

1 **SCHONBRUN SEPLOW HARRIS**
HOFFMAN & ZELDES, LLP
2 HELEN I. ZELDES (SBN 220051)
hzeldes@sshzlaw.com
3 AMY JOHNSGARD (279795)
ajohnsgard@sshzlaw.com
4 AYA DARDARI (SBN 344039)
adardari@sshzlaw.com
5 501 W. Broadway, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
6 Tel: (619) 400-4990
Fax: (310) 399-7040

7 **SCHONBRUN SEPLOW HARRIS**
HOFFMAN & ZELDES, LLP
8 JOSHUA A. FIELDS (SBN 242928)
jfields@sshzlaw.com
9 9415 Culver Blvd., #115
10 Culver City, CA 90232-2616
Tel: (619) 400-4990
11 Fax: (310) 399-7040

12 *Counsel for Plaintiff Mark Blosser and the Proposed Class.*

13
14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
15 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
16

17 **MARK BLOSSER**, *individually and*
18 *on behalf of all others similarly*
19 *situated,*

20 Plaintiff,

21 v.

22 P.K. Kinder Co., Inc.; and DOES 1-10,

23 Defendants.
24
25
26
27
28

Civil Case No.: 4:24-cv-6054

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
FOR DAMAGES AND PUBLIC
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Mark Blosser (“Plaintiff” or “Blosser”), individually and on behalf
2 of all others similarly situated, by and through his counsel, brings the following
3 Complaint against Defendant P.K. Kinder Co., Inc. (“Defendant” or “Kinder’s”) and
4 DOES 1-10.

5 **I. NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6 1. Kinder’s misleadingly labels and advertises its “No Salt” seasoning
7 products, including, but not limited to, its No Salt Garlic & Herb Seasoning, No Salt
8 Blackened Seasoning, and No Salt The Taco Blend (the “Products”), as having “No
9 Salt,” when, in reality, one of their main ingredients is potassium chloride, a salt.
10 See Figures 1-3, *infra*.

11 **Figure 1 – Kinder’s No Salt Garlic & Herb Seasoning**



1 **Figure 2 – Kinder’s No Salt Blackened Seasoning**



15 **Figure 3 – Kinder’s No Salt The Taco Blend**



1 2. Kinder’s engages in unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices
2 by expressly representing on its Product labels that the Products have “No Salt,”
3 which misleads consumers.

4 3. The average consumer spends about 13 seconds when making an in-
5 store purchasing decision.¹ That decision is heavily based upon the product’s front
6 label. The false “No Salt” representation is placed conspicuously, in big, bright all-
7 white capital letters against a dark background, in the center of the Products’ front
8 labels. Based on their front label, reasonable consumers believe that the Products
9 contain no salt.

10 4. In reality, the Products contain an unequivocal salt, potassium chloride.

11 5. Consumers rely on Defendant’s labeling and advertising of the
12 Products as containing “No Salt” to be truthful. Kinder’s knows that consumers are
13 willing to pay more for food products that are labeled as containing “No Salt”, and
14 Kinder’s advertises the Products with the intention that consumers rely on the
15 representation made on the front of the Products’ packaging that the Products have
16 “No Salt.”

17 6. By deceptively marketing the Products as having “No Salt,” Kinder’s
18 wrongfully capitalizes on and reaps enormous profits from consumers’ preference
19 for food products that are perceived to contain “No Salt”.

20 7. Defendant’s false and misleading labeling and advertising of the
21 Products (i) violates California’s Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the
22 Unfair Competition Law or “UCL”); (ii) violates California’s Business and
23 Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* (the False Advertising Law or “FAL”); (iii)
24 violates California Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq.* (the Consumers Legal Remedies Act

25 _____
26 ¹ Randall Beard, *Make the Most of Your Brand’s 20-Second Window*, Nielsen (Jan.
27 [https://www.nielsen.com/insights/2015/make-the-most-of-your-brands-20-
28 second-window/](https://www.nielsen.com/insights/2015/make-the-most-of-your-brands-20-second-window/) (last visited August 6, 2024).

1 or “CLRA”); (iv) constitutes breach of the implied warranty of merchantability; and
2 (v) constitutes unjust enrichment.

3 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action
5 Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C § 1332(d), as Plaintiff (Arizona) and Kinder’s (California)
6 are diverse, there are over 100 class members, and the amount in controversy
7 exceeds \$5 million.

8 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Kinder’s because Kinder’s is
9 a corporation or other business entity authorized to conduct and does conduct
10 business in the State of California. Kinder’s conducts sufficient business with
11 sufficient minimum contacts in California, and/or otherwise intentionally avails
12 itself of the California market through its promotion, sales, distribution, and
13 marketing within this State to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court
14 permissible.

15 10. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2) because
16 Kinder’s resides and transacts substantial business in this District, a substantial part
17 of the events giving rise to the claims arose here, Kinder’s caused harm to Class
18 members residing within this District, and Kinder’s received substantial
19 compensation from such business activity in this District.

20 **III. PARTIES**

21 11. Plaintiff Mark Blosser is and, at all times mentioned herein, was a
22 natural person who is a citizen of the United States and who is domiciled in Arizona.
23 On or about March 16, 2022, he purchased Defendant’s No Salt Garlic & Herb
24 Seasoning at Sam’s Club for \$5.98. In making his purchase, Blosser relied upon the
25 “No Salt” claim made on the front label of the Product, which was prepared and
26 approved by Kinder’s and its agents and disseminated statewide and nationwide and
27 which was designed to induce consumers to purchase the Products. Had Blosser
28 known that Defendant’s “No Salt” representation was false or misleading, he would

1 not have purchased the Product at all or would have paid substantially less for the
2 Product. Blosser has lost money and has been damaged as a result.

3 12. Blosser would like to buy Defendant's products in the future, if and
4 when they are sold without a false "No Salt" claim. He can no longer rely on the
5 accuracy of the "No Salt" label in deciding whether to purchase Defendant's No Salt
6 seasoning products.

7 13. Defendant P.K. Kinder Co., Inc. is a California corporation with its
8 principal place of business located at 2121 N. California Blvd, Suite 410, Walnut
9 Creek, CA 94596. Defendant advertises, markets, and operates in the State of
10 California and throughout the United States.

11 14. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the persons or
12 entities sued herein as DOES 1-10, inclusive, and therefore sues such defendants by
13 such fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and upon such information
14 and belief alleges, that each of the DOE Defendants is in some manner legally
15 responsible for the damages suffered by Plaintiff as alleged herein. Plaintiff will
16 amend this Complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants
17 when they have been ascertained, along with appropriate charging allegations, as
18 may be necessary.

19 IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

20 **The Products Contain the Salt, Potassium Chloride**

21 15. Kinder's advertises and displays on the front of the Products that they
22 contain "No Salt," thereby misleading reasonable consumers, like Blosser, to believe
23 that the Products do not contain any salt. However, the Products contain a well-
24 known and well-documented salt, potassium chloride.

25 16. A salt is defined as "an ionic chemical compound formed by replacing
26 all or part of the hydrogen ions of an acid with metal ions or other cations."² Both

27 _____
28 ² The American Heritage Dictionary,
<https://www.ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=salt> (last visited Aug. 7, 2024).

1 potassium chloride and sodium chloride, along with other potassium- and sodium-
2 containing ingredients (*e.g.*, potassium citrate, sodium lactate), are salts.³ Potassium
3 chloride is therefore a type of salt, although the common name for this ingredient in
4 the context of food is “potassium chloride” while the common name for sodium
5 chloride is “salt.”⁴ *See also* 21 CFR § 101.22(h)(4) (“[a]ny salt (sodium chloride)
6 used as an ingredient in food shall be declared by its common or usual name ‘salt’”).

7 17. Although “salt” typically refers to sodium chloride in the context of
8 food, in December 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) issued
9 guidance to advise food manufacturers of its intent to exercise enforcement
10 discretion for declaration of the name “potassium salt” in the ingredient statement
11 on food labels as an alternative to “potassium chloride.”⁵ Recognizing that excess
12 sodium intake increases health risks, the FDA noted that food manufacturers wishing
13 to reduce sodium chloride in their products sometimes use substitutes, such as
14 potassium chloride, and that sodium chloride and potassium chloride have similar
15 tastes and functions.⁶ The FDA has taken the position that the alternate name
16 “potassium salt” may help consumers understand the use of potassium chloride as a
17 salt substitute and that “[t]he term ‘salt’ conveys that *the ingredient is a salt, similar*
18 *to sodium chloride*[.]”⁷

19 18. Moreover, the FDA regulates nutrient content claims for the sodium
20 content of foods. *See* 21 CFR § 101.61. Importantly, 21 CFR § 101.61(c) provides
21 that “[t]he term ‘salt’ is not synonymous with ‘sodium’” and that while salt refers
22 to sodium chloride, “**references to salt content such as...‘no salt’...are**
23 **potentially misleading.**” 21 CFR § 101.61(c) (emphases added). Thus, although

24 _____
25 ³ Food and Drug Administration, *The Use of an Alternate Name for Potassium*
Chloride in Food Labeling: Guidance for Industry, p. 4 (Dec. 2020),
<https://www.fda.gov/media/125081/download>.

26 ⁴ *Id.*

27 ⁵ *Id.*, p. 3.

28 ⁶ *Id.*, p. 4.

⁷ *Id.*, p. 5 (emphasis added).

1 Defendant’s representation that its Products contain “No Salt” may be literally true
2 in the sense that they do not contain sodium chloride, the “No Salt” representation
3 is misleading to reasonable consumers because the Products contain potassium
4 chloride, which is unequivocally a salt.

5 **Consumers Seek Food Alternatives With No Salt**

6 19. By representing the Products have “No Salt,” Kinder’s seeks to
7 capitalize on consumers’ preference for products with no salt. The global reduced
8 salt food products market generated a revenue of \$315,567.1 million in 2021 and is
9 expected to reach \$495,080.1 million by 2030.⁸ The United States is projected to
10 lead the global reduced salt food products market in 2030.⁹ American consumers are
11 actively seeking food and beverages that are low in salt, with salt being the second
12 most limited component after sugar.¹⁰ Indeed, combined results from Gallup polls in
13 2014, 2015, and 2018 reveal that 42% of all American adults try to actively avoid
14 salt in their diet.¹¹

15 20. Defendant’s practice of capitalizing on consumers’ preferences for “No
16 Salt” products is deceptive. This deception continues today, as consumers continue
17 to purchase the Products under the mistaken belief that they contain no salt based on
18 Defendant’s false, deceptive, and misleading labeling and advertising of the
19 Products as having “No Salt.”

20 21. Plaintiff Blosser purchased Defendant’s No Salt Garlic & Herb
21 Seasoning from Sam’s Club on or about March 16, 2022. The Product was labeled

22 ⁸ *Global Reduced Salt Food Products Market Size & Outlook*, Grand View
23 Research, [https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/reduced-salt-food-
products-market-size/global](https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/reduced-salt-food-products-market-size/global) (last visited Aug. 6, 2024).

24 ⁹ *Id.*

25 ¹⁰ *Sodium Reduction in US and Canada*, Innova Market Insights (July 15, 2024),
<https://www.innovamarketinsights.com/trends/sodium-reduction/> (last visited Aug.
6, 2024).

26 ¹¹ Jim Norman, *Americans Divided on Leaving Fat, Sugar, Salt Off the Plate*,
27 Gallup (Aug. 10, 2018), [https://news.gallup.com/poll/240635/americans-divided-
leaving-fat-sugar-salt-off-plate.aspx](https://news.gallup.com/poll/240635/americans-divided-leaving-fat-sugar-salt-off-plate.aspx) (last visited Aug. 6, 2024).

1 as having “No Salt” on the front of the Product packaging but contains potassium
2 chloride, a salt.

3 22. Blosser reasonably and detrimentally relied upon the “No Salt” label on
4 the Product. Blosser and putative Class members would not have purchased the
5 Products had they known that the Products contain salt, or would have paid less for
6 the Products.

7 23. The Products are all manufactured by Kinder’s.

8 24. The Products are all sold at grocery and retail stores throughout
9 California and the United States.

10 25. The Products are all manufactured in the same facilities.

11 26. The Products all contain seasoning with varied flavor blends.

12 27. The Products are all packed in cylindrical containers.

13 28. The Products are all labeled and advertised as containing “No Salt.”

14 29. The Products all include the salt, potassium chloride.

15 30. Consumers of the Products have been deceived in the same way.

16 31. Consumers of the Products have been injured in the same way.

17 32. Consumers of the Products have been damaged in the same way.

18 33. Defendant’s conduct threatens consumers by using intentionally
19 deceptive and misleading labels. There is no practical reason for false labeling and
20 advertising of the Products other than to mislead consumers as to the presence of salt
21 in the Products while simultaneously providing Kinder’s with a financial windfall.

22 34. Plaintiff makes the allegations herein upon personal knowledge as to
23 himself and his own acts and experiences, and as to all other matters, upon
24 information and belief, including investigation conducted by his attorneys.

25 **The Deceptive Labeling and Advertising of the Products**

26 35. Kinder’s falsely and deceptively labels the Products with the “No Salt”
27 representation, as depicted in Figures 1-3, *supra*. The Products are sold nationwide
28 at major retailers such as Walmart, Target, and Kroger.

1 36. Because consumers place importance on the salt content of foods,
2 Kinder’s places the misleading “No Salt” representation in a conspicuous location:
3 on each Product’s front label and underneath the Kinder’s brand name. To draw
4 consumers’ attention, the “No Salt” representation is displayed in bright white
5 capital letters against a dark background in the center of the label. The effect or
6 impression on reasonable consumers is that the Products do not contain any salt—
7 because that is what the Products prominently say.

8 37. Contrary to Defendant’s misleading “No Salt” labeling and advertising,
9 and excitement in the market based on it, the Products in fact contain salt. According
10 to the Products’ ingredient list on the back label, they contain the salt, potassium
11 chloride, as depicted and boxed in red in Figures 1-3, *supra*.


12 38. Reasonable consumers do not and are not required to view the back
13 label and ingredient list of a product when purchasing everyday food and beverage
14 items. The Products’ advertising and front labeling indicate to consumers that the
15 Products do not contain any salt because that is what they unequivocally declare
16 front-and-center: “No Salt.” As a result, reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff, believe
17 that the Products do not contain any salt.

18 39. The average consumer lacks the specialized knowledge necessary to
19 identify ingredients listed in the Products’ ingredient list as inconsistent with the
20 “No Salt” representation on the front label.¹² Thus, even if a consumer conducted a
21 detailed review of the Products’ back label and ingredient list, which they are not
22 required to do under the law, nothing would overcome the reasonable impression
23 created by the “No Salt” representation on the front label—that the Products do not
24 contain any salt.


25 40. In the consumer marketplace, Kinder’s therefore gets the benefit of
26 selling Products that purportedly contain “No Salt” at a higher price per unit.

27 _____
28 ¹² See FDA Guidance, *supra* note 3, p. 5 (noting potassium chloride does not appear to be generally known to consumers as a food ingredient).

1 41. Savvy consumers who have discovered Defendant's deceptive labeling
2 scheme have left scathing reviews of the Products on sites such as Amazon and
3 Walmart. For example¹³:

4  Zachary R.
5 ★★★★★ **False advertisement**
6 Reviewed in the United States on May 12, 2024
7 I don't understand how they advertise no salt while containing salt as the first and second ingredient
8 2 people found this helpful
9 |




10 < [See all details for Kinder's No Salt Seasoning 4 Flavor Variety - \(1\) Each: Taco Blend...](#)

11  ★★★★★ **Verified Purchase** ⓘ 1/21/2023

12 **IT'S NOT SALT FREE**

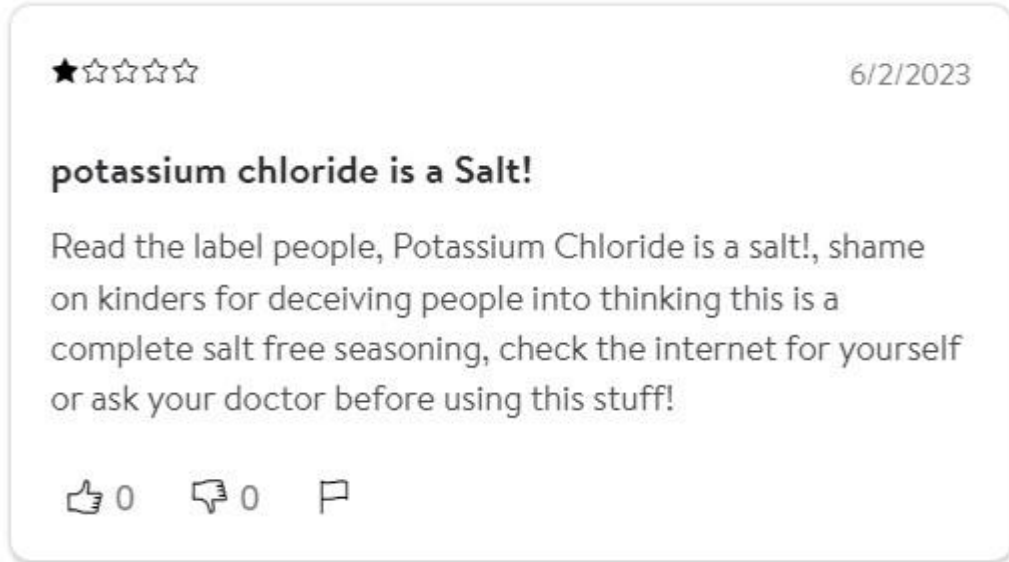
13 You need to be careful when ordering stuff like this. The
14 manufacturer used some extremely misleading information.
15 They claim it's salt free and it truly is; however, that's table
16 salt (Sodium chloride). BUT, it's not really salt free because it
17 has POTASSIUM CHLORIDE which also is a SALT. There's so
18 much potassium chloride in it that I threw it away.
19 Manufactures who employ deceptive marketing techniques
20 are just the worst IMO. If you're like me and I absolutely must
21 have a controlled diet of salt intake, then you need to stay
22 away from this brand.

23 thomas

24  0  0 

25
26 ¹³ See https://www.amazon.com/Kinders-Salt-Seasoning-Flavor-Variety/product-reviews/B0BXYZZQKG/ref=cm_cr_dp_d_show_all_btm?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews (last visited Aug. 7, 2024);
27 <https://www.walmart.com/reviews/product/704962744?page=2> (last visited Aug.
28 7, 2024); <https://www.walmart.com/reviews/product/704962744?page=3> (last
visited Aug. 7, 2024).

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Similar Seasoning Products that Do Not Contain Salt are Accurately Labeled by Competitors

42. Seasoning products that do not contain salt, including potassium chloride, are accurately labeled as “No Salt” in the marketplace. For example, Kirkland Signature Organic No-Salt Seasoning is accurately labeled as having “No Salt” on the front label and does not contain potassium chloride in its ingredient list. Similarly, Tony Chachere’s No Salt Seasoning Blend is labeled as having “No Salt” on the front label and does not include potassium chloride in its ingredient list. Likewise, Kingsford Original No-Salt All-Purpose Seasoning is also labeled as having “No Salt” on the front label and does not contain potassium chloride in its ingredient list. True and correct representations of the comparator products are set forth below. *See Figures 4-6, infra.*

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1 **Figure 4 – Kirkland Signature Organic No-Salt Seasoning¹⁴**



Ingredients: Organic onion, organic garlic, organic carrot, organic black pepper, organic red bell pepper, organic tomato granules, organic orange peel, organic parsley, organic bay leaves, organic thyme, organic basil, organic celery, organic lemon peel, organic oregano, organic savory, organic mustard seed, organic cumin, organic marjoram, organic coriander, organic cayenne pepper, citric acid, and organic rosemary.

27 ¹⁴ See [https://www.costco.com/kirkland-signature-organic-no-salt-seasoning%2C-](https://www.costco.com/kirkland-signature-organic-no-salt-seasoning%2C-14.5-oz.product.100334965.html)
28 [14.5-oz.product.100334965.html](https://www.costco.com/kirkland-signature-organic-no-salt-seasoning%2C-14.5-oz.product.100334965.html) (last visited Aug. 7, 2024).

1 **Figure 5 - Tony Chachere's No Salt Seasoning Blend**¹⁵



17
18
19 **Ingredients**

20 Brown Sugar, Dehydrated Onion, Dehydrated Garlic, Red
21 Pepper, Dehydrated Bell, Pepper, Lemon Powder
22 (Maltodextrin, Lemon Puree, Citric Acid, Sugar and Lemon
23 Juice), Paprika, Basil, Thyme, Oregano, Silicon Dioxide (to
24 Prevent Caking).

25
26
27
28 ¹⁵ See <https://www.kroger.com/p/tony-chachere-s-no-salt-seasoning-blend/0007199806101> (last visited Aug. 7, 2024).

1 **Figure 6 - Kingsford Original No-Salt All-Purpose Seasoning**¹⁶



16 **Ingredients**

17 Dehydrated Vegetables (Garlic , Onion , Parsley) , Citric Acid , Spices Including Pepper and Rice Concentrate (
18 As Anti-Caking Agent) .

19
20 **Seasoning Products that Contain Potassium Chloride are Accurately Labeled**
21 **by Competitors**

22 43. Seasoning products that contain salt, such as potassium chloride, are
23 not unequivocally labeled as having “No Salt” when they do in fact contain salt. For
24 example, the mySALT Salt Substitute Set contains potassium chloride and is not
25 labeled as having “No Salt.” Another example is the Morton Sodium Free Salt

26 _____
27 ¹⁶ See <https://www.kroger.com/p/kingsford-original-no-salt-all-purpose-seasoning/0003384406000> (last visited Aug. 7, 2024).

28

1 Substitute, which includes potassium chloride and is not labeled as having “No Salt.”
2 See Figures 7-8, *infra*.

3 **Figure 7 - mySALT Salt Substitute Set**¹⁷

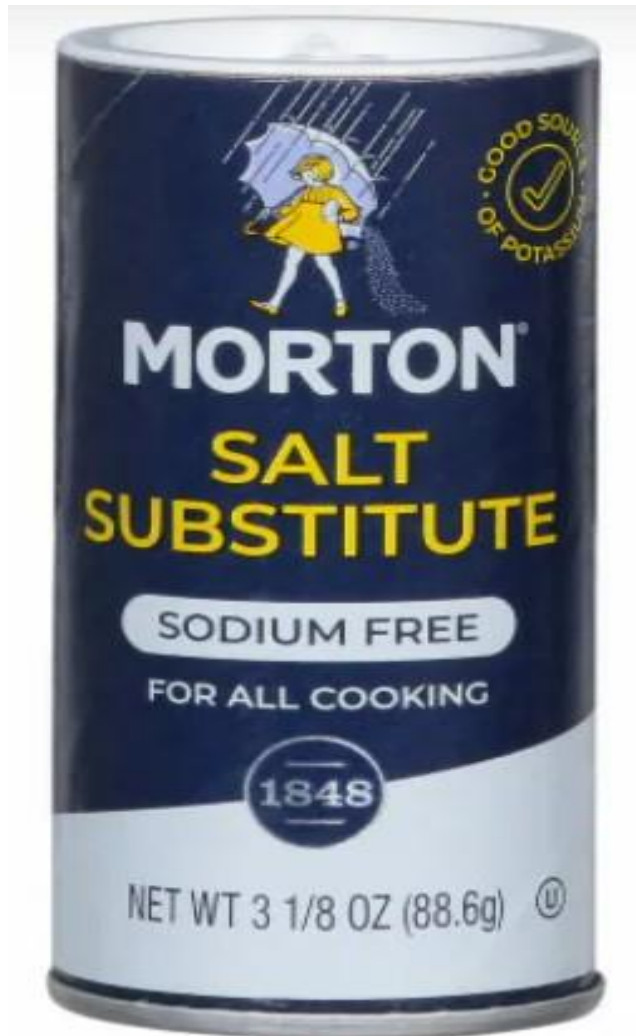


23 **Ingredients**

24 Original: INGREDIENTS: potassium chloride, lysine -- Butter: INGREDIENTS: potassium chloride, lysine, natural flavors ;CONTAINS MILK -- Garlic:
25 INGREDIENTS: potassium chloride, lysine, garlic

26
27 ¹⁷ See <https://www.walmart.com/ip/MySALT-Salt-Substitute-100-Sodium-Free-the-Original-Butter-and-Garlic-Flavored/2536826156?wmlspartner=wlp&selectedSellerId=101559635> (last
28 visited Aug. 7, 2024).

1 *Figure 8 - Morton Sodium Free Salt Substitute*¹⁸



19 **Ingredients**

20
21 Contains: Potassium Chloride, Fumaric Acid, Monocalcium Phosphate and Silicon Dioxide.

22 **NO ADEQUATE REMEDY AT LAW**

23 44. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable relief, as no
24 adequate remedy at law exists.

- 25 a. **Broader Statutes of Limitations.** The statutes of limitations for
26 the causes of action pled herein vary. The limitations period is

27
28 ¹⁸ See <https://www.kroger.com/p/morton-sodium-free-salt-substitute/000246000050> (last visited Aug. 7, 2024).

1 four years for claims brought under the UCL, which is one year
2 longer than the statutes of limitations under the FAL and CLRA.

3 b. **Broad Scope of Conduct.** Additionally, the scope of actionable
4 misconduct under the unfair prong of the UCL is broad. It
5 includes, for example, Defendant’s overall unfair marketing
6 scheme to promote and brand the Products with the “No Salt”
7 representation, including the Products’ labels and packaging,
8 over a long period of time, in order to take advantage of
9 consumers’ desire for products that actually comport with the
10 “No Salt” representation. The UCL also creates a cause of action
11 for violations of law (such as statutory or regulatory
12 requirements). Thus, Plaintiff and Class members may be
13 entitled to restitution under the UCL. Similarly, to state a cause
14 of action for unjust enrichment, a plaintiff need not prove that the
15 defendant engaged in any specific activity, just that it was
16 unjustly enriched at the plaintiff’s expense.

17 c. **Injunctive Relief to Cease Misconduct and Dispel**
18 **Misperception.** Injunctive relief is appropriate on behalf of
19 Plaintiff, Class members, and the general public because
20 Kinder’s continues to fraudulently misrepresent the Products as
21 containing “No Salt.” Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent
22 Kinder’s from continuing to engage in the unfair, fraudulent,
23 and/or unlawful conduct described herein and to prevent future
24 harm—none of which can be achieved through available legal
25 remedies (such as monetary damages to compensate past harm).
26 Further, injunctive relief, in the form of affirmative disclosures
27 is necessary to dispel the public misperception about the
28 Products that has resulted from years of Defendant’s unfair,

1 fraudulent, and unlawful marketing efforts. Such disclosures
2 would include, but are not limited to, publicly disseminated
3 statements that the Products’ “No Salt” representation is not true
4 and providing accurate information about the Products’ true
5 nature and/or requiring prominent qualifications and/or
6 disclaimers on the Products’ front label concerning the Products’
7 true nature. An injunction requiring affirmative disclosures to
8 dispel the public’s misperception and prevent the ongoing
9 deception and repeat purchases based thereon is also not
10 available through a legal remedy, such as monetary damages. In
11 addition, Plaintiff is currently unable to accurately quantify the
12 damages caused by Defendant’s future harm because Plaintiff’s
13 investigation have not yet been completed and discovery has not
14 yet commenced, rendering injunctive relief all the more
15 necessary. For example, because the Court has not yet certified
16 any class, the following remains unknown: the scope of the class,
17 the identities of its members, their respective purchasing
18 practices, prices of past/future Products sales, and quantities of
19 past/future Products sales.

20 d. **Public Injunction.** Further, because a “public injunction” is
21 available under California’s consumer protection and false
22 advertising laws and sought in this case, damages will not
23 adequately “benefit the general public” in a manner equivalent to
24 an injunction.

25 e. **Procedural Posture—Incomplete Discovery and Pre-**
26 **Certification.** Lastly, this is an initial pleading in this action, and
27 discovery has not yet commenced. No class has been certified
28 yet. No expert discovery has commenced and/or been completed.

1 The completion of fact and expert discovery, as well as the
2 certification of this case as a class action, are necessary to finalize
3 and determine the adequacy and availability of all remedies,
4 including legal and equitable, for Plaintiff’s individual claims
5 and any certified class or subclass. Plaintiff therefore reserves the
6 right to amend this complaint and/or assert additional facts that
7 demonstrate this Court’s jurisdiction to order equitable remedies
8 where no adequate legal remedies are available for Plaintiff
9 and/or any certified class or subclass. Such proof, to the extent
10 necessary, will be presented prior to the trial of any equitable
11 claims for relief and/or the entry of an order granting equitable
12 relief.

13 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

14 45. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a), (b)(2), and
15 (b)(3) on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated individuals (the “Class”),
16 defined as follows:

17 All persons who purchased the Products in the United States from a third party
18 retailer (via brick-and-mortar store or website) for personal use and not for
19 resale during the time period of four years prior to the filing of the complaint
through the present (the “Class Period”).

20 46. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, as well as its officers, directors,
21 or employees; officers, directors, or employees of any entity in which Defendant
22 currently has or has had a controlling interest; and Defendant’s legal representatives,
23 heirs, successors, and assigns.

24 47. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand, limit, modify, or amend this class
25 definition, including the addition of one or more subclasses, in connection with his
26 motion for class certification, or at any other time, based upon, among other things,
27 changing circumstances and/or new facts obtained during discovery.
28

1 48. The Class members are so numerous that joinder of all members is
2 impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the proposed Class contains
3 tens of thousands of individuals who have been damaged by Defendant’s conduct as
4 alleged herein. The precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff.

5 49. Each member of the proposed Class herein has been exposed to
6 Defendant’s false and/or misleading labeling and advertising scheme. Each item
7 that each Class Member purchased from Defendant throughout the Class Period has
8 been accompanied by the false, deceptive, and/or misleading “No Salt” advertising
9 described herein.

10 50. Common questions of law and/or fact exist in this case with respect to
11 the proposed Class, which predominate over any questions affecting individual
12 members of the Class. The common questions of law and/or fact include, but are not
13 limited to, the following:

- 14 1. Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair, or deceptive
15 business practices by advertising and selling the Products as alleged
16 herein;
- 17 2. Whether the marketing, advertising, packaging, labeling, and other
18 promotional materials for the Products are deceptive;
- 19 3. Whether Defendant’s conduct of advertising and selling the
20 Products as containing “No Salt” when they contain potassium
21 chloride, a salt, constitutes an unfair method of competition or unfair
22 or deceptive act or practice in violation of Civil Code Section 1750,
23 *et seq.*;
- 24 4. Whether Defendant used deceptive representations in connection
25 with the sale of the Products in violation of Civil Code Section 1750,
26 *et seq.*;

- 1 5. Whether Defendant represented that the Products have
- 2 characteristics or quantities that they do not have in violation of
- 3 Civil Code Section 1750, *et seq.*;
- 4 6. Whether Defendant advertised the Products with intent not to sell
- 5 them as advertised in violation of Civil Code Section 1750, *et seq.*;
- 6 7. Whether Defendant's labeling and advertising of the Products are
- 7 untrue or misleading in violation of Business and Professions Code
- 8 Section 17500, *et seq.*;
- 9 8. Whether Defendant knew or by the exercise of reasonable care
- 10 should have known its labeling and advertising was and is untrue or
- 11 misleading in violation of Business and Professions Code Section
- 12 17500, *et seq.*;
- 13 9. Whether Defendant's conduct is an unlawful business practice
- 14 within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Section
- 15 17200, *et seq.*;
- 16 10. Whether Defendant's conduct is an unfair business practice within
- 17 the meaning of Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et*
- 18 *seq.*;
- 19 11. Whether Defendant's conduct is a fraudulent business practice
- 20 within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Section
- 21 17200, *et seq.*;
- 22 12. Whether Plaintiff and the Class paid more money for the Products
- 23 than they actually received;
- 24 13. How much more money Plaintiff and the Class paid for the Products
- 25 than they actually received;
- 26 14. Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes breach of the implied
- 27 warranty of merchantability;
- 28 15. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to injunctive relief; and

1 16. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched by its unlawful conduct
2 at the expense of Plaintiff and the Class.

3 51. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the Class members
4 because Plaintiff, like all Class members, was deceived by Defendant’s false and
5 deceptive “No Salt” labeling and advertising scheme, as alleged herein, in a typical
6 consumer setting and sustained damages from Defendant’s wrongful conduct.

7 52. Plaintiff will adequately protect the interests of the Class and has
8 retained counsel who are experienced in litigating complex class actions. Plaintiff
9 has no interests that conflict with those of the Class.

10 53. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and
11 efficient adjudication of this controversy.

12 54. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action for injunctive or
13 equitable relief pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) are met, as Defendant has acted
14 or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the Class so that final injunctive
15 relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate with respect to the Class as
16 a whole.

17 55. Defendant’s conduct is generally applicable to the Class as a whole and
18 Plaintiff seeks, *inter alia*, equitable remedies with respect to the Class as a whole.
19 As such, Defendant’s systematic practices make declaratory relief with respect to
20 the Class as a whole appropriate.

21 56. The requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) are met as common issues
22 predominate over any individual issues, and treatment of this matter as a class action
23 is superior to numerous individual actions.

24 57. The litigation of separate actions by Class members would create a risk
25 of establishing inconsistent rulings and/or incompatible standards of conduct for
26 Defendant. For example, one court might enjoin Defendant from performing the
27 challenged acts, whereas another might not. Additionally, individual actions may be
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1 dispositive of the interests of the Class, although certain Class members are not
2 parties to such actions.

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”)**

5 **California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.***

6 58. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every
7 preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

8 59. The UCL defines “unfair business competition” to include any
9 “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent” act or practice, as well as any “unfair, deceptive,
10 untrue or misleading” advertising. Cal. Bus. Prof. Code § 17200.

11 60. The UCL imposes strict liability. Plaintiff need not prove that Kinder’s
12 intentionally or negligently engaged in unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business
13 practices—but only that such practices occurred.

14 ***“Unfair” Prong***

15 61. A business act or practice is “unfair” under the UCL if it offends an
16 established public policy or is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, or
17 substantially injurious to consumers, and that unfairness is determined by weighing
18 the reasons, justifications, and motives of the practice against the gravity of the harm
19 to the alleged victims.

20 62. Defendant’s actions constitute “unfair” business practices because, as
21 alleged above, Defendant labels and advertises the Products as containing “No Salt”
22 when the Products actually contain potassium chloride, a salt. Defendant’s acts and
23 practices offended an established public policy of truthfulness in advertising, and
24 Defendant engaged in immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous activities
25 that are substantially injurious to consumers. The “No Salt” representation does not
26 confer any benefit on consumers; rather, it causes injuries to consumers who purchase
27 the Products which they otherwise would not purchase without the deceptive
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1 representations or overpay for the Products and receive Products of a lesser standard
2 than what they reasonably expected to receive.

3 63. The harm to Plaintiff and Class members outweighs the utility of
4 Defendant's practices. There were reasonably available alternatives to further
5 Defendant's legitimate business interests other than the misleading and deceptive
6 conduct described herein. Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products
7 with the unequivocal "No Salt" representation.

8 64. All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in
9 Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or
10 generalized course of conduct repeated on hundreds or thousands of occasions daily.

11 65. Pursuant to UCL Section 17203, Plaintiff and the Class seek an order of
12 this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its
13 practices of labeling the Products with the "No Salt" representation.

14 66. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money
15 as a result of Defendant's unfair conduct. Plaintiff and the Class paid an unwarranted
16 premium for the Products. Specifically, Plaintiff and the Class paid for Products that
17 contain the salt, potassium chloride. Plaintiff and the Class would not have purchased
18 the Products, or would have paid substantially less for the Products, if they had
19 known that the Products' labeling and advertising were deceptive. Accordingly,
20 Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant
21 to the UCL.

22 ***"Fraudulent" Prong***

23 67. A business act or practice is "fraudulent" under the UCL if it is
24 likely to deceive members of the consuming public.

25 68. Defendant's acts and practices alleged above constitute fraudulent
26 business acts or practices as they have deceived Plaintiff and are highly likely to
27 deceive members of the consuming public. Plaintiff relied on Defendant's
28 fraudulent and deceptive "No Salt" representation, which played a substantial role in

1 Plaintiff's decision to purchase Defendant's No Salt Garlic & Herb Seasoning, and
2 Plaintiff would not have purchased that Product without Defendant's
3 misrepresentations.

4 69. All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in
5 Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or
6 generalized course of conduct repeated on hundreds or thousands of occasions daily.

7 70. Pursuant to UCL Section 17203, Plaintiff and the Class seek an order of
8 this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its
9 practices of labeling the Products with the "No Salt" representation.

10 71. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money
11 as a result of Defendant's unfair conduct. Plaintiff and the Class paid an unwarranted
12 premium for the Products. Specifically, Plaintiff and the Class paid for Products that
13 contain the salt, potassium chloride. Plaintiff and the Class would not have purchased
14 the Products, or would have paid substantially less for the Products, if they had
15 known that the Products' labeling and advertising were deceptive. Accordingly,
16 Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant
17 to the UCL.

18 ***"Unlawful" Prong***

19 72. A business act or practice is "unlawful" under the UCL if it violates any
20 other law or regulation.

21 73. Defendant's labeling of the Products, as alleged herein, violates the FAL
22 and the CLRA as set forth below in the Second and Third Causes of Action,
23 respectively.

24 74. Defendant's practices, as set forth above, have misled Plaintiff, the
25 proposed Class, and the public in the past and will continue to mislead in the future.
26 Consequently, Defendant's practices constitute an unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair
27 business practice within the meaning of the UCL.
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1 75. Pursuant to UCL Section 17203, Plaintiff and the Class seek an order of
2 this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its
3 practices of labeling the Products with the “No Salt” representation.

4 76. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money
5 as a result of Defendant’s unlawful conduct. Plaintiff and the Class paid an
6 unwarranted premium for the Products. Plaintiff and the Class would not have
7 purchased the Products, or would have paid less for them, if they had known the
8 Products contained the salt, potassium chloride. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks
9 damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant to the UCL.

10 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Violation of California’s False Advertising Law (“FAL”)**

12 **California Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.***

13 77. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every
14 preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

15 78. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 provides:

16 It is unlawful for any...corporation...with intent...to dispose
17 of...personal property...to induce the public to enter into any obligation
18 relating thereto, to make or disseminate or cause to be made or
19 disseminated...from this state before the public in any state, in any
20 newspaper or other publication, or any advertising device, or by public
21 outcry or proclamation, or in any other manner or means whatever,
22 including over the Internet, any statement...which is untrue or
misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of
reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading...”

23 79. The “intent” required by Section 17500 is the intent to dispose of
24 property, not the intent to mislead the public in the disposition of such property.

25 80. Defendant violated Section 17500 when it advertised and marketed the
26 Products in an unfair, deceptive, untrue, and misleading way and disseminated the
27 “No Salt” misrepresentations to the public through the Products’ labeling, packaging,
28 and advertising. These representations are false because the Products do not conform

1 to them. The representations are material because they are likely to mislead a
2 reasonable consumer into purchasing the Products.

3 81. In making and disseminating the representations alleged herein,
4 Defendant knew or should have known that the “No Salt” representations are untrue
5 or misleading, and acted in violation of Section 17500.

6 82. Defendant’s labeling and advertising as alleged herein was specifically
7 designed to induce reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff, to purchase the Products.

8 83. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s misleading and false
9 advertisements, Plaintiff and Class members were harmed and lost money. Plaintiff
10 and the Class paid an unwarranted premium for the Products. Plaintiff and the Class
11 would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid less for them, if they had
12 known the Products contained the salt, potassium chloride. Further, the misleading
13 and false advertising described herein presents a continuing threat to Plaintiff, the
14 Class, and other members of the public, in that Defendant persists and continues to
15 engage in these practices and will not cease doing so unless and until forced to do so
16 by this Court. Defendant’s conduct will continue to cause irreparable injury to
17 members of the public unless the practices are enjoined or restrained, permanently.
18 Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for violation of the FAL in damages,
19 restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the
20 Class for said monies, as well as injunctive relief, including without limitation, public
21 injunctive relief, to enjoin Defendant’s misconduct to prevent ongoing and future
22 harm that will result.

23 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **Violation of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”)**

25 **California Civil Code § 1750, *et seq.***

26 84. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every
27 preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

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1 85. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the CLRA, Cal. Civ. Code §
2 1750, *et seq.* The CLRA provides that “unfair methods of competition and unfair or
3 deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person in a transaction intended to result or
4 which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are unlawful.” Cal.
5 Civ. Code § 1770(a). Plaintiff and each member of the proposed Class are “consumers”
6 as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d). Defendant is a “person” as defined by Cal.
7 Civ. Code § 1761(c). The purchase of the Products by Plaintiff and the Class are
8 “transactions” within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(e). The Products
9 purchased by Plaintiff and the Class are “goods” within the meaning of Cal. Civ.
10 Code § 1761(a).

11 86. Defendant violated and continues to violate the CLRA by engaging
12 in the following practices proscribed by Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a) in transactions
13 with Plaintiff and the Class:

- 14 a. Representing that the Products have “characteristics...uses, [or]
15 benefits...that [they] do not have”; (a)(5);
- 16 b. Representing that the Products “are of a particular standard, quality,
17 or grade...[when] they are of another”; (a)(7);
- 18 c. Advertising the Products “with intent not to sell them as advertised”;
19 (a)(9).

20 87. Defendant’s uniform and material misrepresentations regarding the
21 Products are likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or should have known that its
22 representations were untrue and misleading.

23 88. Defendant’s conduct was done with conscious disregard of Plaintiff’s
24 rights, and Defendant was wanton and malicious in its concealment of the same.

25 89. Plaintiff suffered harm as a result of Defendant’s violations of the CLRA
26 because he relied on the “No Salt” representation in deciding to purchase
27 Defendant’s No Salt Garlic & Herb Seasoning. The “No Salt” representation was a
28

1 substantial factor and material because a reasonable consumer would consider it
2 important in deciding whether to purchase the Products.

3 90. Pursuant to § 1782(a) of the CLRA, on December 27, 2023, Plaintiff's
4 counsel notified Defendant in writing by certified mail of the particular violations
5 of § 1770 of the CLRA and demanded that within thirty (30) days from that date, it
6 rectify the problems associated with the actions detailed above. The letter also stated
7 that if Defendant refused to do so, a complaint seeking damages in accordance with
8 the CLRA would be filed. Thirty days elapsed, and Defendant failed to rectify the
9 unlawful, unfair, false, and/or deceptive practices alleged herein. Accordingly,
10 Plaintiff hereby requests damages from Defendant as provided for in Cal. Civ. Code
11 §1780, including:

- 12 a. actual damages in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this Court;
- 13 b. statutory damages allowable under Civil Code § 1780;
- 14 c. punitive damages;
- 15 d. attorneys' fees;
- 16 e. court costs and interest; and
- 17 f. any other relief which the court deems proper.

18 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability**

20 **California Civil Code § 1791, *et seq.***

21 91. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every
22 preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

23 92. By warranting the Products contain "No Salt," Defendant made
24 promises and affirmations of fact that the Products are merchantable and conform to
25 the promises or affirmations of fact made on the Products' packaging and labeling,
26 *e.g.*, that the Products do not contain any salt. This labeling and advertising,
27 combined with the implied warranty of merchantability, constitute warranties and
28 became part of the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff and members of the Class

1 and Defendant—namely, that the Products conform to the labeling and advertising
2 and contain “No Salt.”

3 93. Contrary to the implied warranty of merchantability, Defendant’s
4 Products do not conform to the labeling and advertising because they contain the
5 salt, potassium chloride, and, therefore, Defendant breached its implied warranty
6 about the Products and their qualities.

7 94. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s breach of the implied
8 warranty of merchantability, Plaintiff and the Class have been damaged in an amount
9 to be proven at trial.

10 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Unjust Enrichment**

12 95. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every
13 preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

14 96. By purchasing the Products as described in this Complaint, Plaintiff and
15 the Class conferred a monetary benefit on Defendant.

16 97. As described in this Complaint, Defendant had knowledge of such
17 benefit, and Defendant appreciated the benefit because, were consumers not to
18 purchase the Products, Defendant would not generate revenue from the sales of the
19 Products.

20 98. Defendant’s knowing acceptance and retention of the benefit is
21 inequitable and unjust because the benefit was obtained by Defendant’s fraudulent,
22 misleading, and deceptive representations, as described in this Complaint.

23 99. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s unjust enrichment,
24 Plaintiff and the Class were harmed and are entitled to restitution or restitutionary
25 disgorgement, in an amount to be proven at trial.

26 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

27 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, prays for
28 judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 1 (a) An order certifying this action as a class action, appointing Plaintiff as
2 the Class representative, and designating the undersigned as Class
3 counsel;
- 4 (b) A declaration that Defendant is financially responsible for notifying
5 Class members of the pendency of this suit;
- 6 (c) An order enjoining Defendant’s use of deceptive “No Salt”
7 representations in connection with the advertising and sale of any food
8 product;
- 9 (d) A judgment awarding Plaintiff and all Class members restitution and/or
10 other equitable relief, including, without limitation, restitutionary
11 disgorgement of all profits and unjust enrichment that Defendant
12 obtained from Plaintiff and the Class as a result of the unlawful, unfair
13 and/or fraudulent business practices described herein;
- 14 (e) A judgment awarding Plaintiff and the Class damages under common
15 law and/or by statute, and punitive damages;
- 16 (f) An order enjoining Defendant from continuing to violate the UCL
17 and/or FAL and/or CLRA as described herein, and/or an order
18 enjoining Defendant from violating the UCL and/or FAL and/or CLRA
19 in the future;
- 20 (g) Additional awards of up to \$5,000 for physical, emotional, or economic
21 damage for all senior citizen and disabled Class members, pursuant to
22 California Civil Code § 1780(b)(1);
- 23 (h) A judgment awarding Plaintiff and Class members their costs of suit,
24 including reasonable attorneys’ fees pursuant to Code of Civil
25 Procedure § 1021.5, Civil Code § 1780(e) and as otherwise permitted
26 by statute or law, and pre- and post-judgment interest; and
- 27 (i) Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and
28 proper.

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Date: August 27, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

**SCHONBRUN SEPLOW HARRIS
HOFFMAN & ZELDES, LLP**

By: /s/ Helen I. Zeldes

Helen I. Zeldes, Esq. (SBN 220051)
hzeldes@sshzlaw.com
Amy C. Johnsgard, Esq. (SBN 279795)
ajohnsgard@sshzlaw.com
Aya Dardari (SBN 344039)
adardari@sshzlaw.com
501 West Broadway, Suite 800
San Diego, California 92101
Tel: (619) 400-4990
Fax: (310) 399-7040

Joshua A. Fields (SBN 242938)
jfields@sshzlaw.com
9415 Culver Blvd., #115
Culver City, CA 90232-2616
Tel: (619) 400-4990
Fax: (310) 399-7040

*Counsel for Plaintiff Mark Blosser
and the Proposed Class.*

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 27, 2024

**SCHONBRUN SEFLOW HARRIS
HOFFMAN & ZELDES, LLP**

By: /s/ Helen I. Zeldes

Helen I. Zeldes, Esq. (SBN 220051)
hzeldes@sshzlaw.com
Amy C. Johnsgard, Esq. (SBN 279795)
ajohnsgard@sshzlaw.com
Aya Dardari (SBN 344039)
adardari@sshzlaw.com
501 West Broadway, Suite 800
San Diego, California 92101
Tel: (619) 400-4990
Fax: (310) 399-7040

Joshua A. Fields (SBN 242938)
jfields@sshzlaw.com
9415 Culver Blvd., #115
Culver City, CA 90232-2616
Tel: (619) 400-4990
Fax: (310) 399-7040

*Counsel for Plaintiff Mark Blosser
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

Mark Blosser, individually and on behalf of all other similarly.

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Helen Zeldes; Joshua Fields; Amy Johnsgard; Aya Dardari; Schonbrun Seplow Harris Hoffman & Zeldes, 501 W. Broadway, Suite 800 San Diego, Ca 92101

DEFENDANTS

P.K. Kinder Co., Inc.

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

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

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

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

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and incorporation status, including options for U.S. Government, U.S. Citizen, and Foreign National.

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

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Large table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Personal Injury, Contract, Labor, etc.

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

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District, 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): CA Bus & Prof Code § 17200; CA Bus & Prof Code § 17500; CIV § 1750; CIV § 1791, Unjust Enrichment

Brief description of cause: Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, Violation of California's False Advertising Law, Violation of California's CLRA.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE Aug 27, 2024 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Helen I. Zeldes

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

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