

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

LORI REYNOLDS and SARA and JESSE MUENKEL, on behalf of themselves and a class of similarly situated persons,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CENCORA, INC. and THE LASH GROUP, LLC,

Defendants.

**CASE NO.: 24-cv-2649**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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Plaintiffs, Lori Reynolds and Sara and Jesse Muenkel, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (“Plaintiffs”), bring this action against Defendants Cencora, Inc. (“Cencora”) and The Lash Group (“Lash”) (collectively, “Defendants”), seeking monetary damages, restitution, and/or injunctive relief for the proposed Class and Subclass, as defined below. Plaintiffs make the following allegations upon information and belief, the investigation of their counsel, and personal knowledge or facts that are a matter of public record.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The release, disclosure, and publication of sensitive, private data can be devastating. Not only is it an intrusion of privacy and a loss of control, but it is a harbinger of identity theft: for victims of a data breach, the risk of identity theft more than quadruples.<sup>1</sup> A data breach can have grave consequences for victims for years after the actual date of the breach—with the obtained information, thieves can wreak many forms of havoc: open new financial accounts, take out loans, obtain medical services, obtain government benefits, and/or obtain driver’s licenses in the victims’ names, forcing victims to maintain a constant vigilance over the potential misuse of their information. Moreover, the release disclosure, and publication of private medical information, such as diagnosis, medications and prescriptions can lead to sophisticated and costly insurance fraud, as well as embarrassment, humiliation and blackmail.

2. Defendant Cencora (formerly known as AmerisourceBergen) provides drug distribution, specialty pharmacy, consulting and clinical trial support to the nation’s largest pharmaceutical manufacturers.<sup>2</sup> The Lash Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cencora that provides “patient support technologies.”<sup>3</sup> Defendants provide pharmaceutical manufacturer, healthcare and pharmacy clients with technology and services integral to drug distribution, analytics, and patient support.

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<sup>1</sup> Dave Maxfield & Bill Latham, *Data Breaches: Perspectives from Both Sides of the Wall*, 25 S.C. LAWYER 28-35 (May 2014), <https://articlegateway.com>. (Last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> See Bill Toulas, *Cencora Data Breach Exposes US Patient Info from 11 Drug Companies*, Bleeping Computer (May 25, 2024), <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/cencora-data-breach-exposes-us-patient-info-from-11-drug-companies/> (Last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> See Lash website:

<https://www.lashgroup.com/#%3A~%3Atext%3DWe%20pair%20advanced%20technologies%20with%2Cevery%20step%20of%20t> (Last accessed June 13, 2024).

3. As Defendants have now admitted, “data from its information systems had been exfiltrated, some of which could contain personal information.”<sup>4</sup> Defendants further explained: “Based on our investigation, personal information including personal health information was affected, including potentially first name, last name, date of birth, health diagnosis, and/or medications and prescriptions.”<sup>5</sup> The data breach thus constitutes confidential and highly sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI).

4. In February, 2024, Cencora first disclosed in a Form 8-K filing with the SEC that personal information was compromised from its networks (the “Data Breach”).<sup>6</sup> But Cencora and Lash made no efforts to disclose the data breach publicly, or alert the millions (on information and belief) of consumers and patients whose private information was exfiltrated until late May 2024 when it created notifications of the Data Breach and published links on the Lash website. It was not until the middle of June, 2024, that affected individuals first began to learn that their personal and health information had been compromised by Cencora.

5. Defendants garner revenue of hundreds of billions of dollars each year. In 2023 alone, Cencora’s U.S. Operations boasted revenue of nearly \$235 billion and operating income of \$2.597 billion.<sup>7</sup> Cencora’s balance sheet indicates cash and cash equivalents of \$2,068,858,000 as of March 31, 2024.<sup>8</sup> Cencora and Lash could easily have allocated a small portion of their profits toward cybersecurity and prevention to forestall and prevent the Data breach. But Defendants chose profits over protection of patients most sensitive PII and PHI. As a result of the Data Breach, through which their PII and PHI was compromised, disclosed, and obtained by unauthorized third parties, Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered concrete damages and are now exposed to a heightened and imminent risk of fraud and identity theft for a period of years, if not decades. Furthermore, Plaintiffs and Class members must now and in the future closely monitor their

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<sup>4</sup> Notice of Data Security Incident. <https://www.lashgroup.com/notice> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1140859/000110465924028288/tm247267d1\\_8k.htm](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1140859/000110465924028288/tm247267d1_8k.htm)

<sup>7</sup> See Cencora Investor Relations Web Page: <https://investor.cencora.com/overview/default.aspx> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> See Cencora Form 10-Q for period ending March 31, 2024:

[https://investor.cencora.com/files/doc\\_financials/2024/q2/668abd56-26dc-4495-8c63-32e7ee623633.pdf](https://investor.cencora.com/files/doc_financials/2024/q2/668abd56-26dc-4495-8c63-32e7ee623633.pdf)

financial accounts to guard against identity theft, at their own expense. And they must make family and close friends aware that personal health information about class members could be used in fraud and phishing attempts targeting their friends and families. Consequently, Plaintiffs and the other Class members will incur ongoing out-of-pocket costs for, *e.g.*, purchasing credit monitoring services, credit freezes, credit reports, or other protective measures to deter and detect identity theft and other fraudulent behavior.

6. By this Complaint, Plaintiffs seek to remedy these harms on behalf of themselves and all similarly situated individuals whose private information was accessed during the Data Breach.

## **II. JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND CHOICE OF LAW**

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), as modified by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1711, *et seq.*, because at least one member of the Class, as defined below, is a citizen of a different state than the Defendants, there are more than 100 members of the Class, and the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs. This Court also has diversity jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).

8. The Court has personal jurisdiction over this action because both Defendants maintain their principal place of business in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, in this District, they have sufficient minimum contacts with this District, and has purposefully availed themselves of the privilege of doing business in this District such that they could reasonably foresee litigation being brought in this District.

9. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1331(a) through (d) because Defendants’ principal place of business is located in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in, was directed to, and/or emanated from this District.

## **III. PARTIES**

### **A. Plaintiff Lori Reynolds**

10. Plaintiff Lori Reynolds is a citizen of and is domiciled in the state of Mississippi.

11. Plaintiff is a consumer who has obtained products or services from one or more of the pharmaceutical and health care companies to whom Defendants provide products and services.

12. Plaintiff provided confidential and sensitive PII and PHI to one or more of the pharmaceutical and health care companies to whom Defendants provide products and services and those companies, in turn, provided Plaintiff's PII and PHI to Defendants, in connection with Defendants' provision of their services. Defendants obtained and continue to maintain Plaintiff's PII and PHI and have a legal duty and obligation to protect that PII and PHI from unauthorized access and disclosure.

13. Plaintiff would not have entrusted her PII and PHI to Defendants had she known that Defendants failed to maintain adequate data security.

14. On or about June 10, 2024, plaintiff received notification from Defendants that her information was compromised via letter.

15. Plaintiff subsequently spent several hours taking action to mitigate the impact of the Data Breach, including researching the Data Breach, researching ways to protect herself from data breaches, and reviewing her financial accounts for fraud or suspicious activity. She now plans to spend several hours a month checking account statements for irregularities.

16. As a result of the Data Breach and the release of her PHI and PII, which she expected Defendants to protect from disclosure, Plaintiff has suffered emotional distress, including anxiety, concern, and unease about unauthorized parties viewing and potentially using her PHI and PII. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff anticipates spending considerable time and money to contain the impact of the Data Breach.

## **B. Plaintiffs Jesse and Sara Muenkel**

17. Plaintiffs Sara and Jesse Muenkel are citizens of and are domiciled in the state of Wisconsin.

18. Plaintiffs are consumers who have obtained products or services from one or more of the pharmaceutical and health care companies to whom Defendants provide products and services.

19. Plaintiffs provided confidential and sensitive PII and PHI, including information related to their minor child, H.M., to one or more of the pharmaceutical and health care companies to whom Defendants provide products and services and those companies, in turn, provided Plaintiffs' PII and PHI to Defendants, in connection with Defendants' provision of their services. Defendants obtained and continue to maintain Plaintiffs' PII and PHI and have a legal duty and obligation to protect that PII and PHI from unauthorized access and disclosure.

20. Plaintiffs would not have entrusted their PII and PHI to Defendants had they known that Defendants failed to maintain adequate data security.

21. On or about June 10, 2024, plaintiffs received notification from Defendants that their information was compromised via letter.

22. Plaintiffs subsequently spent several hours taking action to mitigate the impact of the Data Breach, including researching the Data Breach, researching ways to protect themselves and their minor child from data breaches, and reviewing their financial accounts for fraud or suspicious activity. They now plan to spend several hours a month checking account statements for irregularities.

23. As a result of the Data Breach and the release of their PHI and PII, which they expected Defendants to protect from disclosure, Plaintiffs have suffered emotional distress, including anxiety, concern, and unease about unauthorized parties viewing and potentially using their PHI and PII. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiffs anticipate spending considerable time and money to contain the impact of the Data Breach.

### **C. Defendants**

24. Defendant Cencora, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 1 West First Avenue, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428.

25. Defendant The Lash Group LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with a principal place of business located at 1 West First Avenue, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428. Upon information and belief, Lash Group's sole member is AmerisourceBergen Consulting Services, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. AmerisourceBergen Consulting Services, LLC's sole members is AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, a Delaware corporation whose

principal place of business is located at 1 West First Avenue, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428. AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation's sole shareholder in turn is Defendant Cencora, Inc. The Lash Group is a citizen of each State in which its member is a citizen. The Lash Group is therefore a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware.

#### **IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

##### **A. Defendants failed to adequately protect customer data, resulting in the Data Breach.**

26. In the course of their business, Defendants collect names, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, physical addresses, driver's license information, insurance, and medical information from their customers and the customers of their customers. They also maintain medical records subject to the requirements and standards of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

27. As a condition of providing services, Defendants receive, create, and handle the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and Class Members.

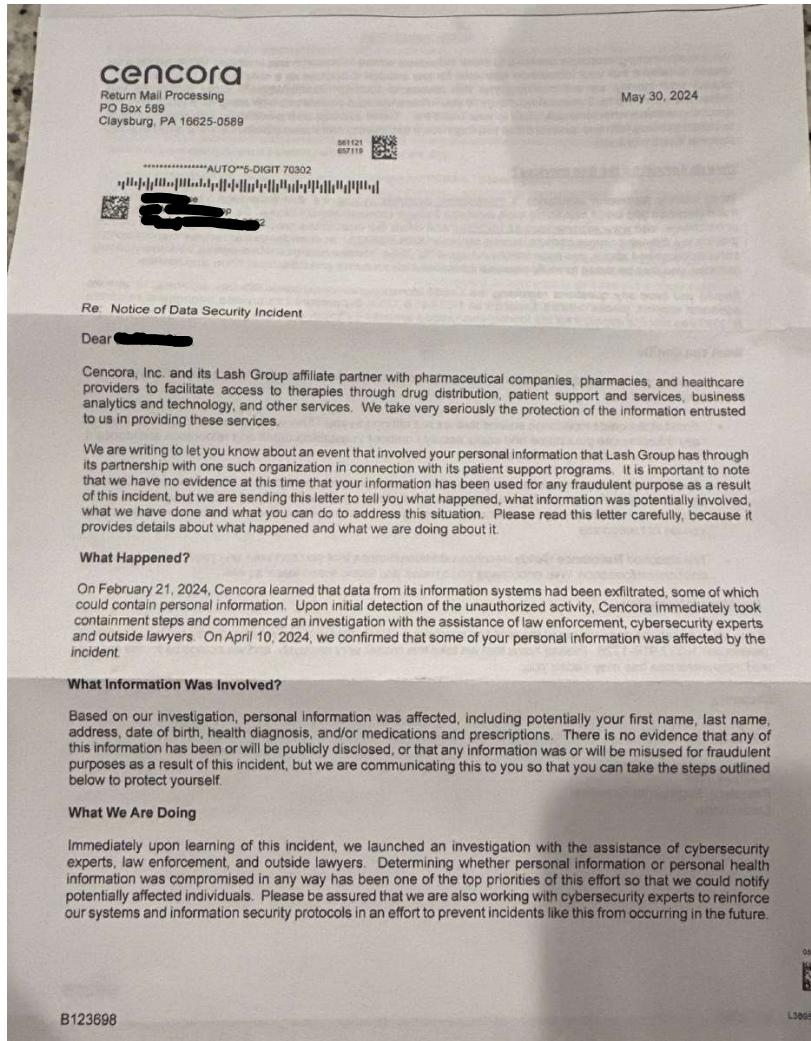
28. Plaintiffs and Class Members must provide Defendants with their sensitive and confidential PII and PHI in order to receive Defendants' services. Plaintiffs reasonably expected that Defendants would safeguard their highly sensitive information and keep it confidential.

29. Due to the sensitivity of the PII and PHI that Defendants handle, Defendants are aware of their critical responsibility to safeguard this information—and, therefore, how devastating its theft is to individuals whose information has been stolen.

30. By obtaining, collecting, and storing Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII and PHI, Defendants assumed equitable and legal duties to safeguard and keep confidential Plaintiffs' and Class Members' highly sensitive information, to only use this information for business purposes, and to only make authorized disclosures.

31. Despite the existence of these duties, Defendants failed to implement reasonable data security measures to protect the information with which it was entrusted, and ultimately allowed nefarious third-party hackers to compromise Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII and PHI.

32. Plaintiff and other class members received the following letter dated May 30, 2024 (but not actually delivered until mid-June):



33. While Plaintiff received a letter explaining what happened, not everyone whose data was stolen has been notified. There are likely tens of thousands of consumers who do not yet know that their information was impacted by this data breach.

**B. Defendants were well aware of the need to take special care with consumers' PII, PHI and Medical information.**

34. Both Defendants claim to maintain protected information in compliance with HIPAA requirements.<sup>9</sup>

35. Defendants made these representations concerning securing consumers PII and PHI because they knew and understood the severe consequences of losing this data.

36. As early as 2014, the FBI alerted the healthcare industry that they were an increasingly preferred target of hackers, stating “[t]he FBI has observed malicious actors targeting healthcare related systems, perhaps for the purpose of obtaining Protected Health Information (PHI) and/or Personally Identifiable Information (Personal Information)” so that these companies can take the necessary precautions to thwart such attacks.<sup>10</sup>

37. The healthcare industry has become a rich target for hackers: “High demand for patient information and often-outdated systems are among the nine reasons healthcare is now the biggest target for online attacks.”<sup>11</sup> “The IT environments of healthcare organizations are often complex and difficult to secure. Devices and software continue to be used that have reached end-of-life, as upgrading is costly and often problematic. Many healthcare providers use software solutions that have been developed to work on specific – and now obsolete – operating systems and cannot be transferred to supported operating systems.”<sup>12</sup>

38. PII has considerable value and constitutes an enticing and well-known target to hackers. Hackers easily can sell stolen data as there has been a “proliferation of open and anonymous cybercrime forums on the Dark Web that serve as a bustling marketplace for such

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<sup>9</sup> Form 10-K, *supra* note 6; Notice of Privacy Practices, Lash Group (July 1, 2012), <https://www.lashgroup.com/notice-of-privacy-practices>.

<sup>10</sup> Reuters, FBI warns healthcare firms they are targeted by hackers, August 20, 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cybersecurity-healthcare-fbi-idUSKBN0GK24U20140820> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>11</sup> The healthcare industry is at risk, SwivelSecure <https://swivelsecure.com/solutions/healthcare/healthcare-is-the-biggest-target-for-cyberattacks/> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>12</sup> Steve Alder, Editorial: Why Do Criminals Target Medical Records, HIPAA Journal (Oct. 14, 2022), <https://www.hipaajournal.com/why-do-criminals-target-medical-records/#:~:text=Healthcare%20records%20are%20so%20valuable,credit%20cards%20in%20victims%20names>.

commerce.”<sup>13</sup> PHI, in addition to being of a highly personal and private nature, can be used for medical fraud and to submit false medical claims for reimbursement.

**C. Defendants Failed To Comply With Regulatory Guidance And Industry-Standard Cybersecurity Practices.**

39. Defendants’ data security failure stems from its failure to comply with state and federal laws and requirements as well as industry standards governing the protection of PII and PHI.

40. At least 24 states have enacted laws addressing data security practices that require that businesses that own, license or maintain PII to implement and maintain “reasonable security procedures and practices” and to protect PII from unauthorized access.

41. Defendants also failed to comply with Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) guidance on protecting PII and industry-standard cybersecurity practices. Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, prohibits “unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce,” including, as interpreted by the FTC, failing to use reasonable measures to protect PII by companies like Defendant. Several publications by the FTC outline the importance of implementing reasonable security systems to protect data. The FTC has made clear that protecting sensitive customer data should factor into virtually all business decisions.

42. The FTC recommends:

- limiting access to customer information to employees who have a business reason to see it;
- keeping customer information in encrypted files provides better protection in case of theft;
- maintaining up-to-date and appropriate programs and controls to prevent unauthorized access to customer information;
- using appropriate oversight or audit procedures to detect the improper disclosure or theft of customer information;
- monitoring both in- and out-bound transfers of information for indications of a compromise, such as unexpectedly large amounts of data being transmitted from your system to an unknown user; and,

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<sup>13</sup> Brian Krebs, *The Value of a Hacked Company*, Krebs on Security (July 14, 2016), <http://krebsongsecurity.com/2016/07/the-value-of-a-hacked-company/> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

- monitoring activity logs for signs of unauthorized access to customer information.<sup>14</sup>

43. The FTC has also issued numerous guides for businesses highlighting the importance of reasonable data security practices. According to the FTC, the need for data security should be factored into all business decision-making.<sup>15</sup>

44. In 2016, the FTC updated its publication, *Protecting PII: A Guide for Business*, which established guidelines for fundamental data security principles and practices for business.<sup>16</sup> The guidelines note businesses should protect the personal customer information that they keep; properly dispose of PII that is no longer needed; encrypt information stored on computer networks; understand their network's vulnerabilities; and implement policies to correct security problems. The guidelines also recommend that businesses use an intrusion detection system to expose a breach as soon as it occurs; monitor all incoming traffic for activity indicating someone is attempting to hack the system; watch for large amounts of data being transmitted from the system; and have a response plan ready in the event of a breach.

45. The FTC recommends that businesses delete payment card information after the time needed to process a transaction; restrict employee access to sensitive customer information; require strong passwords be used by employees with access to sensitive customer information; apply security measures that have proven successful in the particular industry; and verify that third parties with access to sensitive information use reasonable security measures.

46. The FTC also recommends that companies use an intrusion detection system to immediately expose a data breach; monitor incoming traffic for suspicious activity that indicates a hacker is trying to penetrate the system; monitor for the transmission of large amounts of data from the system; and develop a plan to respond effectively to a data breach in the event one occurs.

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<sup>14</sup> Federal Trade Commission, *Financial Institutions and Customer Information: Complying with the Safeguards Rule*, available at <https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/financial-institutions-customer-information-complying> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>15</sup> Federal Trade Commission, *Start With Security* at 2, available at <https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf0205-startwithsecurity.pdf> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>16</sup> Federal Trade Commission, *Protecting PII: A Guide for Business*, available at [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136\\_protecting-personal-information.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_protecting-personal-information.pdf) (last accessed June 13, 2024).

47. The FTC has brought enforcement actions against businesses for failing to adequately and reasonably protect customer data, treating the failure to employ reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against unauthorized access to confidential consumer data as an unfair act or practice prohibited by Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 45. Orders resulting from these actions further clarify the measures businesses must take to meet their data security obligations.

48. The FTC has interpreted Section 5 of the FTC Act to encompass failures to appropriately store and maintain personal data.

49. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), phishing schemes designed to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as network passwords, were the most common type of cybercrime in 2020, with such incidents nearly doubling in frequency between 2019 and 2020.<sup>17</sup> According to Verizon’s 2021 Data Breach Investigations Report, 43% of breaches stemmed from phishing and/or pretexting schemes.<sup>18</sup>

50. On October 28, 2020, the FBI and two federal agencies issued a “Joint Cybersecurity Advisory” warning that they have “credible information of an increased and imminent cybercrime threat to U.S. hospitals and healthcare providers.”<sup>19</sup> The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the FBI issued the advisory to warn healthcare providers to take “timely and reasonable precautions to protect their networks from these threats.”<sup>20</sup>

51. Defendants were aware of their obligations to protect customers’ PII, PHI and privacy before and during the Data Breach yet failed to take reasonable steps to protect customers from unauthorized access. In this case, Defendants were at all times fully aware of

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<sup>17</sup> 2020 Internet Crime Report, FBI, [https://www.ic3.gov/Media/PDF/AnnualReport/2020\\_IC3Report.pdf](https://www.ic3.gov/Media/PDF/AnnualReport/2020_IC3Report.pdf) (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>18</sup> 2021 DBIR Master’s Guide, VERIZON, <https://www.verizon.com/business/resources/reports/dbir/2021/masters-guide/> (subscription required) (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>19</sup> Ransomware Activity Targeting the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, JOINT CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY, [https://us-cert.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AA20-302A\\_Ransomware%20\\_Activity\\_Targeting\\_the\\_Healthcare\\_and\\_Public\\_Health\\_Sector.pdf](https://us-cert.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AA20-302A_Ransomware%20_Activity_Targeting_the_Healthcare_and_Public_Health_Sector.pdf) (last accessed June 13, 2024).

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

obligation to protect the PII and PHI of Defendants' customers because of their status as one the largest pharmaceutical distribution managers in the nation. Defendants were also aware of the significant repercussions if they failed to do so because Defendants collected PII and PHI from millions of consumers and knew that this PII and PHI, if hacked, would result in injury to consumers, including Plaintiffs and Class Members.

52. Based upon the known details of the Data Breach and how it occurred, Defendants also failed to fully comply with industry-standard cybersecurity practices, including, but not limited to, proper firewall configuration, network segmentation, secure credential storage, rate limiting, user-activity monitoring, data-loss prevention, and intrusion detection and prevention.

**D. Defendants failed to comply with HIPAA's data security requirements.**

53. Defendants are covered by HIPAA (see 45 C.F.R. § 160.102) and are required to comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Rule.<sup>21</sup> These rules establish national standards for the protection of patient information, including protected health information, defined as "individually identifiable health information" which either "identifies the individual" or where there is a "reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual," that is held or transmitted by a healthcare provider. See 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

54. HIPAA prohibits unauthorized disclosures of "protected health information" and it requires that Defendants implement appropriate safeguards for this information. HIPAA requires that entities covered by its rules, including Defendants, provide notice of a breach of unsecured protected health information—i.e., non-encrypted data—without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 calendar days after discovery of a breach.

55. Following a data breach at a HIPAA covered entity, the HIPAA Omnibus Rule dictates it "must now undertake a four-factor risk assessment to determine whether or not PHI has been compromised and overcome the presumption that the breach must be reported." The four-factor risk assessment includes:

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<sup>21</sup> 45 C.F.R Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E ("Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information"), and Security Rule ("Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information"), 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C.

- a) the nature and extent of the PHI involved in the incident (e.g., whether the incident involved sensitive information like social security numbers);
- b) the recipient of the PHI;
- c) whether the PHI was actually acquired or viewed; and,
- d) the extent to which the risk that the PHI was compromised has been mitigated following unauthorized disclosure (e.g., whether it was immediately sequestered and destroyed).<sup>22</sup>

56. The HIPAA Breach Notification Rule, 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.400-414, requires HIPAA covered entities and their business associates to provide notification following a breach of unsecured protected health information.

57. Defendants failed to comply with these HIPAA requirements and, indeed, its own Privacy Practices. Defendants did not:

- a) Maintain an adequate data security system to reduce the risk of data breaches and cyber-attacks;
- b) Adequately protect Plaintiff's and the Class Members' Personal Information;
- c) Ensure the confidentiality and integrity of electronically protected health information created, received, maintained, or transmitted, in violation of 45 C.F.R. § 164.306(a)(1);
- d) Implement technical policies and procedures for electronic information systems that maintain electronically protected health information to allow access only to those persons or software programs that have been granted access rights, in violation of 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1);
- e) Implement adequate policies and procedures to prevent, detect, contain, and correct security violations, in violation of 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(i);

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<sup>22</sup> 78 Fed. Reg. 5641-46; see also 45 C.F.R. § 164.304.

- f) Implement adequate procedures to review records of information system activity regularly, such as audit logs, access reports, and security incident tracking reports, in violation of 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D);
- g) Protect against reasonably anticipated uses or disclosures of electronic protected health information that are not permitted under the privacy rules regarding individually identifiable health information, in violation of 45 C.F.R. § 164.306(a)(3);
- h) Take safeguards to ensure that Defendant's business associates adequately protect protected health information;
- i) Conduct the four-factor Risk Analysis following the Data Breach;
- j) Properly send timely notice to Plaintiff and the Classes pursuant to 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.400-414;
- k) Ensure compliance with the electronically protected health information security standard rules by its workforce, in violation of 45 C.F.R. § 164.306(a)(4); and/or
- l) Train all members of its workforce effectively on the policies and procedures with respect to protected health information as necessary and appropriate for the members of its workforce to carry out its functions and to maintain security of protected health information, in violation of 45 C.F.R. §164.530(b).

**E. The Data Breach puts Plaintiffs and Class Members at increased risk of fraud and identity theft.**

58. Defendants' failure to keep Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII secure has severe ramifications. Given the sensitive nature of the PII and PHI stolen in the Data Breach—names, addresses, zip codes, phone numbers, email addresses, dates of birth, Social Security Numbers, and health insurance account information—hackers can commit identity theft, financial fraud, and other identity-related fraud against Plaintiffs and Class Members now and into the indefinite future. As a result, Plaintiffs have suffered injury and face an imminent and substantial risk of further injury including identity theft and related cybercrimes due to the Data Breach.

59. There is little doubt that consumers PII and PHI from the Data Breach will be circulating on the dark web, as it is highly valuable. Malicious actors use PII and PHI to, among other things, gain access to consumers' bank accounts, social media, and credit cards. Malicious actors can also use consumers' PII and PHI to open new financial accounts, open new utility accounts, obtain medical treatment using victims' health insurance, file fraudulent tax returns, obtain government benefits, obtain government IDs, or create "synthetic identities."<sup>23</sup>

60. Further, identity thieves often wait months or years to use PII obtained in data breaches, as victims often become complacent and less diligent in monitoring their accounts after a significant period has passed. These bad actors will also re-use stolen PII, meaning individuals can be the victim of several cybercrimes stemming from a single data breach. Moreover, although elements of some Plaintiffs' and Class Members' data may have been compromised in other data breaches, the fact that the Breach centralizes the PII and PHI and identifies the victims as Defendants' customers materially increases the risk to Plaintiffs and the Class.

61. The U.S. Government Accountability Office determined that "stolen data may be held for up to a year or more before being used to commit identity theft," and that "once stolen data have been sold or posted on the Web, fraudulent use of that information may continue for years."<sup>24</sup> Moreover, there is often significant lag time between when a person suffers harm due to theft of their PII and when they discover the harm. Plaintiffs will therefore need to spend time and money to continuously monitor their accounts for years to ensure their PII obtained in the Data Breach is not used to harm them. Plaintiffs and Class Members thus have been harmed in the amount of the actuarial present value of ongoing high-quality identity defense and credit monitoring services made necessary as mitigation measures because of the Data Breach. In other words, Plaintiffs have been harmed by the value of identity protection services they must purchase in the future to ameliorate the risk of harm they now face due to the Data Breach.

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<sup>23</sup> A criminal combines real and fake information to create a new "synthetic" identity, which is used to commit fraud.

<sup>24</sup> U.S. Gov't Accountability Off., GAO-07-737, *Data Breaches Are Frequent, but Evidence of Resulting Identity Theft Is Limited; However, the Full Extent Is Unknown* 42 (2007), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GAOREPORTS-GAO-07-737/html/GAOREPORTS-GAO-07-737.htm> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

62. Plaintiffs and Class Members have also realized harm in the lost or reduced value of their PII. Defendants admit the PII compromised in the Breach is valuable. Defendants collect, retain, and use Plaintiffs' PII to earn revenue. Plaintiffs' PII is not only valuable to Defendants, but Plaintiffs also place value on their PII based on their understanding that their PII is a financial asset to companies who collect it.<sup>25</sup>

63. Plaintiffs and Class Members have also been harmed and damaged in the amount of the market value of the hacker's unauthorized access to Plaintiffs' PII and PHI that was permitted without authorization by Defendants. This market value for access to PII can be determined by reference to both legitimate and illegitimate markets for such information.

64. Moreover, Plaintiffs and Class Members value the privacy of this information and expect Defendants to allocate enough resources to ensure it is adequately protected. Customers would not have done business with Defendants, provided their PII and payment card information, or paid the same prices for Defendants' goods and services had they known Defendants did not implement reasonable security measures to protect their PII.<sup>26</sup> Customers reasonably expect that the payments they make to Defendants and those made on their behalf through government programs and insurance, incorporate the costs to implement reasonable security measures to protect customers' PII. And because consumers value data privacy and security, companies with robust data security practices can command higher prices than those who do not. As a result, Plaintiffs and Class Members did not receive the benefit of their bargain with Defendants because they paid for services they expected but did not receive.

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<sup>25</sup> See, e.g., Ponemon Institute, LLC, *Privacy and Security in a Connected Life: A Study of US, European and Japanese Consumers* at p. 14 (March 2015) (explaining that 53% of respondents "believe personal data is a financial asset similar to traded goods, currencies or commodities" and valuing, as but one example, their Social Security number at \$55.70), available at <https://docplayer.net/836701-Privacy-and-security-in-a-connected-life-a-study-of-us-european-and-japanese-consumers.html>.

<sup>26</sup> FireEye, *Beyond the Bottom Line: The Real Cost of Data Breaches* (May 11, 2016), [https://www.fireeye.com/blog/executive-perspective/2016/05/beyond\\_the\\_bottomli.html](https://www.fireeye.com/blog/executive-perspective/2016/05/beyond_the_bottomli.html) (last accessed June 13, 2024) (noting approximately 50% of consumers consider data security to be a main or important consideration when making purchasing decisions and nearly the same percentage would be willing to pay more in order to work with a provider that has better data security. Likewise, 70% of consumers would provide less PII to organizations that suffered a data breach).

65. Given Defendants' failure to protect their PII and PHI, Plaintiffs have a significant and cognizable interest in obtaining injunctive and equitable relief (in addition to any monetary damages, restitution, or disgorgement) that protects them from suffering further harm, as their PII and PHI remains in Defendants' possession. Accordingly, this action represents the enforcement of an important right affecting the public interest and will confer a significant benefit on the general public or a large class of persons.

66. In sum, Plaintiffs and Class Members were injured as follows: (i) theft of their PII and PHI and the resulting loss of privacy rights in that information; (ii) improper disclosure of their PII and PHI; (iii) loss of value of their PII and PHI; (iv) the lost value of unauthorized access to Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII and PHI permitted by Defendants; (v) the amount of the actuarial present value of ongoing high-quality identity defense and credit monitoring services made necessary as mitigation measures because of the Data Breach; (vi) Defendants' retention of profits attributable to Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII and PHI that Defendants failed to adequately protect; (vii) the certain, imminent, and ongoing threat of fraud and identity theft, including the economic and non-economic impacts that flow therefrom; (viii) ascertainable out-of-pocket expenses and the value of their time allocated to fixing or mitigating the effects of the Data Breach; (ix) overpayments to Defendants for goods and services purchased, as Plaintiffs reasonably believed a portion of the sale price would fund reasonable security measures that would protect their PII and PHI, which was not the case; and (x) nominal damages.

## V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

67. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of a proposed nationwide class (the "Class"), defined as:

All natural persons in the United States whose Personally Identifiable Information and/or Protected Health Information was compromised as a result of the Data Breach.

68. **Numerosity and Ascertainability:** Plaintiffs do not know the exact size of the Class or identity of the Class members, since such information is in the exclusive control of Defendants. Nevertheless, the Class encompasses at least millions of individuals dispersed throughout the United States. The number of Class members is so numerous that joinder of all

Class members is impracticable. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of Class members are identifiable through documents maintained by Defendant.

69. **Commonality and Predominance:** This action involves common questions of law and fact which predominate over any question solely affecting individual Class members. These common questions include:

- a. whether Defendants engaged in the conduct alleged herein;
- b. whether Defendants had a legal duty to use reasonable security measures to protect Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI;
- c. whether Defendants violated HIPAA;
- d. whether Defendants timely, accurately, and adequately informed Plaintiffs and Class members that their PII and PHI had been compromised;
- e. whether Defendants breached its legal duty by failing to protect the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and Class members;
- f. whether Defendants acted reasonably in securing the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and Class members;
- g. whether Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to injunctive relief; and
- h. whether Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages and equitable relief.

70. **Typicality:** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the other Class members' claims because all Class members were comparably injured through Defendant's substantially uniform misconduct, as described above. Plaintiffs are advancing the same claims and legal theories on behalf of themselves and all other members of the Class that they represent, and there are no defenses that are unique to Plaintiffs. The claims of Plaintiffs and Class members arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.

71. **Adequacy:** Plaintiffs are adequate Class representatives because their interests do not conflict with the interests of the other members of the Class they seek to represent; Plaintiffs have retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action litigation; and Plaintiffs intend to prosecute this action vigorously. The Class's interest will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiffs and their counsel.

72. **Superiority:** A class action is superior to any other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action. The damages and other detriment suffered by Plaintiffs and other Class members are relatively small compared to the burden and expense that would be required to individually litigate their claims against Defendants, so it would be virtually impossible for the Class members to individually seek redress for Defendants' wrongful conduct. Even if Class members could afford individual litigation, the court system could not: individualized litigation creates a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments, increases the delay and expense to the parties, and increases the expense and burden to the court system. By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by this Court.

## VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

### COUNT ONE NEGLIGENCE

73. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

74. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiffs and Class members, arising from the sensitivity of the information, the expectation the information was going to be kept private, and the foreseeability of its data safety shortcomings resulting in an intrusion, to exercise reasonable care in safeguarding their sensitive personal information. This duty included, among other things, designing, implementing, maintaining, monitoring, and testing Defendants' networks, systems, protocols, policies, procedures, and practices to ensure that Plaintiffs' and Class members' information was adequately secured from unauthorized access.

75. Defendants' Privacy Policies acknowledged Defendants' duty to adequately protect Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI.

76. Defendants are covered by HIPAA (see 45 C.F.R. § 160.102) and, as such are required to comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Rule, 45 C.F.R Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E ("Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information"),

and Security Rule (“Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information”), 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C.

77. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiffs and Class members to implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, such as intrusion detection processes that detect data breaches in a timely manner, to protect and secure Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI.

78. Defendants also had a duty to only maintain PII and PHI that was needed to serve customer needs.

79. Defendants owed a duty to disclose the material fact that its data security practices were inadequate to safeguard Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI.

80. Defendants also had independent duties under Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ state laws that required Defendants to reasonably safeguard Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI, and promptly notify them about the Data Breach.

81. Defendants had a special relationship with Plaintiffs and Class members as a result of being entrusted with their PII and PHI, which provided an independent duty of care. Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ willingness to entrust Defendants with their PII and PHI was predicated on the understanding that Defendants would take adequate security precautions. Moreover, Defendants were capable of protecting its networks and systems, and the PII and PHI they stored on them, from unauthorized access.

82. Defendants breached their duties by, among other things: (a) failing to implement and maintain adequate data security practices to safeguard Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI, including administrative, physical, and technical safeguards; (b) failing to detect the Data Breach in a timely manner; and (c) failing to disclose that its data security practices were inadequate to safeguard Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI.

83. But for Defendants’ breach of duties, including the duty to use reasonable care to protect and secure Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI, Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ PII and PHI would not have been accessed by unauthorized parties.

84. Plaintiffs and Class members were foreseeable victims of Defendants' inadequate data security practices. Defendants knew or should have known that a breach of its data security systems would cause damage to Plaintiffs and Class members.

85. It was reasonably foreseeable that the failure to reasonably protect and secure Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI would result in unauthorized access to Defendants' networks, databases, and computers that stored or contained Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI.

86. As a result of Defendants' negligent failure to prevent the Data Breach, Plaintiffs and Class members suffered injury, which includes, but is not limited to, exposure to a heightened and imminent risk of fraud, identity theft, and financial harm. Plaintiffs and Class members must monitor their financial accounts and credit histories more closely and frequently to guard against identity theft. Plaintiffs and Class members have also incurred, and will continue to incur on an indefinite basis, out-of-pocket costs for obtaining credit reports, credit freezes, credit monitoring services, and other protective measures to deter and detect identity theft. The unauthorized acquisition of Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI has also diminished the value of the PII and PHI.

87. The harm to Plaintiffs and Class members was a proximate, reasonably foreseeable result of Defendants' breaches of the aforementioned duties.

88. Therefore, Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT TWO**  
**NEGLIGENCE PER SE**

89. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations in paragraphs 1 to 72 as if fully set forth herein.

90. Under the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 45, Defendants had a duty to provide fair and adequate computer systems and data security practices to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII.

91. In addition, under state data security statutes, Defendants had a duty to implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII.

92. Defendants breached these duties to Plaintiffs and Class members, under the FTCA and the state data security statutes, by failing to provide fair, reasonable, or adequate computer systems and data security practices to safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII.

93. Defendants are covered by HIPAA (45 C.F.R. § 160.102) and are required to comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Rule, 45 C.F.R Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E ("Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information"), and Security Rule ("Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information"), 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C. HIPAA prohibits unauthorized disclosures of "protected health information." which includes the information at issue here.

94. Plaintiffs and Class members were foreseeable victims of Defendants' violations of the FTCA, HIPAA and state data security statutes. Defendants knew or should have known that the failure to implement reasonable measures to protect and secure Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII would cause damage to Plaintiffs and Class members.

95. Defendants' failure to comply with the applicable laws and regulations constitutes negligence *per se*.

96. But for Defendants' violation of the applicable laws and regulations, Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII would not have been accessed by unauthorized parties.

97. As a result of Defendants' failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations, Plaintiffs and Class members suffered injury, which includes but is not limited to the exposure to a heightened and imminent risk of fraud, identity theft, financial and other harm. Plaintiffs and Class members must monitor their financial accounts and credit histories more closely and frequently to guard against identity theft. Plaintiffs and Class members also have incurred, and will continue to incur on an indefinite basis, out-of-pocket costs for obtaining credit reports, credit freezes, credit monitoring services, and other protective measures to deter or detect identity theft.

The unauthorized acquisition of Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII has also diminished the value of the PII.

98. The harm to Plaintiffs and the Class members was a proximate, reasonably foreseeable result of Defendants' breaches of the applicable laws and regulations.

99. Therefore, Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT THREE**  
**GROSS NEGLIGENCE**

100. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations in paragraphs 1 to 72 as if fully set forth herein.

101. Plaintiffs and Class members entrusted Defendants with highly-sensitive and inherently personal private data subject to confidentiality laws.

102. In requiring, obtaining and storing Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI, Defendants owed a duty of reasonable care in safeguarding the PII and PHI.

103. Defendants' networks, systems, protocols, policies, procedures, and practices, as described above, were not adequately designed, implemented, maintained, monitored, and tested to ensure that Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI were secured from unauthorized access.

104. Defendants' networks, systems, protocols, policies, procedures, and practices, as described above, were not reasonable given the sensitivity of the Plaintiffs' and Class members' private data and the known vulnerabilities of Defendants' systems.

105. Defendants did not comply with state and federal laws and rules concerning the use and safekeeping of this private data.

106. Upon learning of the Data Breach, Defendants should have immediately disclosed the Data Breach to Plaintiffs and Class members, credit reporting agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, financial institutions, and all other third parties with a right to know and the ability to mitigate harm to Plaintiffs and Class members as a result of the Data Breach.

107. Despite knowing its networks, systems, protocols, policies, procedures, and practices, as described above, were not adequately designed, implemented, maintained, monitored,

and tested to ensure that Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI were secured from unauthorized access, Defendants ignored the inadequacies and was oblivious to the risk of unauthorized access it had created.

108. Defendants' behavior establishes facts evidencing a reckless disregard for Plaintiffs' and Class members' rights.

109. Defendants, therefore, were grossly negligent.

110. Defendants' negligence also constitutes negligence per se.

111. The negligence is directly linked to injuries.

112. As a result of Defendants' reckless disregard for Plaintiffs' and Class members' rights by failing to secure their PII and PHI, despite knowing its networks, systems, protocols, policies, procedures, and practices were not adequately designed, implemented, maintained, monitored, and tested, Plaintiffs and Class members suffered injury, which includes but is not limited to the exposure to a heightened, imminent risk of fraud, identity theft, financial and other harm. Plaintiffs and Class members must monitor their financial accounts and credit histories more closely and frequently to guard against identity theft. Plaintiffs and Class members also have incurred, and will continue to incur on an indefinite basis, out-of-pocket costs for obtaining credit reports, credit freezes, credit monitoring services, and other protective measures to deter or detect identity theft. The unauthorized acquisition of Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI has also diminished the value of the PII and PHI.

113. The harm to Plaintiffs and the Class members was a proximate, reasonably foreseeable result of Defendants' breaches of the applicable laws and regulations.

114. Therefore, Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT FOUR**  
**BREACH OF IMPLIED CONTRACTS**

115. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations in paragraphs 1 to 72 as if fully set forth herein.

116. Plaintiffs and Class members were required to provide their PII and PHI to obtain services from Defendants. Plaintiffs and Class members entrusted their PII and PHI to Defendants in order to obtain services from them.

117. By providing their PII and PHI, and upon Defendants' acceptance of such information, Plaintiffs and Class members on one hand, and Defendants on the other hand, entered into implied contracts for the provision of adequate data security, separate and apart from any express contracts concerning the services provided, whereby Defendants was obligated to take reasonable steps to secure and safeguard that information.

118. Defendants had an implied duty of good faith to ensure that the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and Class members in its possession was only used in accordance with their contractual obligations.

119. Defendants were therefore required to act fairly, reasonably, and in good faith in carrying out its contractual obligations to protect the confidentiality of Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and to comply with industry standards and state laws and regulations for the security of this information, and Defendants expressly assented to these terms in its Privacy Policies as alleged above.

120. Under these implied contracts for data security, Defendants were further obligated to provide Plaintiffs and all Class members with prompt and sufficient notice of any and all unauthorized access and/or theft of their PII and PHI.

121. Plaintiffs and Class members performed all conditions, covenants, obligations, and promises owed to Defendants, including paying for the services provided by Defendants and/or providing the PII and PHI required by Defendants.

122. Defendants breached the implied contracts by failing to take adequate measures to protect the confidentiality of Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII and PHI, resulting in the Data Breach. Defendants unreasonably interfered with the contract benefits owed to Plaintiffs and Class members.

123. Further, on information and belief, Defendants have not yet provided Data Breach notifications to some affected Class members who may already be victims of identity fraud or

theft, or are at imminent risk of becoming victims of identity theft or fraud, associated with the PII or PHI that they provided to Defendants. These Class members are unaware of the potential source for the compromise of their PII and PHI.

124. The Data Breach was a reasonably foreseeable consequence of Defendants' actions in breach of these contracts.

125. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and Class members did not receive the full benefit of the bargain, and instead received services that were of a diminished value as compared to the secure services they paid for. Plaintiffs and Class members, therefore, were damaged in an amount at least equal to the difference in the value of the secure services they paid for and the services they received.

126. Neither Plaintiffs, nor Class members, nor any reasonable person would have provided their PII and PHI to Defendants had Defendants disclosed that their security was inadequate or that they did not adhere to industry-standard security measures.

127. As a result of Defendants' breach, Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered actual damages resulting from theft of their PII and PHI, as well as the loss of control of their PII and PHI, and remain in imminent risk of suffering additional damages in the future.

128. As a result of Defendants' breach, Plaintiffs and the Class members have suffered actual damages resulting from their attempt to mitigate the effect of the breach of implied contract and subsequent Data Breach, including, but not limited to, taking steps to protect themselves from the loss of their PII and PHI. As a result, Plaintiffs and the Class members have suffered actual identity theft and the ability to control their PII and PHI.

129. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Class members have been injured as a result of Defendants' breach of implied contracts and are entitled to damages and/or restitution in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT FIVE**  
**UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

130. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations in paragraphs 1 to 72 as if fully set forth herein.

131. Plaintiffs and Class members conferred a monetary benefit on Defendants in the form of monetary payments—directly or indirectly—for services received.

132. Defendants collected, maintained, and stored the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and Class members and, as such, Defendants had knowledge of the monetary benefits conferred by Plaintiffs and Class members.

133. The money that Plaintiffs and Class members paid to Defendants should have been used to pay, at least in part, for the administrative costs and implementation of data management and security. Defendants failed to implement—or adequately implement—practices, procedures, and programs to secure sensitive PII and PHI, as evidenced by the Data Breach.

134. As a result of Defendants' failure to implement security practices, procedures, and programs to secure sensitive PII and PHI, Plaintiffs and Class members suffered actual damages in an amount equal to the difference in the value between services with reasonable data privacy that Plaintiffs and Class members paid for, and the services they received without reasonable data privacy.

135. Under principles of equity and good conscience, Defendants should not be permitted to retain money belonging to Plaintiffs and Class members because Defendants failed to implement the data management and security measures that are mandated by industry standards and that Plaintiffs and Class members paid for.

136. Defendants should be compelled to disgorge into a common fund for the benefit of Plaintiffs and the Class all unlawful or inequitable proceeds received by Defendants. A constructive trust should be imposed upon all unlawful and inequitable sums received by Defendants traceable to Plaintiffs and the Class.

**COUNT SIX**  
**DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

137. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations in paragraphs 1 to 72 as if fully set forth herein.

138. Plaintiffs and the Class have stated claims against Defendants based on negligence, negligence per se and gross negligence, and violations of various state and federal statutes.

139. Defendants failed to fulfill their obligations to provide adequate and reasonable security measures for the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and the Class, as evidenced by the Data Breach.

140. As a result of the Data Breach, Defendants' system is more vulnerable to unauthorized access and requires more stringent measures to be taken to safeguard the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and the Class going forward.

141. An actual controversy has arisen in the wake of the Data Breach regarding Defendants' current obligations to provide reasonable data security measures to protect the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and the Class. Defendants maintain that its security measures were—and still are—reasonably adequate and denies that they previously had or have any obligation to implement better safeguards to protect the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and the Class.

142. Plaintiffs seek a declaration that Defendants must implement specific additional, prudent industry security practices to provide reasonable protection and security to the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and the Class. Specifically, Plaintiffs and the Class seek a declaration that Defendants' existing security measures do not comply with their obligations, and that Defendants must implement and maintain reasonable security measures on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class to comply with their data security obligations.

## **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the proposed Class and Subclasses, request that the Court:

- a. Certify this case as a class action, appoint Plaintiffs as class representatives, and appoint Plaintiffs' Counsel as Class Counsel for Plaintiffs to represent the Class;
- b. Find that Defendants breached their duty to safeguard and protect the PII and PHI of Plaintiffs and Class members that was compromised in the Data Breach;
- c. Award Plaintiffs and Class members appropriate relief, including actual and statutory damages, restitution, and disgorgement;
- d. Award equitable, injunctive, and declaratory relief as may be appropriate;
- e. Award all costs, including experts' fees and attorneys' fees, and the costs of prosecuting this action;

- f. Award pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as prescribed by law; and
- g. Grant additional legal or equitable relief as this Court may find just and proper.

### **VIII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated June 17, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Benjamin F. Johns

Benjamin F. Johns

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*\*Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming*

*Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class*



## 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.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**DESIGNATION FORM**

*(to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)*

Address of Plaintiff: 322 Swan Drive, Brandon, MS 39047

Address of Defendant: 1 West First Avenue, Conshohocken, PA 19428-1800

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1 West First Avenue, Conshohocken, PA 19428-1800

**RELATED CASE IF ANY:**

Case Number: 2:24-cv-02227-CMR Judge: Cynthia M. Rufe Date Terminated \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when **Yes** is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes  No
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes  No
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier Numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? Yes  No
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se case filed by the same individual? Yes  No

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case  is  is not related to any now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as note above.

DATE: June 17, 2024



PA ID No. 201373

*Attorney-at-Law (Must sign above)*

*Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)*

**Civil (Place a  in one category only)**

**A. Federal Question Cases:**

- 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- 2. FELA
- 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- 4. Antitrust
- 5. Wage and Hour Class Action/Collective Action
- 6. Patent
- 7. Copyright/Trademark
- 8. Employment
- 9. Labor-Management Relations
- 10. Civil Rights
- 11. Habeas Corpus
- 12. Securities Cases
- 13. Social Security Review Cases
- 14. Qui Tam Cases
- 15. All Other Federal Question Cases. (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

- 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- 3. Assault, Defamation
- 4. Marine Personal Injury
- 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Products Liability
- 8. All Other Diversity Cases: (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

*(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration)*

I, Benjamin F. Johns, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:



Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2 § 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:



Relief other than monetary damages is sought.



DATE: June 17, 2024

*Attorney-at-Law (Sign here if applicable)*

PA ID No. 201373

*Attorney ID # (if applicable)*