

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
ANDERSON DIVISION

Mikki Goldson, individually and on behalf of all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No: 8:18-cv-2128-AMQ

**CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

-v.-

FBCS, Inc.,  
Cavalry SPV I, LLC and  
John Does 1-25

Defendant.

Plaintiff Mikki Goldson (hereinafter, “Plaintiff” or “Goldson”), a South Carolina resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, Norsworthy Law Ltd. Co. against Defendant FBCS, Inc. (hereinafter “Defendant FBCS”) and Defendant Cavalry SPV I, LLC (hereinafter “Defendant Cavalry”), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff’s counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff’s personal knowledge.

**INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Congress enacted the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter “the FDCPA”) in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. §1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws...[we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "'the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).
2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Id.* § 1692(e). “After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate.” *Id.* § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. *Id.* § 1692k.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. The Court has pendent jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of South Carolina consumers under §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and

6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory relief.

### **PARTIES**

7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of South Carolina, County of Anderson, residing at 21 Stoney Hill Loop, Bluffton, SC 29910.

8. Defendant FBCS is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 330 S. Warminster Road, Suite 353, Hatboro, PA 19040.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant FBCS is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

10. Defendant Cavalry is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 500 Summit Lake Drive, Valhalla, NY 10595.

11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Cavalry is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

12. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

**CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

13. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).

14. The Class consists of:

- a. all individuals with addresses in the State of South Carolina;
- b. to whom Defendant FBCS, Inc. sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
- c. whose letter states that Defendant Cavalry will not sue the consumer;
- d. without clearly stating that the consumer could no longer be sued by any party;
- e. Additionally the letter, fails to disclose that the previously-lapsed statute of limitations to file a lawsuit to collect the debt will recommence upon payment;
- f. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.

15. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.

16. Excluded from the Plaintiff Class are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective

immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.

17. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.

18. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff nor her attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

19. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:

- a. **Numerosity:** The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class defined above is so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
- b. **Common Questions Predominate:** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Class and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal

issue is \whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A violate 15 USC §1692e.

- c. **Typicality:** The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff Class have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. **Adequacy:** The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor her counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. **Superiority:** A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.

20. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff Class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is

superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

21. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

22. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

23. Some time prior to January 11, 2018, an obligation was allegedly incurred to DriveTime.

24. The DriveTime obligation arose out of an automobile purchase in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, were primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

25. The alleged DriveTime obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

26. Due to her financial constraints, Plaintiff could not pay the alleged debt, and it went into default.

27. Sometime thereafter, Defendant Cavalry purportedly purchased the alleged debt.

28. Defendant Cavalry, a subsequent owner of the DriveTime debt, contracted with the Defendant FBCS to collect the alleged debt.

29. Defendant FBCS and Defendant Cavalry collect and attempt to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.

Violation – January 11, 2018 Collection Letter

30. On or about January 11, 2018, Defendant FBCS sent Plaintiff an initial collection letter (the “Letter”) regarding the alleged debt owed to Defendant Cavalry. **See Exhibit A.**

31. The very bottom of the Collection Letter states in part: “The law limits how long you can be sued on a debt. Because of the age of your debt, our client will not sue you for it...”

32. The alleged debt is time-barred, meaning that Defendant Cavalry cannot sue Plaintiff.

33. The Letter implies that Defendant Cavalry has chosen not to sue (“will not sue you”), instead of the true fact that neither Defendant Cavalry, nor Defendant FBCS, nor any subsequent creditor/collector can file a lawsuit.

34. The statement contained in Defendant FBCS’s letter is materially deceptive to the unsophisticated consumer, who would believe that Defendant Cavalry or a subsequent creditor has the option to change its mind should he/she not pay the alleged debt.

35. Moreover, the Collection Letter is completely silent as to the rights of the debt collector, Defendant FBCS, to file a lawsuit against the consumer.

36. Finally, the Collection Letter is materially deceptive as it fails to disclose that the previously-lapsed statute of limitations to file a lawsuit to collect the debt will recommence upon payment by Plaintiff.

37. Defendants made deceptive and misleading representations when they communicated to Plaintiff that Defendant Cavalry was opting not to sue Plaintiff, when in fact, it was not permitted to sue as a matter of law, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(5) and 1692e(10).

38. As a result of Defendants' deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

**COUNT I**  
**VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e *et seq.***

39. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

40. Defendants' debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

41. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

42. Defendants made deceptive and misleading representations when they communicated to Plaintiff that Defendant Cavalry was choosing not to sue Plaintiff, when in fact, it was not permitted to sue as a matter of law, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(5) and 1692e(10).

43. Further, Defendants failed to advise that any payment made on the debt by Plaintiff would restart the statute of limitations for bringing a lawsuit.

44. By reason thereof, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendants' conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

**DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

45. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Mikki Goldson, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant FBCS, Inc. and Defendant Cavalry SPV I, LLC, as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Ken Norsworthy, Esq. as Class Counsel;
2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: August 2, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

**NORSWORTHY LAW, LTD. CO.**

/s/ Ken Norsworthy

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