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10
11 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

13
14 STEPHANIE HILL and HAILEY
15 WALLER, individually and on behalf
16 of all others similarly situated,

17 Civil Action No. _____

18 Plaintiffs,

19 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

20
21 V.
22
23 THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX,
24 INC.

25
26 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

27
28 Defendant.

1 Plaintiffs Stephanie Hill and Hailey Waller (“Plaintiffs”) bring this Class
 2 Action Complaint on behalf of themselves, and all others similarly situated, against
 3 Defendant The University of Phoenix, Inc., (“Defendant” or “UPX”), alleging as
 4 follows based upon information and belief and investigation of counsel, except as to
 5 the allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiffs, which are based on personal
 6 knowledge:

7 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

8 1. Plaintiffs bring this class action against Defendant UPX for its failure
 9 to properly secure and safeguard Plaintiffs’ and other similarly situated individuals
 10 (“Class Members”) personally identifying information, including names, contact
 11 information, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, bank account and routing
 12 numbers (collectively “PII” or “Private Information”).¹

13 2. The University of Phoenix, Inc. is a private, for-profit university
 14 headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, that primarily offers online and flexible degree
 15 programs for working adults.

16 3. Plaintiffs and Class Members are individuals who were required to
 17 indirectly and/or directly provide Defendant with their Private Information. By
 18 collecting, storing, and maintaining Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ Private
 19 Information, UPX has a resulting duty to secure, maintain, protect, and safeguard
 20 the Private Information that it collects and stores against unauthorized access and
 21 disclosure through reasonable and adequate data security measures.

22 4. Despite UPX’s duty to safeguard the Private Information of Plaintiffs
 23 and Class Members, that Private Information in Defendant’s possession was
 24 compromised when an unauthorized party gained access to its system via the Oracle
 25 E-Business Suite software platform (“EBS”) and exfiltrated sensitive data stored

26 ¹ *University of Phoenix Media Center*, <https://www.phoenix.edu/media-center.html>
 27 (last visited December 21, 2025).

1 therein between on or about August 13, 2025 and August 22, 2025 (the “Data
 2 Breach”).²

3 5. After UPX discovered the Data Breach in November 2025, it conducted
 4 an investigation which determined that some data may have been acquired on
 5 November 21, 2025.³

6 6. While Defendant claims to have discovered the breach as early as
 7 November 21, 2025, Defendant did not begin to inform victims of the Data Breach
 8 until December 2, 2025.

9 7. Indeed, it was not until mid to late December of 2025 when Plaintiffs
 10 received notices from Defendant notifying them of the Data Breach and theft of their
 11 PII.

12 8. UPX maintained the PII of Plaintiffs and Class Members in a negligent
 13 and/or reckless manner. In particular, the PII was maintained by UPX in a condition
 14 that made it vulnerable to cyberattacks. Upon information and belief, the mechanism
 15 of the cyberattack and potential for improper disclosure of Plaintiffs’ and Class
 16 Members’ PII was a known risk to Defendant, and thus Defendant was on notice that
 17 failing to take steps necessary to secure the PII from those risks left that property in
 18 a dangerous condition.

19 9. Defendant disregarded the rights of Plaintiffs and Class Members by
 20 intentionally, willfully, recklessly, and/or negligently failing to implement adequate
 21 and reasonable measures to ensure that Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ PII was
 22 safeguarded, failing to take available steps to prevent unauthorized disclosure of data
 23 and failing to follow applicable, required and appropriate protocols, policies, and
 24 procedures regarding the encryption of data, even for internal use.

25
 26 ² *Id.*
 27 ³ *Id.*

10. As a result, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII was compromised by an unauthorized third-party. Plaintiffs and Class Members have a continuing interest in ensuring that their information is and remains safe and are entitled to injunctive and other equitable relief.

11. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's failure to implement and follow basic security procedures, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information is now in the hands of cybercriminals.

12. Plaintiffs and Class Members are now at a significantly increased and certainly impending risk of fraud, identity theft, intrusion of their, and similar forms of criminal mischief, risk which may last for the rest of their lives. Consequently, Plaintiffs and Class Members must devote substantially more time, money, and energy to protect themselves, to the extent possible, from these crimes.

13. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, alleges claims for negligence, breach of implied contract, unjust enrichment and declaratory judgment arising from the Data Breach. Plaintiffs seek damages and injunctive relief, including the adoption reasonably sufficient practices to safeguard the Private Information in Defendant's custody to prevent incidents like the Data Breach from reoccurring in the future, and for Defendant to provide identity theft protective services to Plaintiffs and Class Members for their lifetimes.

I. PARTIES

14. Plaintiff Stephanie Hill is an adult, who at all relevant times, was a resident and citizen of the State of North Carolina. Plaintiff Hill was informed that her Private Information indirectly and/or directly provided to UPX was compromised during the Data Breach.

15. Plaintiff Hailey Waller is an adult who at all relevant times, was a resident and citizen of the State of Texas. Plaintiff Waller was informed that her Private Information indirectly and/or directly provided to UPX was compromised during the Data Breach.

16. Plaintiffs have suffered actual injury from having their Private Information exposed and/or stolen as a result of the Data Breach, including: (a) required mitigation efforts, including researching the Data Breach and needing to monitor their financial statements to ensure their information is not used for identity theft and fraud; (b) damages to and diminution of the value of their Private Information, a form of intangible property that loses value when it falls into the hands of criminals; (c) loss of privacy; and (d) continuous imminent and impending injury raising from increased risk of financial identity theft and fraud.

17. As a result of the Data Breach, and the sensitivity of the Private Information compromised, Plaintiffs will continue to be at a substantial and certainly impending risk for fraud and identity theft, and their attendant damages, for years to come.

18. Defendant The University of Phoenix, Inc. is an Arizona corporation with its principal executive office located at 4035 S. Riverpoint Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85040.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

19. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A) because this case is a class action where the aggregate claims of all members of the proposed class are in excess of \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest

1 and costs, there are 100 or more members of the proposed class, and at least one
 2 member of the proposed class is a citizen of a state different than Defendant.⁴

3 20. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because a
 4 substantial part of the events, omissions, and acts giving rise to the claims herein
 5 occurred in this District and Defendant resides in this District.

6 21. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, this Court is the proper venue for this
 7 action because a substantial part of the events, omissions, and acts giving rise to the
 8 claims herein occurred in this District and Defendant resides in this District.

9 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

10 22. Defendant is a for-profit corporation that specializes in providing
 11 broadly accessible, flexible education tailored toward working adults, with a focus
 12 on business, healthcare, information technology, education, criminal justice,
 13 counseling/behavioral sciences, and related career-oriented fields.

14 23. Plaintiffs and Class Members provided their Private Information to
 15 Defendant in the regular course of business.

16 24. As a condition of doing business with Defendant, Plaintiffs and Class
 17 Members directly or indirectly entrusted UPX with their sensitive Private
 18 Information.

19 25. Plaintiffs and Class Members value the confidentiality of their Private
 20 Information and, accordingly, have taken reasonable steps to maintain the
 21 confidentiality of their Private Information.

22 26. In entrusting their Private Information to Defendant, Plaintiffs and
 23 Class Members reasonably expected that Defendant would safeguard their highly
 24 sensitive information.

25
 26 ⁴ See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(10) (stating that for purposes of CAFA jurisdiction, an
 27 unincorporated association deemed to be citizen of State where it has its principal
 place of business and under whose laws it is organized).

1 27. By obtaining, collecting, and storing Plaintiffs' and Class Members'
 2 Private Information, UPX assumed equitable and legal duties to safeguard Plaintiffs'
 3 and Class Members' highly sensitive information, to only use this information for
 4 business purposes, and to only make authorized disclosures.

5 28. Despite these duties, UPX failed to implement reasonable data security
 6 measures to protect Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information and failed
 7 to oversee or supervise or otherwise ensure that Plaintiffs' and Class Members PII
 8 was adequately protected.

9 29. Defendant's failures ultimately allowed threat actors to obtain
 10 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information.

11 **THE VALUE OF PRIVATE INFORMATION AND EFFECTS OF UNAUTHORIZED**
 12 **DISCLOSURE**

13 30. UPX understood that the Private Information it collects was highly
 14 sensitive and of significant value to those who would use it for wrongful purposes.

15 31. UPX also knew that a breach of its computer systems, and exposure of
 16 the Private Information stored therein, would result in the increased risk of identity
 17 theft and fraud against the individuals whose Private Information was compromised.

18 32. These risks are not theoretical; in recent years, numerous high-profile
 19 breaches have occurred at business such as Equifax, Facebook, Yahoo, Marriott,
 20 Anthem, and many others.

21 33. Private Information has considerable value and constitutes an enticing
 22 and well-known target to hackers. Hackers can easily sell stolen data as there has
 23 been "proliferation of open and anonymous cybercrime forums on the Dark Web that
 24 serve as a bustling marketplace for such commerce."⁵

25
 26 ⁵ Brian Krebs, *The Value of a Hacked Company*, Krebs on Security (July 14, 2016),
 27 <http://krebsongsecurity.com/2016/07/the-value-of-a-hacked-company/> (last visited
 December 21, 2025).

1 34. As the FTC recognizes, identity thieves can use this information to
 2 commit an array of crimes including identity theft, and medical and financial fraud.⁶
 3 The prevalence of data breaches and identity theft has increased dramatically in
 4 recent years, accompanied by a parallel and growing economic drain on individual,
 5 businesses, and government entities in the U.S. In 2023 alone, there were 6,077
 6 recorded breaches exposing more than 17 billion records - representing a 19.8%
 7 year-over-year increase in the United States compared to 2022.⁷ This trend is
 8 mirrored in identity theft complaints, which nearly doubled over a four-year span—
 9 from 2.9 million reports in 2017 to 5.7 million in 2021.⁸

10 35. Indeed, a 2022 poll of security executives predicted an increase in
 11 attacks over the next two years from “social engineering and ransomware” as nation-
 12 states and cybercriminals grow more sophisticated. Unfortunately, these preventable
 13 causes will largely come from “misconfigurations, human error, poor maintenance,
 14 and unknown assets.”⁹

15 36. In tandem with the increase in data breaches, the rate of identity theft
 16 complaints has also increased over the past few years. For instance, 2024 had the

17 6 <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0271-warning-signs-identity-theft> (last
 18 accessed December 22, 2025).

19 7 Flashpoint, *2024 Global Threat Intelligence Report*, (Feb. 29, 2024),
 20 <https://go.flashpoint.io/2024-global-threat-intelligence-report-download> (last
 21 visited December 22, 2025).

22 8 Insurance Information Institute, *Facts & Statistics: Identity Theft and*
 23 *Cybercrime*, Insurance Information Institute, <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-identity-theft-and-cybercrime#Identity%20Theft%20And%20Fraud%20Reports,%202015-2019%20>
 24 (last visited December 22, 2025).

25 9 Chuck Brooks, *Alarming Cyber Statistics For Mid-Year 2022 That You Need to*
 26 *Know*, Forbes (December 22, 2025),
 27 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/chuckbrooks/2022/06/03/alarming-cyber-statistics-for-mid-year-2022-that-you-need-to-know/?sh=176bb6887864> (last accessed December 22, 2025).

1 second-highest number of data compromises in the U.S. in a single year since such
 2 instances began being tracked in 2005.¹⁰

3 37. The ramifications of UPX's failure to keep Plaintiffs' and Class
 4 Members' Private Information secure are long-lasting and severe. Once Private
 5 Information is stolen, fraudulent use of that information and damage to victims may
 6 continue for years. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, which
 7 conducted a study regarding data breaches: "[I]n some cases, stolen data may be held
 8 for up to a year or more before being used to commit identity theft. Further, once
 9 stolen data have been sold or posted on the [Dark] Web, fraudulent use of that
 10 information may continue for years. As a result, studies that attempt to measure the
 11 harm resulting from data breaches cannot necessarily rule out all future harm."¹¹

12 38. Even if stolen Private Information does not include financial or
 13 payment card account information, that does not mean there has been no harm, or
 14 that the breach does not cause a substantial risk of identity theft. Freshly stolen
 15 information can be used with success against victims in specifically targeted efforts
 16 to commit identity theft known as social engineering or spear phishing. In these
 17 forms of attack, the criminal uses the previously obtained PII about the individual,
 18 such as name, address, email address, and affiliations, to gain trust and increase the
 19 likelihood that a victim will be deceived into providing the criminal with additional
 20 information.

21

22 ¹⁰ *Insurance Information Institute, Facts + Statistics: Identity theft and cybercrime*,
 23 Insurance Information Institute, <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-identity-theft-and-cybercrime#Identity%20Theft%20And%20Fraud%20Reports,%202015-2019%20>,
 24 (last visited December 22, 2025).

25 ¹¹ U.S. Gov't Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Requesters, Personal
 26 Information, June 2007: <https://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07737.pdf> (last
 27 accessed December 22, 2025).

1 39. The specific types of personal data compromised in the Data Breach
2 make the information particularly valuable to thieves and leaves Plaintiffs and other
3 Class Members especially vulnerable to identity theft, tax fraud, medical fraud,
4 credit and bank fraud, and more.

5 40. **Social Security Numbers**—Unlike credit or debit card numbers in a
6 payment card data breach—which can quickly be frozen and reissued in the
7 aftermath of a breach—unique Social Security Numbers cannot be easily replaced.
8 Even when such numbers are replaced, the process of doing so results in a major
9 inconvenience to the subject person, requiring a wholesale review of the person’s
10 relationships with government agencies and any number of private companies in
11 order to update the person’s accounts with those entities.

12 41. Indeed, the Social Security Administration warns that the process of
13 replacing a Social Security Number is a difficult one that creates other types of
14 problems, and that it will not be a complete remedy for the affected person:

15 Keep in mind that a new number probably will not solve all your
16 problems. This is because other governmental agencies (such as
17 the IRS and state motor vehicle agencies) and private businesses
18 (such as banks and credit reporting companies) likely will have
19 records under your old number. Along with other personal
20 information, credit reporting companies use the number to
21 identify your credit record. So using a new number will not
22 guarantee you a fresh start. This is especially true if your other
23 personal information, such as your name and address, remains
24 the same.

25 If you receive a new Social Security Number, you should not be
26 able to use the old number anymore.

27 For some victims of identity theft, a new number actually creates
28 new problems. If the old credit information is not associated with

your new number, the absence of any credit history under the new number may make more difficult for you to get credit.¹²

42. Social Security numbers allow individuals to apply for credit cards, student loans, mortgages, and other lines of credit - among other services. Often social security numbers can be used to obtain medical goods or services, including prescriptions. They are also used to apply for a host of government benefits. Access to such a wide range of assets makes Social Security numbers a prime target for cybercriminals and a particularly attractive form of PII to steal and then sell.

43. Based on the value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII to cybercriminals, UPX knew or should have known the importance of safeguarding the PII entrusted to it and of the foreseeable consequences if its data security systems were breached. UPX failed, however, to take adequate cyber security measures to prevent the Data Breach from occurring.

UPX BREACHED ITS DUTY TO PROTECT PLAINTIFFS' AND CLASS MEMBERS' PRIVATE INFORMATION

44. According to recent media reports, on or about November 20, 2025, the ransomware hacker Clop claimed to have exfiltrated sensitive Private Information maintained by UPX.¹³

45. On or about November 21, 2025, UPX became aware of a cybersecurity event impacting its Oracle EBS environment.

46. Following the discovery of the incident, Defendant began an investigation to discover the scope of the suspicious activity.

¹² *Identify Theft and Your Social Security Numbers*, Social Security Admin. (June 2021), <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf> (last accessed December 22, 2025).

¹³ <https://www.securityweek.com/3-5-million-affected-by-university-of-phoenix-data-breach/> (last accessed December 22, 2025).

1 47. Defendant's investigation confirmed that between August 13, 2025 and
 2 August 22, 2025, an unauthorized third-party gained access to Defendant's Oracle
 3 EBS environment and successfully exfiltrated Private Information stored therein.
 4 The Private Information exfiltrated in the Data Breach includes individuals, names
 5 and contact information, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, bank account and
 6 routing numbers.¹⁴

7 48. On or around December 2, 2025, Defendant's parent corporation,
 8 Phoenix Education Partners, filed an 8-K form with the U.S. Securities and
 9 Exchange Commission yet made no disclosure regarding the number of individuals
 10 whose Private Information was affected by the Data Breach.¹⁵

11 49. Thus, not until around December 2, 2025 did Defendant provide any
 12 notice of the Data Breach to persons whose PII Defendant confirmed was potentially
 13 compromised. Defendant's notice provided basic details of the Data Breach and
 14 Defendant's recommended next steps.

15 50. The notice included, *inter alia*, an explanation that Defendant had
 16 learned of the Data Breach on November 21, 2025, and had taken steps to respond.
 17 But the notice lacked sufficient information on how the breach occurred, what
 18 safeguards have been taken since then to safeguard further attacks, and/or where the
 19 information hacked exists today.

20 51. Based on Defendant's announcement of the Data Breach the
 21 cyberattack was designed to gain access to private and confidential data of specific
 22 individuals, including (among other things) the PII of Plaintiffs and the Class
 23

24 ¹⁴ <https://www.maine.gov/agviewer/content/ag/985235c7-cb95-4be2-8792-a1252b4f8318/422db005-448f-4772-afc6-07dabfa169a8.html> (December 22, 2025).

25 ¹⁵ https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1600222/000095014225003098/eh250711375_8k.htm (last visited December 22, 2025).

1 Members and that the cybercriminals were successful in exfiltrating sensitive
 2 information through Defendant's Oracle EBS network.

3 52. Defendant has confirmed that the Private Information of upwards of 3.5
 4 million individuals was compromised in the Data Breach.¹⁶

5 53. The Data Breach occurred as a direct result of UPX's failure to
 6 implement and follow basic security procedures to protect its current and former
 7 constituents' Private Information that it had collected and stored.

8 **UPX FAILED TO COMPLY WITH FTC GUIDELINES**

9 54. UPX is prohibited by the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. §
 10 45 ("FTC Act") from engaging in "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting
 11 commerce." The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") has concluded that a
 12 company's failure to maintain reasonable and appropriate data security for
 13 consumers' sensitive personal information is an "unfair practice" in violation of the
 14 FTC Act.

15 55. The FTC has promulgated numerous guides for businesses that
 16 highlight the importance of implementing reasonable data security practices.
 17 According to the FTC, the need for data security should be factored into all business
 18 decision-making.¹⁷

23
 24 ¹⁶ <https://www.maine.gov/agviewer/content/ag/985235c7-cb95-4be2-8792-a1252b4f8318/422db005-448f-4772-afc6-07dabfa169a8.html> (last accessed December 22, 2025).

25
 26 ¹⁷ *Start with Security – A Guide for Business*, United States Federal Trade Comm'n (2015), <https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf0205-startwithsecurity.pdf> (last accessed December 22, 2025).

1 56. Among other guidance, the FTC recommends the following
 2 cybersecurity guidelines for businesses in order to protect sensitive information in
 3 their systems:¹⁸

- 4 a. Identify all connections to the computers where sensitive
 5 information is stored;
- 6 b. Assess the vulnerability of each connection to commonly known
 7 or reasonably foreseeable attacks;
- 8 c. Do not store sensitive consumer data on any computer with an
 9 internet connection unless it is essential for conducting their
 10 business;
- 11 d. Scan computers on their network to identify and profile the
 12 operating system and open network services. If services are not
 13 needed, they should be disabled to prevent hacks or other potential
 14 security problems. For example, if email service or an internet
 15 connection is not necessary on a certain computer, a business
 16 should consider closing the ports to those services on that
 17 machine;
- 18 e. Pay particular attention to the security of their web applications -
 19 the software used to give information to visitors to their websites
 20 and to retrieve information from them. Web applications may be
 21 particularly vulnerable to a variety of hack attacks;
- 22 f. Use a firewall to protect their computers from hacker attacks while
 23 it is connected to a network, especially the internet;
- 24 g. Determine whether a border firewall should be installed where the
 25 business's network connects to the internet. A border firewall
 26 separates the network from the internet and may prevent an
 27 attacker from gaining access to a computer on the network where

28 18 *Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for Business*, United States Federal
 29 Trade Comm'n, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_protecting-personal-information.pdf (last accessed December 22, 2025).

1 sensitive information is stored. Set access controls -settings that
 2 determine which devices and traffic get through the firewall - to
 3 allow only trusted devices with a legitimate business need to
 4 access the network. Since the protection a firewall provides is only
 as effective as its access controls, they should be reviewed
 periodically;

5 h. Monitor incoming traffic for signs that someone is trying to hack
 6 in. Keep an eye out for activity from new users, multiple log-in
 7 attempts from unknown users or computers, and higher-than-
 average traffic at unusual times of the day; and
 8
 9 i. Monitor outgoing traffic for signs of a data breach. Watch for
 10 unexpectedly large amounts of data being transmitted from their
 11 system to an unknown user. If large amounts of information are
 12 being transmitted from a business's network, the transmission
 should be investigated to make sure it is authorized.

13 57. The FTC further recommends that companies not maintain PII longer
 14 than is needed for authorization of a transaction; limit access to private data; require
 15 complex passwords to be used on networks; use industry-tested methods for
 16 security; monitor for suspicious activity on the network; and verify that third-party
 17 service providers have implemented reasonable security measures.¹⁹

18 58. The FTC has brought enforcement actions against businesses for failing
 19 to adequately and reasonably protect customer data, treating the failure to employ
 20 reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against unauthorized access to
 21 confidential consumer data as an unfair act or practice prohibited by Section 5 of the
 22 FTC Act. Orders resulting from these actions further clarify the measures businesses
 23 must take to meet their data security obligations.

24 59. UPX failed to properly implement basic data security practices. UPX's
 25 failure to employ reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against
 26

27 ¹⁹ *Id.*

1 unauthorized access to its constituents' PII constitutes an unfair act of practice
 2 prohibited by Section 5 of the FTC Act.

3 60. UPX was at all times fully aware of its obligations to protect the PII of
 4 its constituents given the reams of PII that it had access to as Plaintiffs and the Class
 5 Members' institution. UPX was also aware of the significant repercussions that
 6 would result from a failure to properly secure the Private Information it maintained.

7 **UPX'S FAILURE TO PREVENT, IDENTIFY, AND TIMELY REPORT THE DATA BREACH**

8 61. UPX admits that an unauthorized third-party accessed its information
 9 technology system in August of 2025, and that Defendant discovered this
 10 unauthorized access on or about November 21, 2025.²⁰

11 62. UPX failed to take necessary precautions and failed to employ adequate
 12 measures necessary to protect its computer systems against unauthorized access and
 13 keep Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information secure.

14 63. The Private Information that UPX allowed to be exposed in the Data
 15 Breach is the type of private information that UPX knew or should have known
 16 would be the target of cyberattacks.

17 64. Despite its own knowledge of the inherent risks of cyberattacks, and
 18 notwithstanding the FTC's data security principles and practices²¹, UPX failed to
 19 disclose that its systems and security practices were inadequate to reasonably
 20 safeguard individuals' Private Information.

21 65. The FTC directs businesses to use an intrusion detection system to
 22 expose a breach as soon as it occurs, monitor activity for attempted hacks, and have

24 ²⁰ *University of Phoenix Media Center*, [https://www.phoenix.edu/media-](https://www.phoenix.edu/media-center.html)
 25 [center.html](https://www.phoenix.edu/media-center.html) (last visited December 22, 2025).

26 ²¹ Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for Business, Fed. Trade Comm'n
 27 (Oct. 2016), <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/protecting-personal-information-guide-business> (last visited December 22, 2025).

1 an immediate response plan if a breach occurs.²² Immediate notification to
 2 individuals impacted by a data breach is critical so that those impacted can take
 3 measures to protect themselves.

4 66. Here, UPX waited until months after the Data Breach occurred to notify
 5 impacted individuals.

6 67. Plaintiffs and Class Members remain in the dark regarding what data
 7 was stolen, the particular malware used, and what steps are being taken to secure
 8 their PII in the future. Thus, Plaintiffs and Class Members are left to speculate as to
 9 where their PII ended up, who has used it, and for what potentially nefarious
 10 purposes. Indeed, they are left to further speculate as to the full impact of the Data
 11 Breach and how Defendant intends to enhance its information security systems and
 12 monitoring capabilities to prevent further breaches.

13 **PLAINTIFFS AND CLASS MEMBERS SUFFERED DAMAGES**

14 68. The ramifications of UPX's failure to keep Private Information secure
 15 are long-lasting and severe. Once Private Information is stolen, fraudulent use of that
 16 information and damage to victims may continue for years.

17 69. Once Private Information is exposed, there is virtually no way to ensure
 18 that the exposed information has been fully recovered or obtained against future
 19 misuse. For this reason, Plaintiffs and Class Members will need to maintain these
 20 heightened measures for years, and possibly their entire lives as a result of
 21 Defendant's conduct. Further, the value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private
 22 Information has been diminished by its exposure in the Data Breach.

23 70. PII remains of high value to criminals, as evidenced by the prices they
 24 will pay through the dark web. Numerous sources cite dark web pricing for stolen
 25 identity credentials. For example, personal information can be sold at a price ranging

27 ²² *Id.*

1 from \$40 to \$200, and bank details have a price range of \$50 to \$200.²³ “Fullz”
 2 packages, which includes “extra information about the legitimate credit card owner
 3 in case” the scammer’s “bona fides are challenged when they attempt to use the
 4 credit card” are also offered on the dark web.²⁴

5 71. Plaintiffs and Class Members are at a substantially increased risk of
 6 suffering identity theft and fraud or misuse of their Private Information as a result of
 7 the Data Breach. From a recent study, 28% of individuals affected by a data breach
 8 become victims of identity fraud - this is a significant increase from a 2012 study
 9 that found only 9.5% of those affected by a breach would be subject to identity fraud.
 10 Without a data breach, the likelihood of identify fraud is only about 3%.²⁵

11 72. Further, Plaintiffs and Class Members have incurred and will incur out
 12 of pocket costs for protective measures, such as identity theft protection, credit
 13 monitoring, credit report fees, credit freeze fees, and similar costs related to the Data
 14 Breach.

15 73. Besides the monetary damage sustained in the event of identity theft,
 16 consumers may have to spend hours trying to resolve identity theft issues. For
 17 example, the FTC estimates that it takes consumers an average of 200 hours of work
 18 over approximately six months to recover from identity theft.²⁶

21 23 Stolen PII & Ramifications: Identity Theft and Fraud on the Dark Web, Armor
 22 (Apr. 3, 2018), <https://res.armor.com/resources/blog/stolen-pii-ramifications-identity-theft-fraud-dark-web/> (last accessed December 22, 2025).

23 24 *Id.*

24 25 Stu Sjouwerman, *28 Percent of Data Breaches Lead to Fraud*, KnowBe4,
 25 <https://blog.knowbe4.com/bid/252486/28-percent-of-data-breaches-lead-to-fraud>
 (last accessed December 22, 2025).

26 26 Kathryn Parkman, *How to Report identity Theft*, ConsumerAffairs (Feb. 17,
 27 2022), <https://www.consumeraffairs.com/finance/how-to-report-identity-theft.html>
 (last accessed December 22, 2025).

1 74. Plaintiffs and Class Members are also at a continued risk because their
2 information remains in UPX's systems, which the Data Breach showed are
3 susceptible to compromise and attack and are subject to further attack so long as
4 UPX fails to take necessary and appropriate security and training measures to protect
5 the Private Information in its possession.

6 75. Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered emotional distress as a
7 result of the Data Breach, the increased risk of identity theft and financial fraud, and
8 the unauthorized exposure of their Private Information to strangers.

9 76. As a result of UPX's failure to prevent the Data Breach, Plaintiffs and
10 Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer injuries, including out of
11 pocket expenses; loss of time and productivity through efforts to ameliorate,
12 mitigate, and deal with the future consequences of the Data Breach; theft of their
13 valuable Private Information; the imminent and certainly impeding injury flowing
14 from fraud and identity theft posed by their Private Information being disclosed to
15 unauthorized recipients and cybercriminals; damages to and diminution in value of
16 their Private Information; and continued risk to Plaintiffs' and the Class Members'
17 Private Information, which remains in the possession of Defendant and which is
18 subject to further breaches so long as UPX fails to undertake appropriate and
19 adequate measures to protect the Private Information entrusted to it.

20 77. Furthermore, Defendant has offered up to twelve months of identity-
21 theft monitoring and protection services through IDX. That limitation is inadequate
22 when the victims will likely face many years of identity theft.

23 78. Moreover, Defendant's credit monitoring offer and advice to Plaintiffs
24 and Class Members squarely place the burden on Plaintiffs and Class Members,
25 rather than on Defendant, to monitor and report suspicious activities to law
26 enforcement. In other words, Defendant expects Plaintiffs and Class Members to
27 protect themselves from its tortious acts resulting from the Data Breach. Rather than

automatically enrolling Plaintiffs and Class Members in credit monitoring services upon discovery of the Data Breach, Defendant merely sent instructions to Plaintiffs and Class Members about actions they could affirmatively take to protect themselves.

79. These services are wholly inadequate as they fail to provide for the fact that victims of data breaches and other unauthorized disclosures commonly face multiple years of ongoing identity theft and financial fraud, and they entirely fail to provide any compensation for the unauthorized release and disclosure of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII.

80. This is particularly true when, as is the case here, a known ransomware hacker has confirmed that it obtained Private Information maintained by UPX.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

81. Plaintiffs bring this class action on behalf of themselves and all other individuals who are similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

82. Plaintiffs seek to represent a class of persons to be defined as follows:

All individuals in the United States whose Private Information was compromised in the Data Breach (the “Class”).

83. Excluded from the Class are UPX, its subsidiaries and affiliates, officers and directors, any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest, the legal representative, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded party, the judicial officer(s) to whom this action is assigned, and the members of their immediate families.

84. This proposed class definition is based on the information available to Plaintiffs at this time. Plaintiffs may modify the class definition in an amended pleading or when they moves for class certification, as necessary to account for any

1 newly learned or changed facts as the situation develops and discovery gets
 2 underway.

3 85. **Numerosity:** Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege,
 4 that there are over three million members of the Class described above. The exact
 5 size of the Class and the identities of the individual members are identifiable through
 6 Defendant's records, including but not limited to the files implicated in the Data
 7 Breach.

8 86. **Commonality:** This action involved questions of law and fact common
 9 to the Class. Such common questions include but are not limited to:

- 10 a. Whether Defendant had a duty to protect the Private Information
 11 of Plaintiffs and Class Members;
- 12 b. Whether Defendant was negligent in collecting and storing
 13 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information, and breached
 14 its duties thereby;
- 15 c. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to damages as
 16 a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct; and
- 17 d. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to restitution
 18 as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct.

20 87. **Typicality:** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members
 21 of the Class. The claims of the Plaintiffs and members of the Class are based on the
 22 same legal theories and arise from the same unlawful and willful conduct. Plaintiffs
 23 and members of the Class were all constituents of Defendant, and each had their
 24 Private Information exposed and/or accessed by an unauthorized third-party.

25 88. **Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiffs are adequate representatives
 26 of the Class because their interests do not conflict with the interests of the members
 27 of the Class. Plaintiffs will fairly, adequately, and vigorously represent and protect

1 the interests of the members of the Class and have no interests antagonistic to the
2 members of the Class. In addition, Plaintiffs have retained counsel who are
3 competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation. The claims
4 of Plaintiffs and the Class Members are substantially identical as explained above.

5 **89. Superiority:** This class action is appropriate for certification because
6 class proceedings are superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
7 adjudication of this controversy and joinder of all members of the Class is
8 impracticable. This proposed class action presents fewer management difficulties
9 than individual litigation, and provides the benefits of single adjudication,
10 economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Class
11 treatment will create economies of time, effort, and expense, and promote uniform
12 decision-making.

13 **90. Predominance:** Common questions of law and fact predominate over
14 any questions affecting only individual Class Members. Similar or identical
15 violations, business practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any,
16 pale by comparison, in both quality and quantity, to the numerous common questions
17 that dominate this action. For example, Defendant's liability and the fact of damages
18 is common to Plaintiffs and each member of the Class. If Defendant breached its
19 duty to Plaintiffs and Class Members, then Plaintiffs and each Class member
20 suffered damages by that conduct.

21 **91. Injunctive Relief:** Defendant has acted and/or refused to act on
22 grounds that apply generally to the Class, making injunctive and/or declaratory relief
23 appropriate with respect to the Class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2).

24 **92. Ascertainability:** Members of the Class are ascertainable. Class
25 membership is defined using objective criteria, and Class Members may be readily
26 identified through Defendant's books and records.

1

2 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

3

4 **COUNT I**

5 **NEGLIGENCE**

6 **(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)**

7 93. Plaintiffs re-allege the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

8 94. Plaintiffs and Class Members provided their Private Information to
9 Defendant as a condition of obtaining services from Defendant.

10 95. Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiffs and Class Members to exercise
11 reasonable care in securing, safeguarding, storing, and protecting the PII collected
12 from them from being compromised, lost, stolen, accessed and misused by
13 unauthorized parties. This duty includes, among other things, designing,
14 maintaining, overseeing, and testing Defendant's security systems to ensure that PII
in UPX's possession was adequately secured and protected

15 96. Defendant had full knowledge of the sensitivity of the Private
16 Information and the types of harm that Plaintiffs and Class Members could and
17 would suffer if their Private Information were wrongfully disclosed.

18 97. Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiffs and Class Members to
19 provide reasonable security, consistent with industry standards, to ensure that its
20 systems and networks adequately protected their Private Information.

21 98. Defendant had a special relationship with Plaintiffs and Class
22 Members. Plaintiffs and Class Members' willingness to entrust UPX with their
23 Private Information as a condition of receiving resources was predicated on the
24 understanding that UPX would take adequate security precautions to protect their
25 PII.

1 99. By assuming the responsibility to collect and store this data, Defendant
2 had duties of care to use reasonable means to secure and to prevent disclosure of the
3 information, and to safeguard the information from theft.

4 100. Plaintiffs and members of the Class entrusted Defendant with their PII
5 with the understanding that UPX would safeguard their information.

6 101. Defendant's conduct also created a foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiffs
7 and Class Members by failing to: (1) secure its systems and exercise adequate
8 oversight of its data security protocols; (2) ensure compliance with industry standard
9 data security practices, (3) implement adequate system and event monitoring, and
10 (4) implement the systems, policies, and procedures necessary to prevent the Data
11 Breach.

12 102. Defendant knew, or should have known, of the risks inherent in
13 collecting and storing PII, the vulnerabilities of its systems, and the importance of
14 adequate security. Defendant should have been aware of numerous, well-publicized
15 data breaches in the months and years preceding the Data Breach.

16 103. Defendant breached its common law duty to act with reasonable care in
17 collecting and storing the Private Information of its constituents, which exists
18 independently from any contractual obligations between the parties. Specifically,
19 Defendant breached its common law, statutory, and other duties to Plaintiffs and
20 Class Members in numerous ways, including by:

- 21 a. failing to adopt reasonable data security measures, practices,
22 and protocols;
- 23 b. failing to implement data security systems, practices, and
24 protocols sufficient to protect Plaintiffs' and Class Members'
25 PII;
- 26 c. storing former Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII longer than
27 reasonably necessary;

- 1 d. failing to comply with industry-standard data security
- 2 measures; and
- 3
- 4 e. failing to timely disclose critical information regarding the
- 5 nature of the Data Breach.

6 104. Defendant's failure to implement and maintain adequate data security
7 measures to protect Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information created
8 conditions conducive to a foreseeable, intentional criminal act in the form of the
9 Data Breach. Plaintiffs and Class Members did not contribute to the Data Breach or
10 the subsequent misuse of their Private Information.

11 105. Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiffs and Class Members to
12 provide data security consistent with industry standards and other requirements
13 discussed herein, and to ensure that their systems and networks, and the personnel
14 responsible for them, adequately protected the Private Information.

15 106. Moreover, Defendant had a duty to promptly and adequately notify
16 Plaintiffs and Class Members of the Data Breach.

17 107. Defendant had and continues to have duties to adequately disclose that
18 the Private Information of Plaintiffs and Class Members within Defendant's
19 possession might have been compromised, how it was compromised, and precisely
20 the types of data that were compromised and when. Such notice is necessary to allow
21 Plaintiffs and Class Members to take steps to prevent, mitigate, and repair any
22 identity theft and the fraudulent use of their Private Information by third parties.

23 108. Defendant's conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and
24 amount of Private Information it obtained and stored and the foreseeable
25 consequences of the immense damages that would result to Plaintiffs and Class
26 Members.

109. Defendant has acknowledged that the Private Information of Plaintiffs and Class Members was disclosed to unauthorized third persons as a result of the Data Breach.

110. Defendant's conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of Private Information it obtained and stored and the foreseeable consequences of the immense damages that would result to Plaintiffs and Class Members.

111. But for Defendant's wrongful and negligent breaches of duties owed to Plaintiffs and Class Members, the Private Information of Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have been compromised.

112. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs and Class Members have and will suffer damages including, but not limited to: (i) the loss of value of their Private Information and loss of opportunity to determine for themselves how their PII is used; (ii) the publication and/or theft of their PII; (iii) out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from identity theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their PII; (iv) lost opportunity costs associated with addressing and attempting to mitigate the actual and future consequences of the Data Breach, including, but not limited to, efforts spent researching how to prevent, detect, contest and recover from tax fraud and identity theft; (v) time, effort, and expense associated with placing fraud alerts or freezes on credit reports; (vi) anxiety, emotional distress, loss of privacy, and other economic and non-economic losses; (vii) the continued risk to their PII, which remains in Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as UPX fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect it; and, (viii) future costs in terms of time, effort and money that will be expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the inevitable and continuing consequences of compromised for the rest of their lives.

1 113. But for Defendant's wrongful and negligent breaches of duties owed to
2 Plaintiffs and Class Members, the Private Information of Plaintiffs and Class
3 Members would not have been compromised.

4 114. There is a close causal connection between Defendant's failure to
5 implement security measures to protect the Private Information of Plaintiffs and
6 Class Members and the harm, or risk of imminent harm, suffered by Plaintiffs and
7 Class Members. The Private Information of Plaintiffs and Class Members was lost
8 and accessed as the proximate result of Defendant's failure to exercise reasonable
9 care in safeguarding such Private Information by adopting, implementing, and
10 maintaining appropriate security measures.

11 115. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiffs
12 and Class Members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited
13 to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii) lost or diminished value of Private Information; (iii)
14 lost time and opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual
15 consequences of the Data Breach; (iv) loss of benefit of the bargain; (v) an increase
16 in spam calls, texts, and/or emails; and (vi) the continued and certainly increased
17 risk to their Private Information, which: (a) remains unencrypted and available for
18 unauthorized third parties to access and abuse; and (b) remains backed up in
19 Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as
20 Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the Private
21 Information.

22 116. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiffs
23 and the Class have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury and/or
24 harm, including, but not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, loss of privacy, and
25 other economic and non-economic losses.

26 117. In addition, UPX had a duty to employ reasonable security measures
27 under Section 5 of the FTCA, 15 U.S.C. § 45, which prohibits "unfair . . . practices
28

1 in or affecting commerce," including, as interpreted and enforced by the FTC, the
 2 unfair practice of failing to use reasonable measures to protect confidential data.

3 118. Defendant's violation of federal statutes, including the FTCA,
 4 constitutes negligence *per se*.

5 119. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's
 6 negligence and negligence *per se*, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered and will
 7 suffer the continued risks of exposure of their Private Information, which remain in
 8 Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as
 9 Defendant fail to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the Private
 10 Information in its continued possession.

11 120. Plaintiffs and Class Members are therefore entitled to damages,
 12 including restitution and unjust enrichment, declaratory and injunctive relief, and
 13 attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses.

14 **COUNT II**
 15 **Breach of Implied Contract**
 16 **(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)**

17 121. Plaintiffs re-allege the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

18 122. In connection with obtaining services from Defendant, Plaintiffs and
 19 Class Members entered into implied contracts with UPX.

20 123. Plaintiffs and Class Members were required to deliver their Private
 21 Information to Defendant as part of the process of obtaining services from
 22 Defendant.

23 124. Defendant required Class Members to provide their Private Information
 24 in order to obtain services from Defendant. Plaintiffs and Class Members accepted
 25 Defendant's offers and provided their Private Information to Defendant.

1 125. Defendant accepted possession of Plaintiffs' and Class Members'
2 Private Information for the purpose of providing services to Plaintiffs and Class
3 Members.

4 126. When Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII to UPX as a pre-
5 condition for services, they entered into implied contracts with UPX.

6 127. Pursuant to these implied contracts, in exchange for the consideration
7 and PII provided by Plaintiffs and Class Members, Defendant agreed to, among other
8 things, and Plaintiffs and Class Members understood that UPX would: (1) provide
9 products and/or services to Plaintiffs and Class Members; (2) implement reasonable
10 measures to protect the security and confidentiality of Plaintiffs' and Class
11 Members' PII; and (3) protect Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII in compliance with
12 federal and state laws and regulations and industry standards

13 128. In entering into such implied contracts, Plaintiffs and Class Members
14 reasonably believed and expected that Defendant's data security practices complied
15 with relevant laws and regulations and were consistent with industry standards.

16 129. Implicit in the agreement between Plaintiffs and Class Members and
17 Defendant to provide Private Information, was the latter's obligation to: (a) use such
18 Private Information for business purposes only, (b) take reasonable steps to
19 safeguard that Private Information, (c) prevent unauthorized disclosures of the
20 Private Information, (d) provide Plaintiffs and Class Members with prompt and
21 sufficient notice of any and all unauthorized access and/or theft of their Private
22 Information, (e) reasonably safeguard and protect the Private Information of
23 Plaintiffs and Class Members from unauthorized disclosure or uses, and (f) retain
24 the Private Information only under conditions that kept such information secure and
25 confidential.

26 130. The protection of PII was a material term of the implied contracts
27 between Plaintiffs and Class Members, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other

1 hand. Indeed, as set forth herein, Defendant recognized its duty to provide adequate
2 data security and ensure the privacy of its constituents' PII with its practice of
3 providing a privacy policy on its website.

4 131. Plaintiffs and Class Members performed their obligations under the
5 implied contract when they provided Defendant with their PII.

6 132. Defendant breached its obligations under its implied contracts with
7 Plaintiffs and Class Members in failing to implement and maintain reasonable
8 security measures to protect and secure their PII and in failing to implement and
9 maintain security protocols and procedures to protect Plaintiffs' and Class Members'
10 PII in a manner that complies with applicable laws, regulations, and industry
11 standards

12 133. The mutual understanding and intent of Plaintiffs and Class Members
13 on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other, is demonstrated by their conduct and
14 course of dealing.

15 134. On information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendant
16 promulgated, adopted, and implemented written privacy policies whereby it
17 expressly promised Plaintiffs and Class Members that it would only disclose Private
18 Information under certain circumstances, none of which relate to the Data Breach.

19 135. On information and belief, Defendant further promised to comply with
20 industry standards and to make sure that Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private
21 Information would remain protected.

22 136. Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have entrusted their Private
23 Information to Defendant in the absence of the implied contract between them and
24 Defendant to keep their information reasonably secure.

25 137. Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have entrusted their Private
26 Information to Defendant in the absence of their implied promise to monitor their
27

1 computer systems and networks to ensure that it adopted reasonable data security
2 measures.

3 138. Plaintiffs and Class Members fully and adequately performed their
4 obligations under the implied contracts with Defendant.

5 139. Defendant breached the implied contracts it made with Plaintiffs and
6 the Class by failing to safeguard and protect their Private Information, by failing to
7 delete the information of Plaintiffs and the Class once the relationship ended, and by
8 failing to provide accurate notice to them that Private Information was compromised
9 as a result of the Data Breach

10 140. Defendant breached the implied contracts by failing to maintain
11 adequate computer systems and data security practices to safeguard Private
12 Information, failing to timely and accurately disclose the Data Breach to Plaintiffs
13 and Class Members and continued acceptance of Private Information and storage of
14 other personal information after Defendant knew, or should have known, of the
15 security vulnerabilities of the systems that were exploited in the Data Breach.

16 141. Defendant's breach of its obligations of its implied contracts with
17 Plaintiffs and Class Members directly resulted in the Data Breach and the injuries
18 that Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered from the Data Breach.

19 142. Plaintiffs and Class Members suffered by virtue of Defendant's breach
20 of their implied contracts because: (i) they paid for data security protection they did
21 not receive; (ii) they face a substantially increased risk of identity theft - risks
22 justifying expenditures for protective and remedial services for which they are
23 entitled to compensation; (iii) their PII was improperly disclosed to unauthorized
24 individuals; (iv) the confidentiality of their PII has been breached; (v) they were
25 deprived of the value of their PII, for which there is a well-established national and
26 international market; (vi) they have lost time and incurred expenses, and will incur
27 future costs to mitigate and remediate the effects of the Data Breach, including the

1 increased risks of identity theft they face and will continue to face; and (vii) they
 2 have overpaid for the services they received without adequate data security.

3 143. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to compensatory,
 4 consequential, and nominal damages suffered as a result of the Data Breach.

5 144. Plaintiffs and Class Members are also entitled to injunctive relief
 6 requiring Defendant to, *e.g.*, (i) strengthen its data security systems and monitoring
 7 procedures; (ii) submit to future annual audits of those systems and monitoring
 8 procedures; and (iii) immediately provide adequate credit monitoring to all Class
 9 Members.

10

COUNT III
 11 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**
 12 **(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)**

13 145. Plaintiffs re-allege the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

14 146. This count is plead in the alternative to the breach of implied contract
 15 count above.

16 147. By its wrongful acts and omissions described herein, Defendant has
 17 obtained a benefit by unduly taking advantage of Plaintiffs and Class Members.

18 148. Plaintiffs and Class Members conferred a benefit on Defendant,
 19 whereby they provided their Private Information to Defendant in connection with
 20 receiving certain services.

21 149. Defendant prior to and at the time Plaintiffs and Class Members
 22 entrusted it with their PII, caused Plaintiffs and Class Members to reasonably believe
 23 that it would keep that Private Information secure.

24 150. The monies Defendant was paid in its ordinary course of business
 25 included a premium for Defendant's cybersecurity obligations and were supposed to
 26 be used by Defendant, in part, to pay for the administrative and other costs of

1 providing reasonable data security and protection for Plaintiffs' and Class Members'
2 Private Information.

3 151. Defendant knew that Plaintiffs and Class Members conferred a benefit
4 upon it and accepted and retained that benefit by accepting and retaining the Private
5 Information entrusted to it. Defendant profited from Plaintiffs' retained data and
6 used Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information for business purposes.

7 152. Defendant failed to disclose facts pertaining to its substandard
8 information systems, or defects and vulnerabilities therein before Plaintiffs and
9 Class Members made their decisions to provide Defendant with their Private
10 Information.

11 153. Plaintiffs and Class Members were had no reason to believe that
12 Defendant would employ inadequate security when storing their sensitive PII.

13 154. Plaintiffs and Class Members had no reason to believe that Defendant
14 would engage with software providers who would employ inadequate security when
15 storing Plaintiffs' and Class Members sensitive PII.

16 155. Defendant enriched itself by hoarding the costs it reasonably should
17 have expended on data security measures to secure Plaintiffs and Class Members'
18 Private Information. Instead of providing a reasonable level of security that would
19 have prevented the Data Breach, Defendant calculated to increase its own profit at
20 the expense of Plaintiffs and Class Members by utilizing cheap, ineffective security
21 measures and diverting those funds to its own personal use. Plaintiffs and Class
22 Members, on the other hand, suffered as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's
23 decision to prioritize its own profits over the requisite security and the safety of their
24 Private Information.

25 156. Defendant failed to provide reasonable security, safeguards, and
26 protections to the Private Information of Plaintiffs and Class Members, and as a
27 result, Defendant was overpaid.

157. Under principles of equity and good conscience, Defendant should not be permitted to retain any of the benefits that Plaintiffs and Class Members conferred upon it.

158. Plaintiffs and Class Members have no adequate remedy at law.

159. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii) lost or diminished value of Private Information; (iii) lost time and opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach; (iv) loss of benefit of the bargain; (v) an increase in spam calls, texts, and/or emails; and (vi) the continued and certainly increased risk to their Private Information, which: (a) remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to access and abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the Private Information.

160. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to full refunds, restitution, and/or damages from Defendant and/or an order proportionally disgorging all profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by Defendant from its wrongful conduct. This can be accomplished by establishing a constructive trust from which Plaintiffs and Class Members may seek restitution or compensation.

COUNT IV
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT
(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)

161. Plaintiffs re-allege the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

162. Under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, *et seq.*, this Court is authorized to enter a judgment declaring the rights and legal relations of the

1 parties and grant further necessary relief. Furthermore, the Court has broad authority
2 to restrain acts, such as here, that are tortious and violate the terms of the federal and
3 state statutes described in this Complaint.

4 163. An actual controversy has arisen in the wake of the Data Breach
5 regarding Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Private Information and whether UPX is
6 currently maintaining data security measures adequate to protect Plaintiffs and Class
7 Members from further data breaches that compromise their PII. Plaintiff alleges that
8 UPX's data security measures remain inadequate. Furthermore, Plaintiffs continues
9 to suffer injury as a result of the compromise of their PII and remains at imminent
10 risk that further compromises of their PII will occur in the future.

11 164. Pursuant to its authority under the Declaratory Judgment Act, this Court
12 should enter a judgment declaring, among other things, the following:

- 13 a. UPX owes a legal duty to secure Class Members' Private
14 Information and to timely notify impacted individuals of a data
15 breach under the common law, and various state statutes; and
- 16 b. UPX continues to breach this legal duty by failing to employ
17 reasonable measures to secure Class Members' Private
18 Information in its possession.

19 205. This Court also should issue corresponding prospective injunctive relief
21 requiring UPX to employ adequate security protocols consistent with law and
22 industry standards to protect Private Information in UPX's data network.

23 166. If an injunction is not issued, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury,
24 and lack an adequate legal remedy, in the event of another data breach at UPX. The
25 risk of another such breach is real, immediate, and substantial. If another breach at
26 UPX occurs, Plaintiffs will not have an adequate remedy at law because many of the
27

resulting injuries are not readily quantified and they will be forced to bring multiple lawsuits to rectify the same conduct.

167. The hardship to Plaintiffs if an injunction is not issued exceeds the hardship to UPX if an injunction is issued. Plaintiffs will likely be subjected to substantial identity theft and other damage. On the other hand, the cost to UPX of complying with an injunction by employing reasonable prospective data security measures is relatively minimal, and UPX has a pre-existing legal obligation to employ such measures.

168. Issuance of the requested injunction will not disserve the public interest. In contrast, such an injunction would benefit the public by preventing another data breach at UPX, thus eliminating the additional injuries that would result to Plaintiff and constituents whose confidential information would be further compromised.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment as follows:

A. For an Order certifying this action as a class action, appointing Plaintiffs as class representatives for the Class, and appointing their counsel to represent the Class;

B. For equitable relief enjoining UPX from engaging in the wrongful conduct complained of herein pertaining to the misuse and/or disclosure of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII, and from refusing to issue prompt, complete and accurate disclosures to Plaintiffs and Class Members;

C. For equitable relief compelling UPX to utilize appropriate methods and policies with respect to constituent data collection, storage, and safety, and to disclose with specificity the types of PII compromised as a result of the Data Breach;

D. For equitable relief requiring restitution and disgorgement of the revenues wrongfully retained as a result of UPX's wrongful conduct;

E. Ordering UPX to pay for not less than ten years of credit monitoring services for Plaintiffs and Class Members;

F. For an award of actual damages, compensatory damages, statutory damages, and statutory penalties, in an amount to be determined, as allowable by law;

G. For an award of punitive damages, as allowable by law;

H. For an award of attorneys' fees and costs, and any other expense, including expert witness fees;

I. Pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded; and

J. Such other and further relief as this court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 23, 2025

/s/ *Anasuya E. Shekhar*

Anasuya E. Shekhar

(State Bar No. 037403)

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Proposed Class*

Civil Cover Sheet

This automated JS-44 conforms generally to the manual JS-44 approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974. The data is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. The information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is authorized for use only in the District of Arizona.

The completed cover sheet must be printed directly to PDF and filed as an attachment to the Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Plaintiff(s): STEPHANIE HILL , ; HAILEY WALLER , ;

County of Residence: Outside the State of Arizona

County Where Claim For Relief Arose: Maricopa

Plaintiff's Atty(s):

Anasuya E. Shekhar ,

Lynch Carpenter LLP
1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-322-9243

Defendant(s): THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX INC. , ;

County of Residence: Maricopa

Defendant's Atty(s):

,

IFP REQUESTED

REMOVAL FROM COUNTY, CASE #

II. Basis of Jurisdiction:

4. Diversity (complete item III)

III. Citizenship of Principal Parties(Diversity Cases Only)

2 Citizen of Another State

Plaintiff:-

4 AZ corp or Principal place of Bus. in AZ

Defendant:-

IV. Origin :

1. Original Proceeding

V. Nature of Suit:

190 Other Contract

VI.Cause of Action:

28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)

VII. Requested in Complaint

Yes

Class Action:

\$5,000,000

Dollar Demand:

Yes

Jury Demand:

VIII. This case IS RELATED to Case Number **2:25-cv-04522** assigned to Judge **Hon. Diane J. Humetewa**.

Signature: /s/ Anasuya E. Shekhar

Date: 12/23/2025

If any of this information is incorrect, please go back to the Civil Cover Sheet Input form using the *Back* button in your browser and change it. Once correct, save this form as a PDF and include it as an attachment to your case opening documents.