suspected or known security incidents and failing to mitigate the harmful effects of security incidents that are known. 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(6)(ii);
- h. Failing to effectively train all staff members on the policies and procedures with respect to PHI as necessary and appropriate for staff members to carry out their functions and to maintain security of PHI. 45 C.F.R. § 164.530(b); 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5); and
- i. Failing to design, implement, and enforce policies and procedures establishing physical and administrative safeguards to reasonably safeguard PHI. 45 C.F.R. § 164.530(c).

73. As a result of their failure to comply with HIPPA regulations, cybercriminals circumvented Defendant’s lax security measures, resulting in the Data Breach and injuring Plaintiffs and Class Members.

74. The Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTCA”) prohibits Defendant from engaging in “unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce.” *See* 15 U.S.C. § 45.

75. The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) has promulgated numerous guides for businesses which reflect the importance of implementing reasonable data security practices.

76. The FTC’s publication, Protecting Personal Information, established cyber-security guidelines for businesses. The guidelines provide that businesses should take action to protect the personal patient information that they collect; properly dispose of personal information

1 that is no longer needed; encrypt information stored on computer networks; understand their  
2 networks' vulnerabilities; and implement policies to correct any security problems.<sup>31</sup>

3 77. The guidelines also recommend that businesses use an intrusion detection system  
4 to expose a breach as soon as it occurs; monitor all incoming traffic for activity indicating  
5 someone is attempting to hack the system; watch for large amounts of data being transmitted from  
6 the system; and have a response plan ready in the event of a breach.<sup>32</sup>

7 78. The FTC further recommends that businesses not maintain private information  
8 longer than is needed for authorization of a transaction; limit access to sensitive information;  
9 require complex passwords be used on networks; use industry-tested methods for security monitor  
10 for suspicious activity on the networks; and verify that third-party service providers have  
11 implemented reasonable security measures.

12 79. The FTC has the authority to bring enforcement actions against businesses for  
13 failing to protect PII/PHI adequately and reasonably under Section 5 of the Federal Trade  
14 Commission Act ("FTCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 45.

15 80. The orders that result from enforcement actions further clarify the measures  
16 businesses must take to meet their data security obligations.

17 81. Defendant failed to properly implement basic data security practices.

18 82. Defendant was at all relevant times fully aware of its obligations to protect donors'  
19 PII/PHI, and of the significant consequences that would result from its failure to do so.

20 83. Defendant's failure to employ reasonable and appropriate measures to protect  
21 against unauthorized access to donors' PII/PHI constitutes an unfair act or practice prohibited by  
22 Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

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25 <sup>31</sup> Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for Business, Federal Trade Commission (2016).  
26 Available at [https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/protecting-personal-information-  
guide-business](https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/protecting-personal-information-guide-business).

27 <sup>32</sup> *Id.*





1 established national and international market; and/or (vi) lost time and money incurred to mitigate  
2 and remediate the effects of the Data Breach, including the increased risks of identity theft and  
3 medical identity theft they face and will continue to face.

4 ***Plaintiffs' Experience***

5 90. Plaintiffs Sarabeth Eaves and Bonnie Eaves are a married couple and current  
6 plasma donors of Defendant.

7 91. As a condition of donating plasma to Defendant, Plaintiffs were required to  
8 provide private information to Defendant including their names, Social Security numbers, and  
9 full health and financial information.

10 92. Upon information and belief, Defendant retained Plaintiffs' private information in  
11 its system at the time of the Data Breach.

12 93. Plaintiffs are careful about sharing their private information. Plaintiffs store any  
13 documents containing private information in a safe and secure location. Plaintiffs would not have  
14 entrusted their private information with Defendant had they known of Defendant's failure to  
15 implement and maintain data security measures.

16 94. Plaintiffs' PII and/or PHI was improperly accessed and obtained by unauthorized  
17 third parties in the Data Breach.

18 95. Since the announcement of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs have been required to spend  
19 valuable time monitoring their various accounts in an effort to detect and prevent any misuses of  
20 their PII/PHI, time they would not have had to spend but for the Data Breach.

21 96. Indeed, around the time of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs received notification from  
22 their bank that two unauthorized bank accounts were opened in their name, thereby heightening  
23 the need for them to spend time to carefully monitor the fraud.

24 97. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs suffered actual injury including, but not  
25 limited to: (i) fraudulent bank accounts opened in their names; and (ii) a substantially increased  
26 risk of identity theft and medical theft;  
27 (iii) improper disclosure of their PII/PHI; (iii) breach of the confidentiality of their PII/PHI; (iv)

1 invasion of their privacy; (v) deprivation of the value of their PII/PHI, for which there is a well-  
2 established national and international market; and/or (vi) lost time and money incurred to mitigate  
3 and remediate the effects of the Data Breach, including the increased risks of identity theft and  
4 medical identity theft they face and will continue to face.

5 98. The Data Breach has caused Plaintiffs to suffer fear, anxiety, and stress, which is  
6 amplified by the fact that key details about the Data Breach are still unknown, and Plaintiffs’  
7 PII/PHI is still at risk of being stolen and used for fraudulent activity.

8 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

9 99. Plaintiffs bring this class action individually and on behalf of all persons similarly  
10 situated, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), 23(b)(1), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3).

11 100. Plaintiffs seek certification of a Class as defined below and subject to further  
12 amendment:

13 **Nationwide Class**

14 All individuals in the United States whose PII and/or PHI was compromised in  
15 the Data Breach that was announced April 17, 2024 (the “Class”).

16 101. Excluded from the Class is Defendant and its affiliates, parents, subsidiaries,  
17 officers, agents, and directors, as well as the judge(s) presiding over this matter and the clerks of  
18 said judge(s).

19 102. Certification of Plaintiffs’ claims for class-wide treatment is appropriate because  
20 Plaintiffs can prove the elements of his claims on a class-wide basis using the same evidence as  
21 would be used to prove those elements in individual actions alleging the same claims.

22 103. Numerosity. The members in the Class are so numerous that joinder of all Class  
23 members in a single proceeding would be impracticable. While the exact number of individuals  
24 affected is unknown, Defendant reported that the Data Breach has affected 190 plasma donation  
25 centers across 35 states, potentially affecting thousands of individuals. The contact information of  
26 those individuals are available from Defendant’s business records.



1           1. Whether Plaintiffs and all other members of the Class are entitled to damages  
2           and the measure of such damages and relief.

3           105. Typicality. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Plaintiffs, like  
4 all proposed members of the Class, had his PII/PHI compromised in the Data Breach. Plaintiffs  
5 and Class members were injured by the same wrongful acts, practices, and omissions committed  
6 by Defendant, as described herein. Plaintiffs' claims therefore arise from the same practices or  
7 course of conduct that give rise to the claims of all Class members.

8           106. Adequacy of Representation. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the  
9 interests of the Class members. Plaintiffs are adequate representatives of the Class in that they  
10 have no interests adverse to, or conflict with, the Class they seek to represent. Plaintiffs have  
11 retained counsel with substantial experience and success in the prosecution of complex  
12 consumer protection class actions of this nature.

13           107. Superiority. A class action is superior to any other available means for the fair and  
14 efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered  
15 in the management of this class action. The damages and other financial detriment suffered by  
16 Plaintiffs and all other Class members are relatively small compared to the burden and expense  
17 that would be required to individually litigate their claims against Defendant, so it would be  
18 impracticable for Class members to individually seek redress from Defendant's wrongful  
19 conduct. Even if Class members could afford individual litigation, the court system could not.  
20 Individualized litigation creates a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments, and  
21 increases the delay and expense to all parties and the court system. By contrast, the class action  
22 device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single  
23 adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

24           108. All members of the proposed Class are readily ascertainable. Defendant has access  
25 to the names, addresses, and/or email addresses of Class Members affected by the Data Breach.

26           109. Finally, class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b). Defendant  
27 engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights sought to be enforced by  
28

1 Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all other Class members. Individual questions, if any, pale  
2 in comparison, in both quantity and quality, to the numerous common questions that dominate this  
3 action.

4 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

5 **COUNT I**  
6 **NEGLIGENCE**

7 **(Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide Class)**

8 110. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if  
9 fully set forth herein.

10 111. Defendant requires that its donors, including Plaintiffs and Class Members,  
11 submit private information such as PII and PHI in the course of providing its medical  
12 services.

13 112. Defendant collected, acquired, and stored Plaintiffs and Class Members'  
14 private information.

15 113. Plaintiffs and Class Members entrusted Defendant with their private  
16 information and had the understanding that Defendant would safeguard their information.

17 114. Defendant had knowledge of the sensitivity of Plaintiffs and Class Members'  
18 private information, and the consequences that would result from the unauthorized disclosure  
19 of such information. Defendant knew that healthcare entities were the target of cyberattacks  
20 in the past, and that Plaintiffs and Class members were the foreseeable and probable victims  
21 of any inadequate data security procedures.

22 115. It was therefore reasonably foreseeable that the failure to implement adequate  
23 data security procedures would result in injuries to the Plaintiffs and Class Members.

24 116. Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiffs and Class members to exercise reasonable care  
25 in safeguarding and protecting their private information in its possession, custody, or control from  
26 the unauthorized disclosure of such information.

1           117. Defendant’s duty to exercise reasonable care arises from several sources, including  
2 but not limited to common law, the HIPPA, the FTCA, and industry standards.

3           118. Defendant’s duty also arose from its position as a healthcare provider. As a  
4 healthcare provider, Defendant assumed a duty to exercise reasonable care in safeguarding and  
5 protecting donors’ private information in its possession, custody, or control from the unauthorized  
6 disclosure of such information.

7           119. Defendant breached its duty by failing to exercise reasonable care in safeguarding  
8 and protecting Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII/PHI by failing to design, adopt, implement,  
9 control, direct, oversee, manage, monitor, and audit appropriate data security processes, controls,  
10 policies, procedures, protocols, and software and hardware systems to safeguard and protect  
11 PII/PHI entrusted to it—including Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII/PHI.

12           120. Defendant admitted that the PII/PHI of Plaintiffs and Class Members was  
13 disclosed to unauthorized third persons as a result of the Data Breach.

14           121. Defendant’s negligent conduct or breach of the above-described duties owed to  
15 Plaintiffs and Class members caused their PII/PHI to be compromised in the Data Breach.

16           122. Plaintiffs and Class Members were in no position to protect their PII/PHI  
17 themselves.

18           123. But for Defendant’s breach of the duties described herein, Plaintiffs and Class  
19 Members’ PII and PHI would not have been compromised.

20           124. There is a causal relationship between Defendant’s failure to implement, control,  
21 direct, oversee, manage, monitor, and audit adequate data security procedures to protect the PII  
22 and PHI of its donor and the harm suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Members.

23           125. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s conduct described above, it  
24 directly and proximately caused the Data Breach, and Plaintiffs and all other Class members have  
25 suffered, and will continue to suffer, economic damages and other injury and actual harm in the  
26 form of, *inter alia*: (i) a substantially increased risk of identity theft and medical theft—risks  
27 justifying expenditures for protective and remedial services for which they are entitled to  
28

1 compensation; (ii) actual identity theft;  
2 (iii) improper disclosure of their PII/PHI; (iv) breach of the confidentiality of their PII/PHI; (v)  
3 deprivation of the value of their PII/PHI, for which there is a well-established national and  
4 international market; and/or (vi) lost time and money incurred to mitigate and remediate the  
5 effects of the Data Breach, including the increased risks of medical identity theft they face and  
6 will continue to face.

7 126. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs  
8 and Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury, including  
9 but not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, invasion of privacy, and other economic and  
10 non-economic losses.

11 127. Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages incurred as a result of the  
12 Data Breach.

13 128. Defendant's negligent conduct is ongoing, in that it still holds Plaintiffs' and  
14 Class Members PII and/or PHI in an unsafe and insecure manner.

15 129. Plaintiffs and Class Members are also entitled to injunctive relief in the form  
16 of requiring Defendant to strengthen its data security procedures and to provide credit  
17 monitoring to Class Members.

18 **COUNT II**  
19 **NEGLIGENCE PER SE**  
20 **(Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide Class)**

21 130. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if  
22 fully set forth herein.

23 131. Defendant's duties arise from, *inter alia*, the HIPAA Privacy Rule ("Standards for  
24 Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information"), 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164,  
25 Subparts A and E, and the HIPAA Security Rule ("Security Standards for the Protection of  
26 Electronic Protected Health Information"), 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C  
27 (collectively, "HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules").



1           132. Defendant’s duties also arise from Section 5 of the FTC Act (“FTCA”), 15  
2 U.S.C. § 45(a)(1), which prohibits “unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce,” including,  
3 as interpreted by the FTC, the unfair act or practice by a business, such as Defendant of failing  
4 to employ reasonable measures to protect and secure PII/PHI.

5           133. Defendant violated HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules, Section 5 of the FTCA,  
6 UCL, CMIA, and CCPA by failing to use reasonable measures to protect Plaintiffs’ and Class  
7 Members’ PII/PHI and not complying with applicable industry standards. Defendant’s  
8 conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of PII/PHI it obtains and  
9 stores, and the foreseeable consequences of a data breach involving PII/PHI including,  
10 specifically, the substantial damages that would result to Plaintiffs and the other Class  
11 members.

12           134. Defendant’s violations of HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules and Section 5 of  
13 the FTCA constitutes negligence *per se*.

14           135. Plaintiffs and Class members are within the class of persons that the HIPAA  
15 Privacy and Security Rules and Section 5 of the FTCA were intended to protect.

16           136. The harm occurring as a result of the Data Breach is the type of harm HIPAA  
17 Privacy and Security Rules and Section 5 of the FTCA were intended to guard against.

18           137. It was reasonably foreseeable to Defendant that its failure to exercise reasonable  
19 care in safeguarding and protecting Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII/PHI by failing to design,  
20 adopt, implement, control, direct, oversee, manage, monitor, and audit appropriate data security  
21 processes, controls, policies, procedures, protocols, and software and hardware systems, would  
22 result in the release, disclosure, and dissemination of Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII/PHI to  
23 unauthorized individuals.

24           138. The injury and harm that Plaintiffs and the other Class members suffered were the  
25 direct and proximate result of Defendant’s violations of HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules,  
26 and Section 5 of the FTCA. Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered (and will continue to  
27 suffer) economic damages and other injury and actual harm in the form of, *inter alia*: (i) a

1 substantially increased risk of identity theft and medical theft—risks justifying expenditures for  
2 protective and remedial services for which they are entitled to compensation; (ii) actual identity  
3 theft; (iii) improper disclosure of their PII/PHI; (iv) breach of the confidentiality of their PII/PHI;  
4 (v) deprivation of the value of their PII/PHI, for which there is a well-established national and  
5 international market; and/or (vi) lost time and money incurred to mitigate and remediate the  
6 effects of the Data Breach, including the increased risks of medical identity theft they face and  
7 will continue to face.

8 139. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs  
9 and Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury, including  
10 but not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, invasion of privacy, and other economic and  
11 non-economic losses.

12 140. Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages incurred as a result of the  
13 Data Breach.

14 141. Plaintiffs and Class Members are also entitled to injunctive relief in the form  
15 of requiring Defendant to strengthen its data security procedures and to provide credit  
16 monitoring to Class Members.

17 **COUNT III**  
18 **BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY**  
19 **(Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide Class)**

20 142. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if  
21 fully set forth herein.

22 143. Plaintiffs and Class members gave Defendant their PII/PHI in confidence,  
23 believing that Defendant would protect that information. Plaintiffs and Class members would  
24 not have provided Defendant with this information had they known it would not be adequately  
25 protected. Defendant’s acceptance and storage of Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ PII/PHI  
26 created a fiduciary relationship between Defendant and Plaintiffs and Class members. In light  
27  
28

1 of this relationship, Defendant must act primarily for the benefit of its donors, which includes  
2 safeguarding and protecting Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII/PHI.

3 144. Defendant has a fiduciary duty to act for the benefit of Plaintiffs and Class  
4 Members upon matters within the scope of their relationship. It breached that duty by failing  
5 to properly protect the system containing Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII/PHI, failing to  
6 comply with the data security guidelines set forth by HIPAA and the FTCA, and otherwise  
7 failing to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII/PHI that it collected.

8 145. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of its fiduciary duties,  
9 Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered and will suffer injury, including, but not limited  
10 to: (i) a substantially increased risk of identity theft and medical theft—risks justifying  
11 expenditures for protective and remedial services for which they are entitled to compensation; (ii)  
12 actual identity theft; (iii) improper disclosure of their PII/PHI; (iv) breach of the confidentiality  
13 of their PII/PHI; (v) deprivation of the value of their PII/PHI, for which there is a well-established  
14 national and international market; and/or (vi) lost time and money incurred to mitigate and  
15 remediate the effects of the Data Breach, including the increased risks of medical identity theft  
16 they face and will continue to face.

17 146. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs  
18 and Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury, including  
19 but not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, invasion of privacy, and other economic and  
20 non-economic losses.

21 147. Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages incurred as a result of the  
22 Data Breach.

23 148. Plaintiffs and Class Members are also entitled to injunctive relief in the form  
24 of requiring Defendant to strengthen its data security procedures and to provide credit  
25 monitoring to Class Members.

26 **COUNT IV**  
27 **BREACH OF IMPLIED CONTRACT**

**(Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Nationwide Class)**

1  
2 149. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if  
3 fully set forth herein.

4 150. In connection with donating plasma or other medical services, Plaintiffs and  
5 all other Class members entered into implied contracts with Defendant or were intended third-  
6 party beneficiaries of contracts between Defendant and others.

7 151. Pursuant to these implied contracts, plasma was paid to Defendant, whether  
8 directly from Plaintiffs and Class members, and Defendant was provided with PII/PHI of  
9 Plaintiffs and Class members. In exchange, Defendant impliedly agreed to, among other  
10 things, take reasonable measures to protect the security and confidentiality of Plaintiffs' and  
11 Class members' PII/PHI; and protect Plaintiffs' and Class members PII/PHI in compliance  
12 with federal and state laws and regulations and industry standards.

13 152. The protection of PII/PHI was a material term of the implied contracts that  
14 were either between Plaintiffs and Class members, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the  
15 other hand or were between third parties and Defendant to which Plaintiffs and Class  
16 members were intended third party beneficiaries.

17 153. Plaintiffs and Class members or the third parties fulfilled their obligations  
18 under the contracts.

19 154. Defendant breached its obligations by failing to implement and maintain  
20 reasonable data security measures to protect and secure the PII/PHI and in failing to  
21 implement and maintain security protocols and procedures to protect Plaintiffs' and Class  
22 members' PII/PHI in a manner that complies with applicable laws, regulations, and industry  
23 standards.

24 155. Defendant's breach of its obligations of its implied contracts directly resulted  
25 in the Data Breach and the injuries that Plaintiffs and all other Class members have suffered  
26 from the Data Breach.





1 C. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class equitable, injunctive, and declaratory relief,  
2 as may be appropriate. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class, seek appropriate  
3 injunctive relief designed to prevent Defendant from experiencing another data breach by  
4 adopting and implementing best data security practices to safeguard PII/PHI and to provide  
5 or extend credit monitoring services and similar services to protect against all types of  
6 identity theft and medical identity theft;

7 D. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to  
8 the maximum extent allowable;

9 E. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and  
10 expenses, as allowable; and

11 F. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class such other favorable relief as allowable  
12 under law.

13 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

14 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury of all claims in this Class Action Complaint so triable.

15 Dated: April 30, 2024

16 Respectfully submitted,

17  
18 By: s/ Jean S. Martin  
19 Jean S. Martin  
20 **MORGAN & MORGAN**  
21 **COMPLEX LITIGATION GROUP**  
22 201 N. Franklin Street, 7th Floor  
23 Tampa, Florida 33602  
24 Telephone: (813) 223-5505  
25 Facsimile: (813) 223-5402  
26 [jeanmartin@forthepeople.com](mailto:jeanmartin@forthepeople.com)

27 Steven A. Schwartz\*  
28 [steveschwartz@chimicles.com](mailto:steveschwartz@chimicles.com)  
Beena M. McDonald\*  
[bmm@chimicles.com](mailto:bmm@chimicles.com)  
Alex M. Kashurba\*

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[amk@chimicles.com](mailto:amk@chimicles.com)

Marissa N. Pembroke\*

[mnp@chimicles.com](mailto:mnp@chimicles.com)

**CHIMICLES SCHWARTZ KRINER  
& DONALDSON-SMITH LLP**

One Haverford Centre

361 Lancaster Avenue

Haverford, PA 19041

Telephone: (610) 642-8500

*\*pro hac vice* to be submitted

*Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed  
Class*



# 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

SARABETH EAVES and BONNIE EAVES, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Morgan and Morgan Complex Litigation Group, 201 N. Franklin St, 7th Fl, Tampa, FL 33602 Tel: (813) 223-5505

## DEFENDANTS

OCTAPharma PLASMA, INC.

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
- 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

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

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

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

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS			
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

## 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):  
15 U.S.C. § 45, 42 U.S.C. § 17921, 42 U.S.C. § 17902, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201

Brief description of cause:  
Negligence, Negligence Per Se, Unjust Enrichment, Breach of Fiduciary Duty, Declaratory judgement/Injunctive Relief

## 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

Apr 30, 2024

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Jean Sutton Martin

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

APPLYING FFP \_\_\_\_\_

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 cases, if any. If there are related cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.