



bottles (the “Products”<sup>1</sup>) that are sold nationwide and marketed as, among other things, “BPA Free” (the “Representations”). Unfortunately for all reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, the Representations are false and misleading.

2. Far from being “BPA Free,” the Products contain considerable amounts of harmful microplastics.

3. Despite including harmful microplastics in its Products, Defendant goes to considerable lengths to mislead consumers into believing the Products are safe, good for them, and BPA Free. Moreover, Defendant omits that the Products contain harmful microplastics, especially when heated – a material fact to Plaintiff and all reasonable consumers – on the Products’ labeling and marketing.

4. Defendant makes the Representations and material omissions to increase profits and market share in the growing baby products market where safety is a significant consumer purchasing decision. Indeed, consumers value products free of BPA that promote safety.

5. Consumers have become increasingly concerned about the effects of synthetic, artificial, and chemical ingredients in food, dietary supplements, cleaning

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<sup>1</sup> “Products” refers to the following Nuk product varieties: Feeding Bottles, Storage Bottles, Feeding and Storage Bottle Sets, and Anti Colic Bottles. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the complete list of Products subject to this lawsuit based on facts obtained in discovery. All of the Products contain substantially similar representations and omissions about being “BPA Free” and safe to use as intended, which Plaintiff and the Class read and relied on before purchasing the Products.

products, bath and beauty products, and everyday household products. Companies like Defendant have capitalized on consumers' desire for purportedly "natural products." Indeed, consumers are willing to pay and have paid a premium for products branded "natural" over products that contain synthetic ingredients. In 2015, sales of natural products grew 9.5% to \$180 billion.<sup>2</sup>

6. Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and the members of the Class (defined below), value "BPA Free" products for important reasons, including the belief that they are safer and healthier than alternative products not considered "BPA Free."

7. Before placing the Products into the stream of commerce and into the hands of consumers to purchase and children to put in their mouths, Defendant knew or should have known that the Products contained harmful microplastics. However, Defendant misrepresented, omitted, and concealed this material fact to all reasonable

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<sup>2</sup> Elaine Watson, Food Navigator, *Natural Products Industry Sales up 9.5% to \$180bn Says NBJ*, <https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2016/03/14/EXPO-WEST-trendspotting-organics-natural-claims?page=7#news>; see also Shoshanna Delventhal, *Study Shows Surge in Demand for "Natural" Products*, Investopedia (Feb. 22, 2017), <https://web.archive.org/web/20170909034644/http://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/022217/study-shows-surge-demand-natural-products.asp> (study by Kline Research indicated that in 2016, the personal care market reached 9% growth in the U.S. and 8% in the U.K.; the trend-driven natural and organic personal care industry is on track to be worth \$25.1 billion by 2025); *Natural living: The next frontier for growth? [NEXT Forecast 2017]*, New Hope Network (Dec. 19, 2016), <http://www.newhope.com/beauty-and-lifestyle/natural-living-next-frontier-growth-next-forecast-2017>.

consumers, including Plaintiff and the Class members, by not including this information anywhere on the Products' labeling.

8. Plaintiff and the Class members reasonably relied on Defendant's Representations and material omissions when purchasing the Products.

9. Plaintiff and the Class members purchased the Products and paid a price premium based on Defendant's Representations and omissions.

10. Because Defendant's false and misleading Representations dupe reasonable consumers into believing the Products feature premium attributes (i.e., BPA-Free), Defendant's Representations thus dupe reasonable consumers into paying premium prices for the Products, even though they do not actually feature the premium attributes for which the consumers, including Plaintiff and the Class members, pay.

11. Defendant is, therefore, liable to Plaintiff and the Class members for selling the Products without disclosing that the Products contain harmful microplastics.

12. This lawsuit seeks to recover monetary damages on behalf of Plaintiff and a Nationwide Class of purchasers of the Products, including Georgia purchasers.

### **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff Tinamarie Barrales is a resident and citizen of Huntington Park, California, in Los Angeles County. Plaintiff has purchased numerous varieties

of the Products during the relevant statutory period, including Nuk Simply Natural baby bottles at Food For Less and Walmart in California. Most recently, Plaintiff purchased the Products at Walmart in California in or around May 2024.

14. Plaintiff and reasonable consumers believe that “BPA Free” products do not contain harmful microplastics. Plaintiff and reasonable consumers believe “BPA Free” means that the Products do not pose the danger of harmful plastics when used as intended.

15. When purchasing the Products, Plaintiff read and reviewed the accompanying labels and disclosures and understood them as representations by Defendant that the Products were adequately manufactured and labeled and free from defects, and that the Representations were true. Plaintiff read and relied on Defendant’s Representations when deciding to purchase the Products, and these Representations were part of the basis of the bargain. Had Defendant not made the false, misleading, and deceptive Representations and omissions alleged herein regarding the Products, Plaintiff would not have been willing to purchase the Products. Plaintiff paid a price premium for the Products based on Defendant’s Representations and material omissions. Accordingly, Plaintiff was injured and lost money due to Defendant’s mislabeling and deceptive conduct.

16. Defendant Newell is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business and headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

17. Newell represents itself as “a leading consumer products company with a portfolio of iconic brands” including Nuk.<sup>3</sup>

18. Nuk is a popular consumer baby products brand.

19. Nuk says, “The NUK® family of brands design and develop superior products that enhance your child’s overall development.”<sup>4</sup>

20. Under the Nuk brand, Defendant sells the Products throughout the United States, including Georgia. The Products, including those purchased by Plaintiff and the Class members, are available at various retail stores throughout the United States, including Georgia. Defendant authorized the false, misleading, and deceptive marketing, advertising, distribution, and sale of the Products to consumers nationwide, including in Georgia.

21. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this lawsuit to include any additional defendants who may be subject to these allegations regarding the false advertising of the Products.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

22. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act, 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

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.newellbrands.com/our-company/who-we-are>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nuk-usa.com/about-us.html>.

action, (3) there are members of the Class who are diverse from Defendant, and (4) there are more than 100 Class members.

23. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because the claims asserted in this complaint arise from Defendant's contacts with this District. Defendant has been afforded due process because it has, at all times relevant to this matter, individually or through its agents, subsidiaries, officers, and/or representatives, operated, conducted, engaged in, and carried on a business venture in Georgia, and/or marketed, advertised, distributed, and/or sold the Products, committed a statutory violation within Georgia related to the allegations made herein, and caused injuries to Plaintiff and the putative Class members, which arose out of the acts and omissions that occurred in the state of Georgia, during the relevant time period. At that time, Defendant was engaged in business activities in Georgia.

24. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted in this complaint occurred in Georgia. Venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c) because Defendant conducts substantial business in this District, has sufficient minimum contacts with this District, and otherwise purposely avails itself of the markets in this District through the promotion, sale, and marketing of the Products in this District. Venue is also proper because Defendant's principal place of business is in Georgia.

## COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

### Microplastics Harm Human Health.

25. Microplastics are small plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in diameter that form when solid plastics break down through abrasion, degradation, or chemical processes such as exposure to heat.<sup>5</sup> These tiny particles can significantly affect human health, especially children.<sup>6</sup>

26. Studies show that microplastics alter the composition of gut microbiota, which play a crucial role in digestion, nutrient absorption, and immune system development.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, microplastics “produc[e] a toxic effect on the digestive tract,” that causes irreversible changes in the reproductive axis and central nervous system of offspring after prenatal and neonatal exposure, affect the immune system

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<sup>5</sup> See Sumon Sarkar, Hanin Diab, & Jonthan Thompson, *Microplastic Pollution: Chemical Characterization and Impact on Wildlife*, 20(3) Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 1745 (2023).

<sup>6</sup> See Raffaele Marfella et al., *Microplastics and Nanoplastics in Atheromas and Cardiovascular Events*, 390 New England J. Med. 900-10 (Mar. 6, 2024), <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2309822> (concluding that “patients with carotid artery plaque in which [microplastics and nanoplastics (MNPs)] were detected had a higher risk of a composite of myocardial infarction, stroke, or death from any cause at 34 months of follow-up than those in whom MNPs were not detected”).

<sup>7</sup> See Alba Tamargo et al., *PET Microplastics Affect Human Gut Microbiota Communities During Simulated Gastrointestinal Digestion, First Evidence of Plausible Polymer Biodegradation During Human Digestion*, 12 Sci. Reps. 528 (Jan. 11, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-04489-w> (“The work presented here indicates that microplastics are indeed capable of digestive-level health effects.”).



due to their physicochemical properties, and can cause chronic pulmonary disease.<sup>8</sup>

27. Due to their small size, microplastics can bioaccumulate, which results in compounding adverse health effects, such as growth and reproduction issues, DNA damage due to oxidative stress, inflammation, physical stress, weakened immunity, histological damage, or even death.<sup>9</sup>

28. Digestion or oral intake is the most significant mode of microplastic transmission into the human body.<sup>10</sup>

**Microplastics Are Particularly Harmful to Children.**

29. The dangers of microplastic exposure are particularly severe for infants, as these early encounters with microplastics can pave the way for chronic health conditions that can manifest over a lifetime.<sup>11</sup> Exposure to even low doses of microplastics during a child's early development may cause long-term health complications later in life.<sup>12</sup> Experts in microplastics warn that infants, with their entire lives ahead of them, face a heightened risk of developing lifelong ailments

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<sup>8</sup> Nur Hanisah Amran et al., *Exposure to Microplastics During Early Developmental Stage: Review of Current Evidence*, 10 *Toxics* 597 (Oct. 10, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxics10100597>.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*; see also Liping Liu et al., *Release of Microplastics from Breastmilk Storage Bags and Assessment of Intake by Infants: A Preliminary Study*, 323 *Env't Pollution* (Apr. 15, 2023), at 2, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121197> (“Exposure to low doses of [microplastics] during early development may cause perturbation of gas and nutrients exchange and induce long-term health effects.”).

<sup>12</sup> Amran, *supra* note 8.

due to their prolonged exposure to microplastics starting from such a young age.<sup>13</sup>

30. During critical periods of development, such as infancy and early childhood, exposure to microplastics can profoundly impact various bodily systems—including the digestive, reproductive, central nervous, immune, and circulatory systems—leading to long-term health impairments.<sup>14</sup>

31. This extreme harm is particularly critical in infants, who may suffer from a wide array of severe health issues because of microplastic exposure. One study found that average fecal microplastic levels were over ten times higher in infants than in adults.<sup>15</sup> Scientists studying microplastics and early child development have therefore emphasized that “enacting solid legislative laws and policies to manage the excessive use of plastic products is crucial; otherwise, the health of ecosystems and living organisms will inevitably deteriorate in the coming years. . . . We feel that the government and industries must exert the most significant effort to protect children from MPs [microplastics] exposure. These procedures

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<sup>13</sup> Liping Liu et al., *Release of Microplastics from Breastmilk Storage Bags and Assessment of Intake by Infants: A Preliminary Study*, 323 *Env’t Pollution* (Apr. 15, 2023), at 1, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121197> (“Infancy is known to be a sensitive window for environmental exposure, which may increase susceptibility to certain diseases in adulthood.”).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> News Release, Am. Chem. Soc’y, *Infants Have More Microplastics in Their Feces Than Adults, Study Finds* (Sept. 22, 2021), <https://www.acs.org/pressroom/newsreleases/2021/september/infants-have-more-microplastics-in-their-feces-than-adults-study-finds.html>.

include avoiding plastic contact of children’s meals . . . .”<sup>16</sup>

32. Another study emphasized the consequences of microplastic ingestion on cardiovascular systems, finding that subjects with “carotid artery plaque in which microplastics were detected had a higher risk of a composite myocardial infarction, stroke, or death from any cause.”<sup>17</sup>

33. Despite the apparent dangers, Defendant actively conceals the known risks associated with microplastic exposure, depriving parents of the ability to make informed choices about their children’s health and well-being. The Products’ material omissions and the “BPA Free” Representations work in tandem to create a false sense of security, leading parents to believe that their children will be safe from the severe consequences of using the Products. In reality, parents are exposing their children to “irreversible changes in the reproductive axis and central nervous system,” among other harms.<sup>18</sup>

**The Products Are Made of Polypropylene Plastic and Are Exposed to Heat Through Ordinary Use.**

34. Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers understand that the regular and ordinary use of baby bottles involves holding heated liquids (such as formula or breastmilk) and possibly using boiling liquids for sterilization. Defendant fails to

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<sup>16</sup> Amran, *supra* note 8.

<sup>17</sup> Marfella, *supra* note 6.

<sup>18</sup> Amran, *supra* note 8.

inform consumers that the Products made of polypropylene “release microplastics with values as high as 16,200,000 particles per litre,” and that “sterilization and exposure to high-temperature water significantly increase microplastic release.”<sup>19</sup> By advertising and selling the Products without disclosing the material risks associated with heating, Defendant jeopardizes the health and well-being of countless children and misleads parents who trust in the safety of these Products.

35. Heating polypropylene releases 13.5% to 67.5% more microplastics into liquids at 140 degrees Fahrenheit than at 41 degrees.<sup>20</sup> Products with polypropylene plastic composition release microplastics through sterilization and cleaning, shaking with warm water, and other high-temperature water exposure during formula preparation procedures.<sup>21</sup> “Microplastics are synthetic polymer compounds that form when large plastic materials are fragmented and micronized to a size of  $\leq 5$  mm.”<sup>22</sup> One study found that polypropylene infant feeding bottles can produce up to 16 million microplastic particles per liter.<sup>23</sup> The amount of

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<sup>19</sup> Dunzhu Li et al., *Microplastic Release from the Degradation of Polypropylene Feeding Bottles During Infant Formula Preparation*, 1 *Nature Food* 746, 746 (Nov. 2020), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-00171-y>.

<sup>20</sup> Guanyu Zhou et al., *How Many Microplastics Do We Ingest When Using Disposable Drink Cups?*, 441 *J. Hazardous Materials* (Jan. 2023), at 5, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2022.129982>.

<sup>21</sup> Li, *supra* note 19.

<sup>22</sup> Yongjin Lee et al., *Health Effects of Microplastic Exposures: Current Issues and Perspectives in South Korea*, 64 *Yonsei Med. J.* 301, 301 (May 2023), <https://doi.org/10.3349/ymj.2023.0048>.

<sup>23</sup> Li, *supra* note 19.

microplastics released increases with exposure to high water temperatures and sterilization.<sup>24</sup>

36. Current research shows toddlers consuming microwaved dairy products from polypropylene containers can intake up to 22.1 ng/kg per day of microplastics.<sup>25</sup> Another study found that a single infant's microplastic consumption through polypropylene feeding bottles ranges from 14,600 to 4,550,000 particles per day.<sup>26</sup>

37. Exposing plastic containers to higher temperatures leads to a more than twofold increase in the total amount of microplastics released.<sup>27</sup> However, it is estimated that roughly 12% of those who reheat breastmilk use the microwave. Defendant fails to warn consumers that its Products should not be heated due to extreme microplastic exposure increases.

38. Additionally, many parents sanitize baby feeding products via exposure to heat, such as by boiling the products.<sup>28</sup> One study found that over 10 million

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<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> Kazi Albab Hussain et al., *Assessing the Release of Microplastics and Nanoplastics from Plastic Containers and Reusable Food Pouches: Implications for Human Health*, 57 *Env't Sci. & Tech.* 9782, 9782 (2023), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37343248/>.

<sup>26</sup> Li, *supra* note 19.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*; Hussain, *supra* note 25, at 9786 (“These findings are consistent with a previous study that reported a 2 order magnitude increase in microplastics release from polypropylene infant feeding bottles into water when temperatures increased from 25 to 95 °C.” (footnote omitted)).

<sup>28</sup> Li, *supra* note 19.

polypropylene microplastics per liter are released during a single boil.<sup>29</sup> The CDC recommends that caretakers sterilize baby feeding equipment daily.<sup>30</sup> Even if the Products are not heated with milk, the sterilization heat still causes the Products to release copious amounts of microplastics.

39. Despite these apparent risks, Defendant fails to inform consumers of the need to mitigate the associated microplastic release to prevent them from entering the food and drink in the Products, such as by repeated subsequent rinses with cold water.<sup>31</sup>

**The Products Are Intended to Be Heated Daily and for Constant Use by Babies and Their Caregivers.**

40. The Products are essential feeding devices that infants and young children use multiple times daily.<sup>32</sup> It is a well-known fact that babies often have their bottles or cups in or near their mouths for extended periods. This constant, repeated exposure to the Products significantly amplifies the risk posed by the microplastics they leach.

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<sup>29</sup> *Id.* at 751.

<sup>30</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *How to Clean, Sanitize, and Store Infant Feeding Items Frequently Asked Questions* (Apr. 16, 2024), [https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/faq/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/childcare/clean-sanitize.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/faq/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/childcare/clean-sanitize.html).

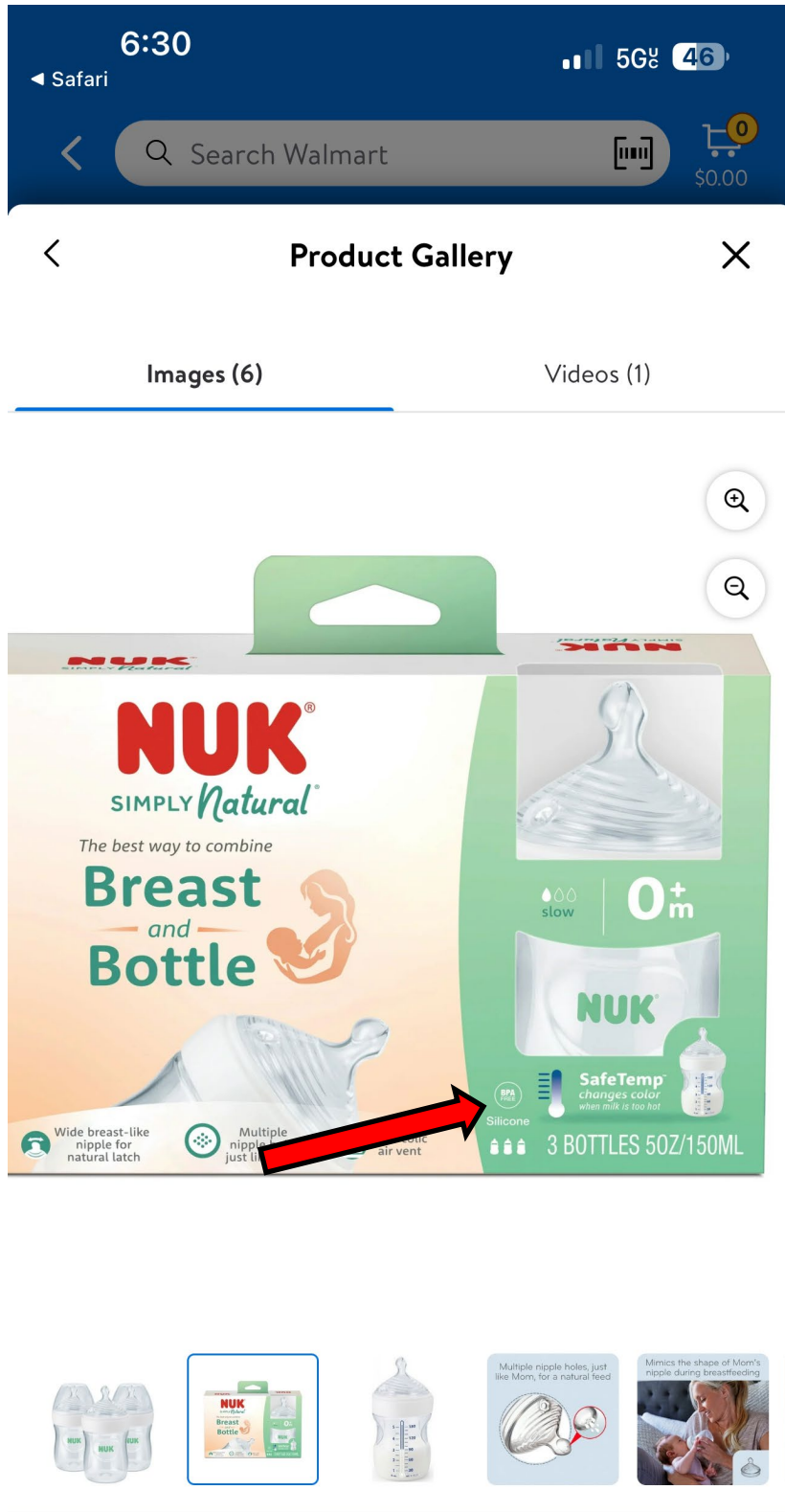
<sup>31</sup> *See* Li, *supra* note 19.

<sup>32</sup> Mary L. Gavin, *Formula Feeding FAQs: How Much and How Often*, Kids Health (Nov. 2021), <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/formulafeed-often.html#:~:text=Newborns%20and%20young%20babies%20should,about%20every%203%E2%80%934%20hours>.

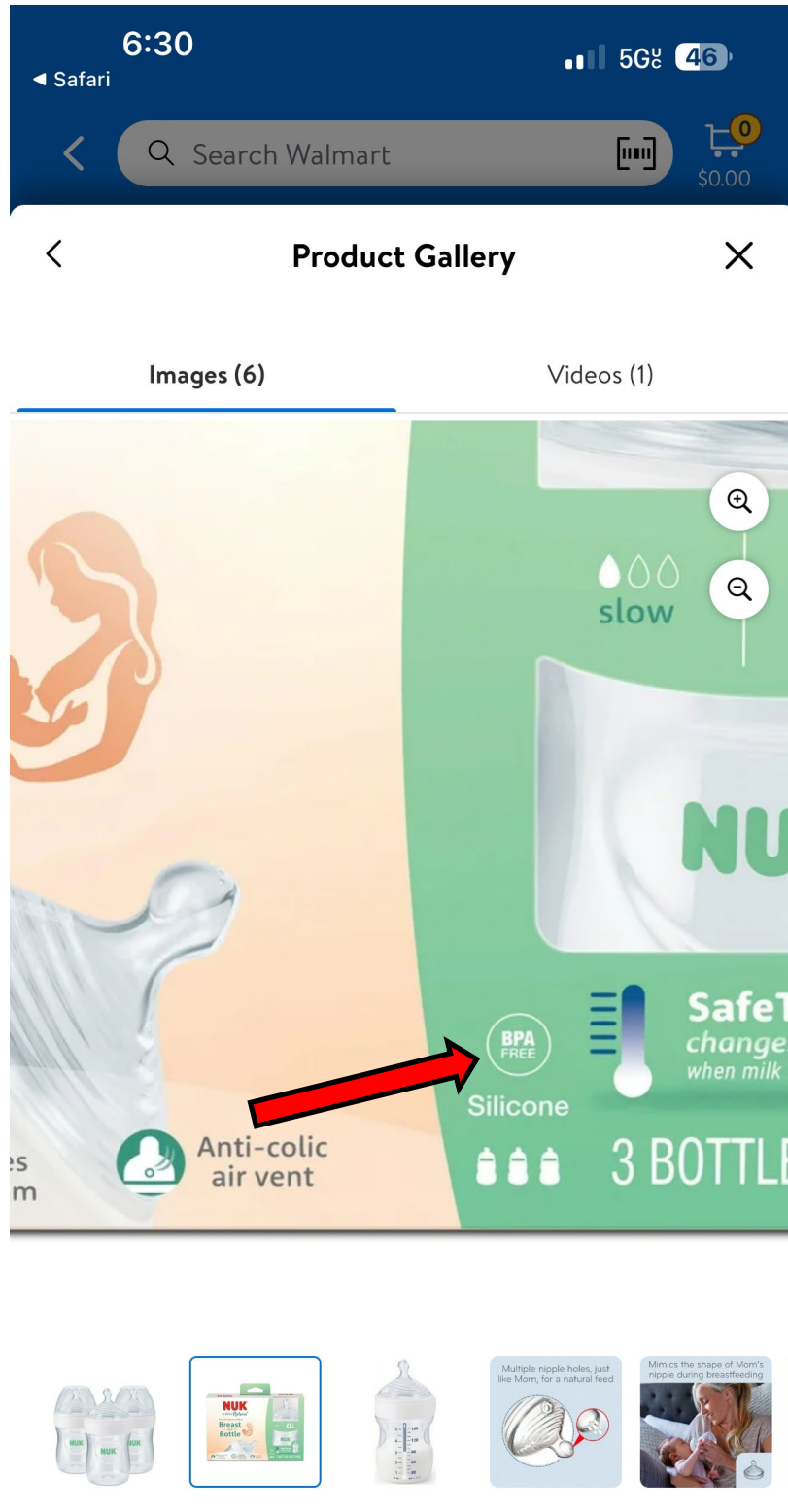
41. The danger of microplastics lies not just in a single exposure but in their ability to bioaccumulate in the body over time. Each instance of exposure compounds the potential for long-term harm. For infants and young children, who are in a critical stage of development, this accumulated exposure can have devastating consequences. When parents use Defendant's Products to feed their children, as intended, they unwittingly expose their vulnerable infants to a daily dose of microplastics. Over the weeks, months, and years of a child's development, this constant exposure can lead to a dangerous accumulation of microplastics in their young bodies, putting them at risk for a host of serious health issues affecting their digestive system, immune function, reproductive health, and more. The cumulative nature of this risk makes Defendant's misconduct all the more egregious and the need for accountability all the more urgent.

**Defendant's Products' Labeling Contains False and Misleading Representations.**

42. Defendant manufacturers, markets, sells, and distributes the Nuk branded Products, which all contain substantially similar "BPA Free" front-label Representations as depicted below:

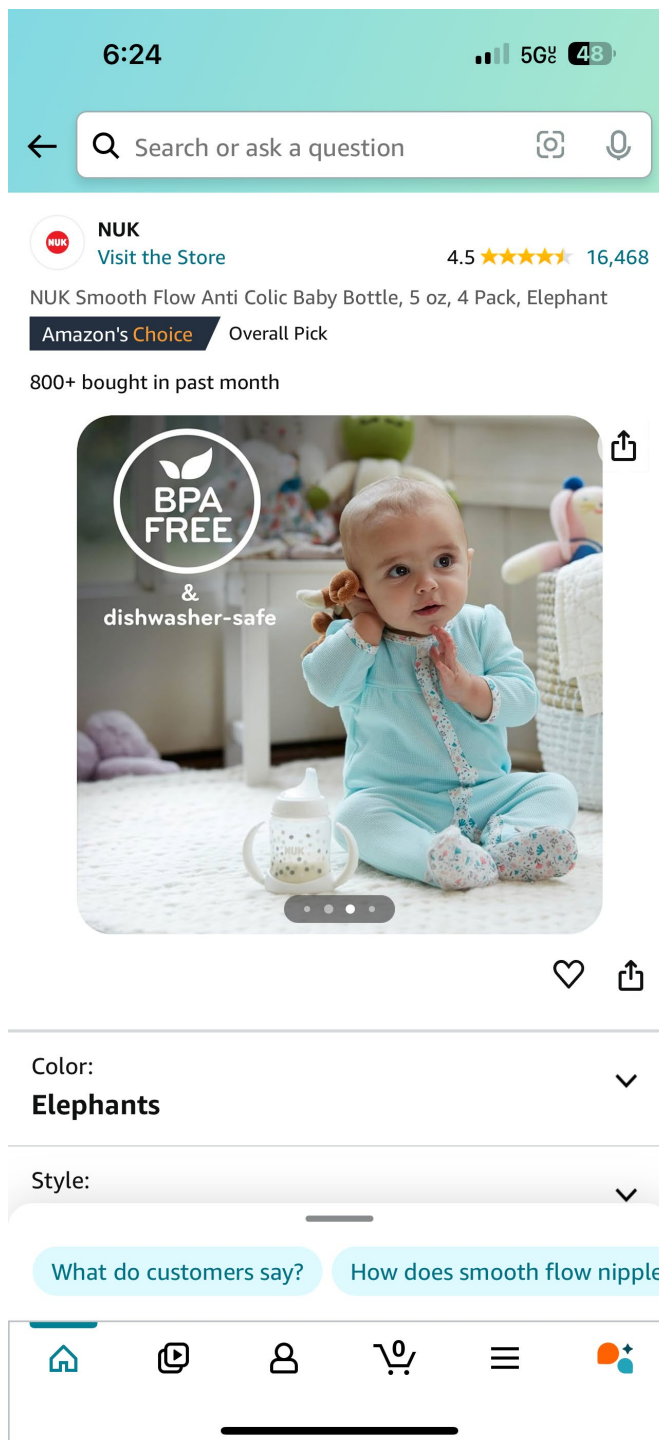






Set up subscription

Defendant’s “BPA Free” Representations are also made consistently on Defendant’s website, <https://www.nuk-usa.com/>, and Defendant’s Products’ pages on various retailers’ websites. For example:



6:21

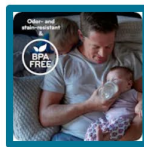
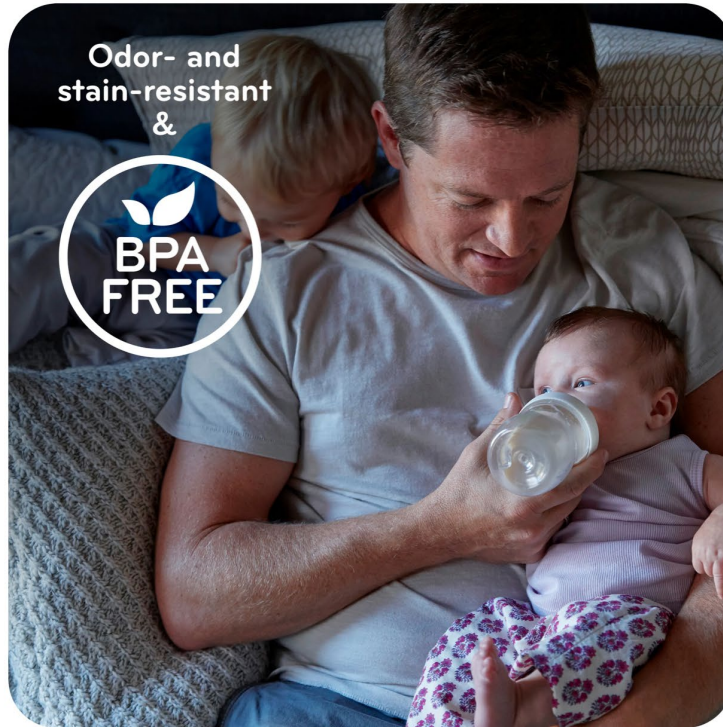


Information about NUK Glass bottle recall



**NUK**

What are you looking for?



COLOR: White



Where to Buy

nuk-usa.com

43. Defendant's Products are manufactured, distributed, and sold throughout the United States, including Georgia. They are sold in-store at mass-market retailers and online at places like Amazon.com. Defendant's "BPA Free" Representations appear on the front labeling of the Products, Defendant's website, and retailers' websites.

44. The Representations are forward-facing to the consumer. Reasonable consumers read and relied on the Representations, which are false and misleading because the Products produce harmful microplastics when heated for everyday use.

45. Had Plaintiff and the Class members known that the Products contained harmful microplastics or risked containing harmful microplastics when used normally, Plaintiff and the Class members would not have purchased the Products or would have paid less for them.

**Defendant Also Makes Material Omissions That Mislead Reasonable Consumers About the Products' Safety and Conceals the Presence of Harmful Microplastics.**

46. Defendant materially omits that the Products pose the danger of leaching microplastics, which causes detrimental long-term harm to children. Reasonable consumers expect manufacturers to disclose dangers associated with their products. This is especially true for manufacturers of baby products as these products are intended for society's most vulnerable population, and therefore, consumers expect a heightened degree of safety for such products.

47. Defendant fails to live up to the reasonable consumer's expectations of the Product because the Product leaches microplastics into the bottle's contents upon heating through ordinary use, contaminating the food babies and infants consume. Defendant, therefore, misleads reasonable consumers through its Representations and material omissions into believing the Products are safe and do not pose any safety risks.

**Defendant Further Misleads Consumers About the Products' Safety.**

48. Defendant fails to disclose the safety risks and represents that the Products are "BPA Free" on the front labels of its Products. "BPA" stands for Bisphenol A. BPA is a chemical used to manufacture polycarbonate plastics that leach into food and beverages. BPA causes adverse health effects on the reproductive system, child development, metabolic disorders, obesity, endocrine disorders, and the nervous system. BPA can also damage DNA, cause oxidative stress, and promote certain breast cancers. Bottles made with BPA present a similar danger as bottles made from polypropylene, as both bottles leach harmful substances when heated and cause adverse health impacts to the human digestive, immune, and reproductive systems. Reasonable consumers interpret "BPA Free" as meaning that the products do not pose the danger of harmful plastics. In tandem with Defendant's material omissions, reasonable consumers believe that the Products are safe, i.e., do not pose the risks associated with harmful plastics.

**Plaintiff and Reasonable Consumers Were Misled by Material Omissions and Representations When Buying the Products.**

49. Defendant manufactures, markets, promotes, advertises, labels, packages, and sells the Products materially omitting the danger and risk from the Products' front-facing labels and packaging.

50. Defendant conspicuously displays the "BPA Free" claim on the Products' labeling and packaging yet fails to tell consumers that the Products will leak dangerous microplastics through ordinary use.

51. Defendant's material omissions and Representations lead reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff, into believing that the Products are safe—meaning, consumers are led to believe that the Products are a safer choice for feeding babies and young children that do not pose a risk.

52. Defendant's omissions are material to reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, in deciding to buy the Products because reasonable consumers value information relating to the Products' safety. This is especially true when it concerns using the Products in their intended and ordinary way, which results in harmful plastics being consumed by babies—meaning that it is important to consumers that the Products are safe and motivates them to buy them.

53. The Class, including Plaintiff, reasonably relied on Defendant's omissions in purchasing the Products.

54. Defendant's omissions are deceptive because the Products leach

microplastics into milk and formula during ordinary use.

55. When purchasing the Products, the Class members, including Plaintiff, were unaware and had no reason to believe that the omissions were misleading, deceptive, and unlawful. The Products' labeling and packaging led consumers to believe that the Products were free from harmful plastic exposure. The Products did not contain a clear, unambiguous, and conspicuously displayed statement informing reasonable consumers that the Products posed the risk of containing harmful microplastics.

**Defendant's Knowledge.**

56. Defendant knew that the omissions were misleading, deceptive, and unlawful at the time that Defendant manufactured, marketed, advertised, labeled, and sold the Products.

57. Defendant knew that the omissions would lead reasonable consumers into believing that the Products would not expose their infants and young children to harmful microplastics. Not only has Defendant utilized a long-standing brand strategy to identify the Products as safe, but Defendant also has an obligation under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, codified at 15 U.S.C. § 45, to evaluate its marketing claims from the perspective of the reasonable consumer. That means Defendant was statutorily obligated to consider whether the omissions, in isolation or conjunction with its marketing strategy, would mislead reasonable



consumers into believing that the Products are free from harmful microplastic exposure. Thus, Defendant knew that the omissions were misleading before it marketed the Products to the Class, including Plaintiff.

58. Defendant knew of its omissions' materiality to consumers. First, manufacturers and marketers, like Defendant, know safety is paramount for consumers of baby and infant products. Here, the omission relates directly to the Products' safety. Second, Defendant's awareness of the importance of the Products' safety, specifically safety related to harmful plastics, is reflected by its "BPA Free" representation on the Products' front labels and packaging consistent throughout all Product packaging and labeling. Third, it is common sense that information concerning the risk of harmful microplastics and the Products' safety is material to consumers as Defendant knows that the risk of health complications from using the Products would affect whether consumers purchased them.

59. Even worse, as the manufacturer and marketer of the Products, Defendant had exclusive control over the omissions and Representations on the Products' labels, packaging, and advertisements. Defendant could have easily disclosed the risks or rectified consumers' misplaced beliefs by informing them about the leaching of microplastics. However, despite Defendant's knowledge of the falsity of the omissions and its awareness that consumers reasonably rely on these representations and omissions when deciding to purchase the Products, Defendant



deliberately chose to market the Products with the misleading omissions. This decision led consumers to buy or overpay for the Products, believing they possessed attributes that Defendant falsely advertised. Therefore, at all relevant times, Defendant knew that the omissions would mislead reasonable consumers, such as Plaintiff, into purchasing the Products to obtain the product attributes that Defendant deceptively portrayed.

**Defendant Had a Duty to Disclose.**

60. Defendant had an obligation, at all relevant times, to disclose the material omissions—that the Products leach harmful microplastics into milk or formula during ordinary use. This crucial information, which Defendant deliberately withheld from consumers, is material to their purchasing decisions and has far-reaching consequences for the health and well-being of infants and young children. Defendant knew that reasonable consumers would perceive the Products and the absence of the material omissions to mean that the Products were free from harmful plastics. It was also known that this attribute was a key factor influencing consumers' choices, causing them to rely on the absence of material omission when deciding to purchase the Products.

61. Consumers lack the meaningful ability to test or independently ascertain or verify whether a product contains harmful microplastics, especially at the point of sale. Discovering this information requires a scientific investigation and

knowledge of chemistry beyond the average consumer's.

62. Plaintiff and similarly situated consumers would not have purchased the Products or would not have overpaid a price premium for them if they had known that the Products posed a safety risk and, therefore, that the Products do not have the attributes claimed, promised, advertised, and/or represented. Accordingly, based on Defendant's material omissions, reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, purchased the Products to their detriment.

**Defendant's Knowledge, Representations, Omissions, and Concealment of Material Facts Deceived Plaintiff and Reasonable Consumers – This Conduct is False and Deceptive.**

63. To drive up sales in the competitive baby products market and expand its market share, Defendant knowingly omits the material fact that the Products contain or risk containing harmful microplastics when heated up and used normally.

64. Thus, reasonable consumers who are shopping for products free of BPA purchase Defendant's Products based on the above Representations and material omissions made by Defendant at the point of sale. But for Defendant's false and misleading labeling Representations, these customers would not have purchased Defendant's Products or would not have paid as much as they did.

65. Additionally, a large cross-section of customers, particularly those in the "clean labeling" movements, will not consider purchasing products that contain or risk containing BPA. These customers chose to purchase Defendant's Products

based on the false belief that they did not have harmful microplastics and were safe to use as intended. But for Defendant's false and misleading labeling statements, these customers would not have purchased the Products or would have paid less.

66. Defendant, a large, sophisticated nationwide company that manufactures, distributes, and sells consumer products, including baby products, knew or should have known that the products contained harmful microplastics.

67. Defendant sold, and continues to sell, the Products containing harmful microplastics during the relevant class period despite Defendant's knowledge of the presence of harmful microplastics when the Products are heated during normal use.

68. Defendant has engaged in deceptive, untrue, and misleading advertising by making the labeling Representations discussed above. Defendant's conduct is also deceptive because Defendant omits the material fact that the Products contain harmful microplastics. Defendant's conduct is also unfair for all of the reasons discussed above.

69. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Products or paid as much for them had they been truthfully and accurately labeled.

70. Had Defendant adequately tested the Products, it would have been discovered that the Products contained harmful or risked harmful microplastics when heated during normal use, making the Products containing the false Representations illegal to distribute, market, and sell.

71. Defendant's concealment was material and intentional because people are concerned with what is in the products they and their children use to put in their mouths. Consumers such as Plaintiff and the Class members make purchasing decisions based on the Representations made on the Products' labeling.

72. Defendant knows that if it had not made the material omissions and Representations, then Plaintiff and the Class members would not have purchased the Products or would not have paid as much as they did.

**Injuries to Plaintiff and the Class Members – and the Public at Large.**

73. When Plaintiff purchased Defendant's Products, Plaintiff did not know and had no reason to know that Defendant's Products contained harmful microplastics.

74. Indeed, consumers cannot test or independently ascertain or verify whether a product contains harmful microplastics, especially when heated, at the point of sale. Therefore, they must trust and rely on Defendant to truthfully and honestly report what the Products contain on their packaging and labeling.

75. Further, given Defendant's position as a nationwide leader in the consumer products and baby products industry, Plaintiff and all reasonable consumers trusted and relied on Defendant's Representations and omissions regarding the Products.

76. However, when consumers look at the Products' packaging, there is no

mention of microplastics. On the contrary, the Products say they are “BPA Free.”

77. No reasonable consumer, including Plaintiff, would have paid as much for Defendant’s Products containing the Representations had they known those Products contained any amount of harmful or potentially harmful microplastics, let alone at the limits found in Defendant’s Products – making such omitted facts material to them.

78. Defendant’s false, misleading, and deceptive Representations and omissions made on the labeling of the Products are likely to continue to deceive and mislead reasonable consumers and the public, as they have already deceived and misled Plaintiff and the Class members.

79. Plaintiff and the Class members seek statutory and punitive damages, equitable relief, attorneys’ fees and costs, and any further relief this Court deems just and proper.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

80. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others, brings this class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

81. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class defined as:

All persons who purchased the Products in the United States for personal or household use during the fullest period provided by law (“Nationwide Class”).

82. Plaintiff also seeks to represent a subclass defined as:

All persons who purchased the Products in California for personal or household use during the fullest period provided by law (“California Subclass”).

83. Together, the Nationwide Class and the California Subclass are the “Class.”

84. Excluded from the Class and the California Subclass are: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action and any members of their families; (2) Defendant, Defendant’s subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entities in which Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and their current or former employees, officers, and directors; (3) individuals who allege personal bodily injury resulting from the use of the Products; and (4) resellers of the Products.

85. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify, change, or expand the definitions of the Class based upon discovery and further investigation.

86. *Numerosity*: The Class is so numerous that the joinder of all members is impracticable. The Class likely contains thousands of members based on publicly available data. The Class is ascertainable by records in Defendant’s possession.

87. *Commonality*: Questions of law or fact common to the Class include, without limitation:

- a. Whether the Products contain microplastics;
- b. Whether a reasonable consumer would consider the presence of harmful microplastics in the Products (and omission thereof) to

be material;

- c. Whether Defendant knew or should have known that the Products contain harmful microplastics;
- d. Whether Defendant's Representations and/or omissions are false or misleading;
- e. Whether Defendant failed to disclose that the Products contain harmful microplastics;
- f. Whether Defendant concealed that the Products contain microplastics;
- g. Whether Defendant engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices;
- h. Whether Defendant violated the state consumer protection statutes alleged herein;
- i. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched; and
- j. Whether Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to monetary damages, injunctive relief, or other damages prescribed by the Court.

88. *Typicality*: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. Plaintiff and the Class members were injured and suffered damages in the same manner, have the same claims against Defendant relating to the same course

of conduct, and seek relief under the same legal theories.

89. *Adequacy*: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in prosecuting complex class actions, including actions with issues, claims, and defenses similar to the present case. Counsel intend to prosecute this action vigorously.

90. *Predominance and superiority*: Questions of law or fact common to the Class members predominate over any questions affecting individual members. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this case because individual joinder of all Class members is impracticable, and the amount at issue for each Class member would not justify the cost of litigating individual claims. Should individual Class members be required to bring separate actions, this Court would be confronted with multiple lawsuits burdening the court system while also creating the risk of inconsistent rulings and contradictory judgments. In contrast to proceeding on a case-by-case basis, in which inconsistent results will magnify the delay and expense to all parties and the court system, this class action presents far fewer management difficulties while providing unitary adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties likely to be encountered in managing this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.



91. *Rule 23(b)(2)*: Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the Class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the Class as a whole.

92. Accordingly, this class action may be maintained under Rule 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3).

## **CAUSES OF ACTION**

### **COUNT I**

#### **Unjust Enrichment**

#### **(On behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class and/or the California Subclass)**

93. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

94. Plaintiff brings this Count for unjust enrichment individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class and/or the California Subclass against Defendant.

95. This claim is brought under the laws of the State of Georgia.

96. Defendant's conduct violated, *inter alia*, state and federal law by manufacturing, advertising, labeling, marketing, distributing, and selling the Products while misrepresenting and omitting material facts, including by making the labeling Representations alleged herein.

97. Defendant's unlawful conduct allowed Defendant to knowingly realize substantial revenues from selling the Products at the expense of, and to the detriment or impoverishment of, Plaintiff and the Class members and to Defendant's benefit

and enrichment. Defendant has violated fundamental principles of justice, equity, and good conscience.

98. Plaintiff and the Class members conferred significant financial benefits and paid substantial compensation to Defendant for the Products, which were not as Defendant represented them to be.

99. Defendant knowingly received and enjoyed the benefits conferred by Plaintiff and the Class members.

100. It is inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefits conferred by Plaintiff and the Class members' overpayments.

101. Plaintiff and the Class members seek to establish a constructive trust from which Plaintiff and the Class members may seek restitution.

**COUNT TWO**  
**Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law**  
**(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*)**  
**(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass)**

102. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

103. This claim is brought pursuant to California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.* ("UCL"), on behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass.

104. The UCL prohibits unfair competition and provides, in pertinent part, that "unfair competition shall mean and include unlawful, unfair or fraudulent

business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising.” Cal. Bus & Prof. Code § 17200.

105. Defendant’s conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices pursuant to the UCL.

106. All of the conduct alleged herein occurred and continues to occur in Defendant’s business. Defendant’s wrongful conduct is part of a pattern, practice, and/or generalized course of conduct, which will continue daily until Defendant voluntarily alters its conduct or is otherwise ordered to do so.

107. Defendant had reasonably available alternatives to further its legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products with the Representations and material omissions. Defendant failed to avail itself of reasonably available, lawful alternatives to further its legitimate business interests.

108. “*Fraudulent*” Prong: The UCL considers conduct fraudulent (and prohibits said conduct) if it is likely to deceive members of the public. *Bank of the West v. Superior Court*, 2 Cal. 4th 1254, 1267 (1992).

109. Defendant, in its advertising and packaging of the Products, made misleading Representations and fraudulent material omissions regarding the quality and characteristics of the Products, even though the Products are not safe because they leach microplastics when used as intended. Such Representations and omissions

appear on the label and packaging of the Products, which are sold at retail stores and point-of-purchase displays, as well as Defendant's official website and other retailers' advertisements that have adopted Defendant's advertisements.

110. Defendant has no reasonable basis for the Representations and omissions about the Products made in Defendant's advertising and on Defendant's packaging or labeling because the Products are unsafe for infants and young children. Defendant knew and knows that the Products are not free from plastic exposure because they leach microplastics into the milk or formula during ordinary use. However, Defendant intentionally advertised and marketed the Products to deceive reasonable consumers into believing that the Products are safe.

111. Defendant's labeling and advertising of the Products led to, and continue to lead to, reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, believing that the Products are a safe feeding solution for their children.

112. Defendant used the Representations and material omissions with the intent to sell the Products to consumers, including Plaintiff and the California Subclass. The Representations and material omissions are deceptive, and Defendant knew, or should have known, of their deception. The Representations and omissions are likely to mislead consumers into purchasing the Products because they are material to the average, ordinary, and reasonable consumer.

113. Plaintiff and the California Subclass reasonably and detrimentally

relied on the Representations and the material omissions in purchasing the Products.

114. Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid for Products that were safe from plastic exposure, when, in fact, the Products leach harmful microplastics into the milk or formula. Plaintiff and the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products if they had known the truth.

115. Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact and have lost money or property as a result of and in reliance upon the Representations and material omissions—namely, Plaintiff and the California Subclass lost the purchase price for the Products they bought from Defendant, or alternatively the price premium they paid on account of the Representations and omissions.

116. Defendant's use of various forms of advertising media to advertise, call attention to, or give publicity to the sale of goods or merchandise that are not as represented in any manner constitutes unfair competition, unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising, and an unlawful business practice within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 and 17531, which advertisements have deceived and are likely to deceive the consuming public, in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200.

117. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practice of

labeling and advertising the sale and use of the Products. Likewise, Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass seek an order requiring Defendant to disclose such misrepresentations and to preclude Defendant's failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations.

118. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misconduct in violation of the UCL, Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass were harmed in the amount of the purchase price they paid for the Products, or alternatively in the amount of the price premium they paid on account of the Representations and material omissions at issue.

119. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for violation of the UCL in damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the California Subclass for said monies, as well as injunctive relief to enjoin Defendant's misconduct to prevent ongoing and future harm that will result.

120. "*Unfair*" Prong: Under the UCL, a challenged activity is "unfair" when "any injury it causes outweighs any benefits provided to consumers and the injury is one that the consumers themselves could not reasonably avoid." *Camacho v. Auto Club of Southern California*, 142 Cal. App. 4th 1394, 1403 (2006).

121. Defendant's action of mislabeling the Products with the deceptive Representations and material omissions does not confer any benefit to consumers; rather, doing so causes injuries to consumers, who do not receive products

commensurate with their reasonable expectations, overpay for the Products, receive Products of lesser standards than what they reasonably expected to receive, and are exposed to increased health risks. Consumers cannot avoid any injuries caused by Defendant's deceptive labeling and advertising of the Products. Accordingly, the injuries caused by Defendant's deceptive labeling and advertising outweigh any benefits.

122. Some courts conduct a balancing test to decide if a challenged activity amounts to unfair conduct under California Business and Professions Code section 17200. They "weigh the utility of the defendant's conduct against the gravity of the harm to the alleged victim." *Davis v. HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.*, 691 F.3d 1152, 1169 (9th Cir. 2012).

123. Here, Defendant's conduct of labeling the Products with the Representations and material omissions when the Products leach microplastics into milk or formula during ordinary use has no utility and financially harms purchasers. Thus, the utility of Defendant's conduct is vastly outweighed by the gravity of the harm.

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

125. Defendant’s labeling and advertising of the Products, as alleged herein, is deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitutes unfair conduct. Defendant knew or should have known of its unfair conduct. Defendant’s deceptive Representations and material omissions constitute an unfair business practice within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code section 17200.

126. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff and the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practices of labeling the Products with the Representations and material omissions.

127. Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact, have lost money and were exposed to increased health risks as a result of Defendant’s unfair conduct. Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid an unwarranted premium for the Products on account of Defendant’s unfair practices.

128. Specifically, Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid for Products that are free from harmful plastic exposure. Plaintiff and the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid substantially less for the Products, if they had known that the Products’ advertising and labeling were unfair.

129. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant to the UCL.

130. “*Unlawful*” Prong: The UCL identifies violations of other laws as



“unlawful practices that the unfair competition law makes independently actionable.” *Velazquez v. GMAC Mortg. Corp.*, 605 F. Supp. 2d 1049, 1068 (C.D. Cal. 2008).

131. Defendant’s packaging, labeling, and advertising of the Products, as alleged herein, are deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitute unlawful conduct. Defendant has violated at least the following laws:

- a. Defendant’s labeling of the Products, as alleged herein, violates California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act and California’s False Advertising Law, as set forth below in the sections regarding those causes of action.
- b. Additionally, Defendant’s use of the deceptive Representations and material omissions to sell the Products violates California Civil Code sections 1572 (actual fraud), 1573 (constructive fraud), 1709-1710 (fraudulent deceit), and 1711 (deceit upon the public).

132. Defendant knew or should have known of its unlawful conduct.

133. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17203, Plaintiff and the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practice of deceptive advertising of the Products.

134. Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct. Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid an unwarranted premium for the Products on account of Defendant's unlawful practices. Plaintiff and the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid less for the Products, if they had known of Defendant's unlawful conduct.

135. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant to the UCL.

**COUNT THREE**  
**Violation of California's False Advertising Law**  
**(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 *et seq.*)**  
**(On Behalf of the California Subclass)**

136. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

137. Plaintiff brings this claim for violation of California's False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 *et seq.* ("FAL"), against Defendant individually and on behalf of the California Subclass.

138. The FAL prohibits "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising."

139. Defendant violated section 17500 when it advertised and marketed the Products through the unfair, deceptive, and misleading Representations and omissions disseminated to the public through the Products' labeling, packaging, and

advertising. The Representations and material omissions were deceptive because the Products do not conform to them. The Representations and material omissions were material because they are likely to and did mislead reasonable consumers into purchasing the Products.

140. In making and disseminating the Representations and material omissions alleged herein, Defendant knew or should have known that the Representations and material omissions were untrue or misleading, and acted in violation of section 17500.

141. Defendant's Representations and material omissions were specifically designed to induce reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff and the California Subclass, to purchase the Products.

142. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misconduct in violation of the FAL, Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass were harmed in the amount of the purchase price they paid for the Products, or alternatively in the amount of the price premium they paid on account of the deceptive Representations and omissions at issue.

143. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for violation of the FAL in damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the California Subclass for said monies.

144. Plaintiff and the California Subclass also seek an order of this Court

enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practice of deceptive advertising of the Products.

**COUNT FOUR**

**Violation of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act  
(Cal. Civ. Code § 1750 *et seq.*)  
(On Behalf of the California Subclass)  
(Injunctive Relief Only)**

145. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

146. Plaintiff brings this claim for violation of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750 *et seq.* (“CLRA”), against Defendant individually and on behalf of the California Subclass.

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

148. The Products are “goods,” as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code section 1761(a).

149. Defendant is a “person,” as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code section 1761(c).

150. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass are “consumers,” as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code section 1761(d).

151. The purchase of the Products by Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass are “transactions” as defined by the CLRA under California Civil Code section 1761(e).

152. Defendant violated the following sections of the CLRA by selling the Products to Plaintiff and the California Subclass through the misleading, deceptive, and fraudulent material omissions:

- a. Section 1770(a)(5), by representing that the Products have “characteristics, . . . uses [or] benefits . . . which [they] do not have.”
- b. Section 1770(a)(7), by representing that the Products “are of a particular standard, quality, or grade . . . [when] they are of another.”
- c. Section 1770(a)(9), by advertising the Products “with [the] intent not to sell them as advertised.”
- d. Section 1770(a)(16), by representing that the Products have been supplied in accordance with the Representations and omissions, even though they have not.

153. Defendant’s uniform and material Representations and omissions regarding the safety risks and danger of the Products were likely to deceive reasonable consumers, and Defendant knew or should have known that its omissions

and misrepresentations were misleading.

154. Defendant's conduct is malicious, fraudulent, and wanton in that Defendant intentionally misled and withheld material information from consumers, including Plaintiff and the California Subclass, to increase the sale of the Products.

155. Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass could not have reasonably avoided such injury. Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass were misled and unaware of the existence of facts that Defendant suppressed and failed to disclose, and Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products and/or would have purchased them on different terms (including at a lower price) had they known the truth.

156. Plaintiff and the California Subclass suffered harm as a result of Defendant's violations of the CLRA because they relied on Defendant's Representations and material omissions when deciding to purchase the Products. The Representations and omissions were material because a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to purchase the Products.

157. Soon after the filing of this lawsuit, Plaintiff's counsel will send a pre-suit demand letter pursuant to the CLRA demanding that Defendant correct and resolve its widespread practices. If Defendant does not adequately address the relief requested in Plaintiff's CLRA notice letter within 30 days of the letter as required under the CLRA, Plaintiff shall (or with leave of Court shall) amend her Complaint

to allege monetary damages under the CLRA.

158. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass seek injunctive relief to put an end to Defendant's violations of the CLRA and to dispel the public misperception generated, facilitated, and fostered by Defendant's false advertising campaign.

159. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Without equitable relief, Defendant's unfair and deceptive practices will continue to harm Plaintiff and the California Subclass. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks an injunction to enjoin Defendant from continuing to employ the unlawful methods, acts, and practices alleged herein pursuant to section 1780(a)(2), and otherwise require Defendant to take corrective action necessary to dispel the public misperception engendered, fostered, and facilitated through Defendant's deceptive labeling of the Products with the Representations and material omissions.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, prays for relief and judgment against Defendant as follows:

- a. Certifying the Class pursuant to Rule 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Class and California Subclass, and designating Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;

- b. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members compensatory, statutory, or other monetary damages, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members appropriate relief, including but not limited to actual damages (except under the CLRA, which is limited to injunctive relief);
- d. For restitution and disgorgement of profits;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as allowable by law, except under the CLRA;
- f. Awarding pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- g. For injunctive relief; and
- h. Granting any other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.



**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all claims so triable.

Date: July 8, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

**REESE LLP**

By: /s/ George V. Granade

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed  
Class*

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS44 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 is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)**

TINAMARIE BARRALES, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

**DEFENDANT(S)**

NEWELL BRANDS INC.

**(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF** Los Angeles County, CA  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

**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

**(c) ATTORNEYS** (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS)

Reese LLP, 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515, Los Angeles, California 90211, Telephone: (310) 393-0070, ggranade@reesellp.com

**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)  
(FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)

- | PLF                                   | DEF                        |   | PLF                        | DEF                                   |   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | CITIZEN OF THIS STATE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 | INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE                | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5            | INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            | FOREIGN NATION  |

**IV. 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 District)
- 6 MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION - TRANSFER
- 7 APPEAL TO DISTRICT JUDGE FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE JUDGMENT
- 8 MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION - DIRECT FILE

**V. CAUSE OF ACTION** (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE - DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)  
Deceptive marketing of "Nuk" branded baby bottles

**(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)**

- 1. Unusually large number of parties.
- 2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.
- 3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex.
- 4. Greater than normal volume of evidence.
- 5. Extended discovery period is needed.
- 6. Problems locating or preserving evidence.
- 7. Pending parallel investigations or actions by government.
- 8. Multiple use of experts.
- 9. Need for discovery outside United States boundaries.
- 10. Existence of highly technical issues and proof.

**CONTINUED ON REVERSE**

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE (IFP) \_\_\_\_\_  
 JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ (Referral) NATURE OF SUIT \_\_\_\_\_ CAUSE OF ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. NATURE OF SUIT** (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT
- 152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (Excl. Veterans)
- 153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS

CONTRACT - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 110 INSURANCE
- 120 MARINE
- 130 MILLER ACT
- 140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT
- 151 MEDICARE ACT
- 160 STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS
- 190 OTHER CONTRACT
- 195 CONTRACT PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 196 FRANCHISE

REAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 210 LAND CONDEMNATION
- 220 FORECLOSURE
- 230 RENT LEASE & EJECTMENT
- 240 TORTS TO LAND
- 245 TORT PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 290 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY

TORTS - PERSONAL INJURY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 310 AIRPLANE
- 315 AIRPLANE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER
- 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY
- 340 MARINE
- 345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 350 MOTOR VEHICLE
- 355 MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY
- 362 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- 365 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 367 PERSONAL INJURY - HEALTH CARE/ PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY

TORTS - PERSONAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 370 OTHER FRAUD
- 371 TRUTH IN LENDING
- 380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE
- 385 PROPERTY DAMAGE PRODUCT LIABILITY

BANKRUPTCY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 422 APPEAL 28 USC 158
- 423 WITHDRAWAL 28 USC 157

CIVIL RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS
- 441 VOTING
- 442 EMPLOYMENT
- 443 HOUSING/ ACCOMMODATIONS
- 445 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Employment
- 446 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Other
- 448 EDUCATION

IMMIGRATION - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION
- 465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS

PRISONER PETITIONS - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 463 HABEAS CORPUS- Alien Detainee
- 510 MOTIONS TO VACATE SENTENCE
- 530 HABEAS CORPUS
- 535 HABEAS CORPUS DEATH PENALTY
- 540 MANDAMUS & OTHER
- 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed Pro se
- 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed Pro se
- 560 CIVIL DETAINEE: CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

PRISONER PETITIONS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed by Counsel
- 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed by Counsel

FORFEITURE/PENALTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 625 DRUG RELATED SEIZURE OF PROPERTY 21 USC 881
- 690 OTHER

LABOR - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 710 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT
- 720 LABOR/MGMT. RELATIONS
- 740 RAILWAY LABOR ACT
- 751 FAMILY and MEDICAL LEAVE ACT
- 790 OTHER LABOR LITIGATION
- 791 EMPL. RET. INC. SECURITY ACT

PROPERTY RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 820 COPYRIGHTS
- 840 TRADEMARK
- 880 DEFEND TRADE SECRETS ACT OF 2016 (DTSA)

PROPERTY RIGHTS - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 830 PATENT
- 835 PATENT-ABBREVIATED NEW DRUG APPLICATIONS (ANDA) - a/k/a Hatch-Waxman cases

SOCIAL SECURITY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 861 HIA (1395f)
- 862 BLACK LUNG (923)
- 863 DIWC (405(g))
- 863 DIWW (405(g))
- 864 SSID TITLE XVI
- 865 RSI (405(g))

FEDERAL TAX SUITS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 870 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
- 871 IRS - THIRD PARTY 26 USC 7609

OTHER STATUTES - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 375 FALSE CLAIMS ACT
- 376 Qui Tam 31 USC 3729(a)
- 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT
- 430 BANKS AND BANKING
- 450 COMMERCE/ICC RATES/ETC.
- 460 DEPORTATION
- 470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS
- 480 CONSUMER CREDIT
- 485 TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT
- 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV
- 890 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS
- 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS
- 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
- 895 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 899
- 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT / REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISION
- 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES

OTHER STATUTES - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 410 ANTITRUST
- 850 SECURITIES / COMMODITIES / EXCHANGE

OTHER STATUTES - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 896 ARBITRATION (Confirm / Vacate / Order / Modify)

**\* PLEASE NOTE DISCOVERY TRACK FOR EACH CASE TYPE. SEE LOCAL RULE 26.3**

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND \$ 5,000,000.00

JURY DEMAND  YES  NO (CHECK YES ONLY IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)

**VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY**

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CIVIL CASES ARE DEEMED RELATED IF THE PENDING CASE INVOLVES: (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)

- 1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 3. VALIDITY OR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 4. APPEALS ARISING OUT OF THE SAME BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.
- 5. REPETITIVE CASES FILED BY PRO SE LITIGANTS.
- 6. COMPANION OR RELATED CASE TO CASE(S) BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY FILED (INCLUDE ABBREVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):

7. EITHER SAME OR ALL OF THE PARTIES AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, WHICH WAS DISMISSED. This case  IS  IS NOT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.

  
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

July 8, 2024

DATE