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14	CENTRAL DISTRIC	
15	SOUTHERN	
16		Case No.
17 18	N.Z., R.M., B.L., S.M., and A.L., individually and on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
19	Plaintiffs,	ACTION SEEKING
20	V.	STATEWIDE OR NATIONWIDE RELIEF
21	FENIX INTERNATIONAL LIMITED,	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
22	FENIX INTERNET LLC, BOSS BADDIES LLC, MOXY	
23	MANAGEMENT, UNRULY AGENCY LLC (also d/b/a DYSRPT AGENCY),	
24	BEHAVE AGENCY LLC, A.S.H.	
25	AGENCY, CONTENT X, INC., VERGE AGENCY, INC., AND ELITE	
26	CREATORS LLC,	
27	Defendants.	
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1 2

# I. INTRODUCTION

Romance scams have existed for a long time, but the prevalence of 1. such scams and the financial toll they take on their victims have increased in recent 3 years. According to the FTC, between 2017 and 2021, people "reported losing a 4 staggering \$1.3 billion to romance scams, more than any other FTC fraud 5 category."<sup>1</sup> This disturbing upward trend has almost certainly been exacerbated by 6 the ubiquity of online dating (which normalizes the idea of making romantic 7 connections through the internet)—but also by an "epidemic of loneliness and 8 isolation" that the U.S. Surgeon General warns is "an underappreciated public 9 health crisis that has harmed individual and societal health."2 10

This case goes beyond typical romance scams by involving an online
 platform used to perpetrate a systemic deception that exploits victims' trust on an
 unprecedented scale, affecting hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of people
 simultaneously.

- OnlyFans, a social media platform known almost exclusively for
   hosting sexually oriented content, has hundreds of millions of users (called "Fans")
   who pay for the privilege of communicating *directly* with *specific people* who post
   content on the platform (called "Creators") on a personal (indeed, often an intimate
   and/or romantic) level.<sup>3</sup> But instead of interacting with a specific Creator, Fans end
- 20
- 21 22

23

- <sup>1</sup> FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, *FTC Data Show Romance Scams Hit Record High; \$547 Million Reported Lost in 2021* (Feb. 10, 2022), <u>www.ftc.gov/news-</u> <u>events/news/press-releases/2022/02/ftc-data-show-romance-scams-hit-record-high-</u> 547-million-reported-lost-2021 (last visited July 29, 2024).
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation* (2023), <u>www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-</u>
   social-connection-advisory.pdf (last visited July 29, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Although OnlyFans' Terms of Service refer to both creators and fans as
"users," it has distinct account types for the two categories, which come with
different pre-requisites for opening an account, as well as specific Terms of Use for

up—unknowingly and without their consent—communicating with professional
 "chatters" hired to impersonate that Creator in order to convince Fans to spend even
 more money on the platform.

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4. Chatters are often hired by self-styled "management agencies" operating OnlyFans accounts on behalf of multiple Creators, at the request of and with the consent of the Creators. These agencies hire veritable fleets of chatters often from countries like the Philippines and Venezuela, where they can get lowcost, yet well-educated, workers who can convince Fans they are engaged in "authentic" communication with a particular Creator.

In addition to the blatant deception and fraud, the "Chatter Scams"
 involve massive breaches of confidentiality and privacy violations in which
 intimate communications and private and/or personal information about Fans—
 including photos and videos—are distributed and/or accessible to numerous
 unauthorized parties.

15 6. OnlyFans knows about the agencies perpetrating the Chatter Scams; 16 indeed, it has co-hosted events with at least one agency named as a defendant in this 17 Complaint. In July 2023, Creators Inc. posted a video on Instagram with a tagline 18 that said "our collab with @ofmerch during Miami Swim Week was the real cause behind the nationwide heatwave!" The video featured scantily clad Creators walking 19 20 down a runway wearing swimsuits featuring the OnlyFans logo, with signage in the 21 background bearing the logos of both OnlyFans and Creators Inc. The profile 22 "@ofmerch" describes itself as a profile "Featuring creators in official @onlyfans 23 merch," and links directly to OnlyFans' online store at https://store.onlyfans.com/.<sup>4</sup>

- 24
- each type of account. For clarity, this Complaint will only use the term "Creator" to refer to creator accounts, and the term "Fans" to refer exclusively to fan accounts.

<sup>4</sup> Creators Inc (@creatorsinc), INSTAGRAM (July 23, 2023)
 <u>https://www.instagram.com/creatorsinc/reel/CvC2U3JASvS/</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).

- 7. 1 OnlyFans also knows that the use of chatters blatantly violates many of 2 its platform rules and policies, yet the company fails to enforce those policies in 3 order to facilitate the widespread fraud that has resulted in massive profits for OnlyFans—which takes a 20% cut of everything a Creator earns on the platform. 4
- 5

But OnlyFans' involvement is not limited to "looking the other way." 8. 6 Like other social media platforms, OnlyFans allows Creators to make individual 7 profiles through which they can share content (text, photos, and videos) with their Fans—users of the platform who can open Fan accounts, subscribe to specific 8 9 Creators' profiles (often for a monthly fee), and respond to Creators' content in the form of comments and/or "likes." 10

OnlyFans also provides a wide variety of tools for Creators to 11 9. 12 "monetize" their content. Creators can charge monthly subscription fees to access their accounts, in addition to selling pay-per-view and/or custom content created by 13 14 request for a particular Fan. The platform also allows Fans to send monetary tips to 15 Creators in amounts up to \$200 per transaction. In exchange, OnlyFans takes 20% of Creators' revenue from all three of these sources. 16

17 10. Compared with other "content monetization" platforms, however, 18 OnlyFans has permissive rules around the types of content that can be sold. As a 19 result, OnlyFans has become almost exclusively known for sexually oriented 20 content, which can be anything from a romantic connection to sexually explicit 21 material—a fact which has made it the juggernaut of content monetization 22 platforms. In 2021, the platform generated approximately \$2 billion in revenue, 23 representing well over 10 times the estimated revenue for Patreon (a content 24 monetization platform catering primarily to artists and podcasters)—and over 40 25 times that of Medium (whose creators are primarily writers and bloggers). Yet 26 recent estimates show OnlyFans' user base is only slightly over twice the size of 27 Medium's user base: 210 million compared with 100 million.

1 11. But OnlyFans' success cannot be explained solely by the fact that it
 2 hosts sexually oriented content. After all, the internet "democratized" access to
 3 pornography as much as anything else, and getting such content for free is a matter
 4 of a simple internet search.<sup>5</sup> This has led some observers to ask, why are people
 5 paying (and paying so much) for OnlyFans when they can get pornography for
 6 free?

12. In a time of increasing concern about loneliness as a serious public
health issue,<sup>6</sup> the answer to that question is that OnlyFans offers Fans a more
personal connection to Creators—or at least that's the idea that OnlyFans is selling.
Indeed, the promise of personal connection explains why Fans have flocked to the
OnlyFans accounts of many "traditional" pornography stars—even though those
same stars are featured in hundreds of videos that are accessible elsewhere for free.<sup>7</sup>

13 13. OnlyFans is not coy or allusive about the fact that the core promise of
14 its platform hinges on the authenticity of the personal interaction between Fans and
15 Creators. Its marketing consistently revolves around this idea, with its website and
16

17

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<sup>18</sup><sup>5</sup> Indeed, some credit the adult film industry with allowing the internet to thrive in its early years. *See, e.g.*, Ross Benes, *How porn has been secretly behind the rise of the internet and other technologies*, BUSINESS INSIDER (May 7, 2017) <u>https://www.businessinsider.com/porn-behind-internet-technologies-2017-5</u> (last visited July 29, 2024) ("[W]hile the military created the internet, it would not have found a solid consumer base without porn. Think of the military as the inventor and creator of a product and porn as the entrepreneur who brings the product to the masses.").

<sup>6</sup> See supra, n.2.

<sup>7</sup> For example, Mia Malkova—who has made hundreds of videos over the course of her decade-long career in the adult film industry—says she has made over
\$285,000 in one month from her OnlyFans account. *MIA MALKOVA on OnlyFans, Making Millions, & Getting Her Heart Broken*, COOLKICKS PODCAST (December 13, 2022), <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCgdE7nlC78">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCgdE7nlC78</a> (last visited July 29, 2024).

1 other public statements teeming with references to "authenticity" and "meaningful" 2 engagement.

3 OnlyFans offers Fans a list of "subscription benefits" that include the 14. 4 ability to "direct message with this [Creator]." Both phrases appear on every single 5 Creator profile because OnlyFans puts them there, encouraging Fans to subscribe to 6 their favorite Creators so they can access VIP pages that promise a more intimate 7 interaction—what some describe as a "girlfriend experience" or a "really real" experience where "you get to know people."<sup>8</sup> 8

9 15. The problem is: unbeknownst to most Fans on the site, the use of 10 chatters creates an experience that is almost as far from "really real" as you can 11 get—an experience orchestrated by agencies, such as the Defendants in this lawsuit, 12 who promise to help Creators effectively make money in their sleep by signing up 13 subscribers at scale and keeping subscribers engaged by (fraudulently) maintaining 14 the "personal" relationships Fans believe they have with Creators.

Agency chatters are trained to exploit emotional connections by 15 16. pretending to be personal friends or close acquaintances, using manipulative tactics 16 17 that prey on psychological biases and vulnerabilities. They never reveal that they 18 are not the actual Creators and, if questioned, they confirm their impersonation. Agencies often refer to this as "farming" Fans, and equip chatters with detailed 19 20 scripts and processes designed to identify the most emotionally invested targets and persuade them to spend money under the guise of a personal relationship. 21

- 22 17. OnlyFans actively facilitates this "farming" process by continuing to 23 cultivate the platform's image as one where individuals can pay for backstage/VIP passes in order to get "personal" attention from Creators—and by providing tools 24
- 25

26 <sup>8</sup> Martina Biino and Madeline Berg, *The Secret of OnlyFans: It's much more* than porn, BUSINESS INSIDER (Jan. 18, 2024), www.businessinsider.com/how-27 onlyfans-became-outlet-source-help-loneliness-sadness-connection-sex-2024-1 (last

28 visited July 29, 2024). that make it easier for chatters to fraudulently "maintain" personal relationships
 with Fans and to monetize those relationships.

3 18. OnlyFans claims to be monitoring everything that happens on its
4 platform but does nothing to stop the use of chatters in violation of its promises to
5 the Fans on its platform.

6

#### **II. JURISDICTION & VENUE**

7 19. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class
8 Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because at least one Class
9 member is of diverse citizenship from one Defendant, there are more than 100
10 Class members, and the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000,
11 exclusive of interest and costs.

12 20. Subject-matter jurisdiction also arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 based
13 upon the federal RICO claims asserted under 18 U.S.C. § 1961, *et seq.*

14 21. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Plaintiffs because they are
15 either residents of California or they consent to the Court's jurisdiction.

16 22. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they
17 transact and conduct business and are alleged to have violated statutory and
18 common law, in the State of California and this District. The Court has personal
19 jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 1965(b) and (d), and
20 supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

21 23. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a
22 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred
23 in the State of California—including the deception and privacy violations
24 perpetrated on Plaintiffs, some of whom are California residents—and the Court has
25 personal jurisdiction over all Defendants. In addition, Agency Defendants reside in
26 the District by virtue of owning and operating California-based companies.

27

#### **III. PARTIES**

# A. Plaintiffs

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24. Plaintiffs are users of OnlyFans, referred to as Fans, who subscribed to
the accounts of one or more Creators represented by the Agency Defendants.

25. Plaintiffs file this action under fictitious names and seek to proceed 5 anonymously in order to preserve their right to privacy, and to avoid the significant 6 social stigma attached to using OnlyFans as a result of the platform's association 7 with explicitly sexual (NSFW) content—both of which drive the widespread use of 8 pseudonyms by Fans on the platform (including Plaintiffs) to begin with. Given 9 10 these concerns, Plaintiffs would be hesitant to maintain this action if their names were permanently associated with Defendants. See Jane Roes 1-2 v. SFBSC Mgmt., 11 LLC, 77 F. Supp. 3d 990, 997 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (allowing exotic dancers to proceed 12 13 using pseudonyms and noting that the "Ninth Circuit has recognized that courts grant anonymity where it is needed to 'preserve privacy in a matter of sensitive and 14 highly personal nature" and has allowed the use of pseudonyms in order to 15 "protect a person from . . . ridicule or personal embarrassment." (quoting Does I 16 thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp., 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2000))). 17

26. Moreover, Plaintiffs' ability to proceed anonymously will not 18 prejudice Defendants. The use of pseudonyms as a matter of course on the 19 OnlyFans platform—and the fact that Defendants' profits are driven by the ability 20 of Fans to remain anonymous—undercuts any suggestion that their doing so in 21 public filings would offend the traditional presumption of openness in judicial 22 proceedings. And because Plaintiffs are willing to privately disclose their identities 23 to Defendants in the course of litigation, Defendants will be fully able to exercise 24 their due process rights to assess and defend their claims. 25

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- 27

27. Plaintiff N.Z. is a resident and citizen of Cypress, California.

28

**Plaintiff N.Z.** 

1	28.	During the relevant time period of this Complaint, Plaintiff N.Z.			
2	subscribed to at least one OnlyFans account managed by an Agency Defendant.				
3	Plair	ntiff R.M.			
4	29.	Plaintiff R.M. is currently a resident and citizen in Folsom, California,			
5	but during	the time period at issue in this Complaint, he was a resident of El			
6	Dorado Hil	ls, California.			
7	30.	During the relevant time period of this Complaint, Plaintiff R.M.			
8	subscribed	to at least one OnlyFans account managed by an Agency Defendant.			
9	Plair	ntiff B.L.			
10	31.	Plaintiff B.L. is a resident and citizen of Nashville, Tennessee.			
11	32.	During the relevant time period of this Complaint, Plaintiff B.L.			
12	subscribed	to at least one OnlyFans account managed by an Agency Defendant.			
13	Plair	ntiff S.M.			
14	33.	Plaintiff S.M. is a resident and citizen of Atlanta, Georgia.			
15	34.	During the relevant time period of this Complaint, Plaintiff S.M.			
16	subscribed to at least one OnlyFans account managed by an Agency Defendant.				
17	Plaintiff A.L.				
18	35.	Plaintiff A.L. is a resident and citizen of Madison, Wisconsin.			
19	36.	During the relevant time period of this Complaint, Plaintiff A.L.			
20	subscribed	to at least one OnlyFans account managed by an Agency Defendant.			
21	B. Defe	ndants			
22	Only	Fans Defendants			
23	37.	Defendant Fenix International Limited ("FIL") is a private limited			
24	company re	egistered in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, with its principal place			
25	of business in London. FIL owns and operates the website and social media				
26	platform OnlyFans.com ("OnlyFans"), which it operates worldwide through various				
27	subsidiaries and affiliates, including in the United States, Manila, Singapore,				
28	Tokyo, Nev	w Delhi, and Bangkok.			
		-8-			
	011194-11/2686242	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT			

38. 1 FIL contracts and pays for the servers that host OnlyFans and owns all 2 intellectual property and trademarks related to OnlyFans—including trademarks 3 registered in the United States.

4

39. According to the company's LinkedIn profile, FIL has over 1,000 5 "associated members" located in the United States—including over 100 in 6 California. On information and belief, a substantial number of those individuals are 7 employees or contractors of OnlyFans involved in the daily operations of the business and the OnlyFans website. These include management- and executive-8 9 level employees with titles such as Executive Vice President and Deputy General 10 Counsel.

Defendant Fenix Internet LLC ("FIUSA") is a Delaware limited 11 40. liability company headquartered in Florida. FIUSA is a wholly owned subsidiary of 12 FIL. On information and belief, FIUSA—at the direction of and under the control 13 14 of FIL—directly or indirectly collects and receives all OnlyFans-related payments from Fans located in the United States, whose bank statements reflect the 15 transaction as "Fenix Internet LLC." FIUSA then subtracts OnlyFans fees 16 17 (including Subscription Fees, the OnlyFans' portion of the Creator Fees, and other 18 charges) from those payments, and remits approximately the remainder of the Fan 19 payments to the Creators.

- 20 41. On information and belief, a substantial number of those Fans and 21 Creators are located in California.
- 22 42. On information and belief, FIUSA has not obtained the necessary 23 licenses to provide money transmitter services in any of the states in which it 24 performs those services—including California.

25 43. Together, FIL and FIUSA are referred to throughout this Complaint as 26 "OnlyFans Defendants" or "OnlyFans," except where it may be necessary to 27 distinguish more specifically between the two entities.

#### **Agency Defendants**

44. The following Defendants are "management" agencies that purport to 2 represent, act on behalf or, or are the agents of multiple Creators, and who in reality 3 have unfettered access to and primary control over the OnlyFans accounts of their 4 "Represented Creators." Each of these Defendants provides "chatter services" for 5 its Represented Creators: hiring individuals to interact with Fans, fraudulently 6 misrepresent their identities, build a phony relationship engineered by people other 7 than the Creators and based on emotions and vulnerabilities thought to be shared 8 only with the Creators, and pretend to be the Represented Creators-with the 9 express purpose of deceiving and manipulating Fans in order to maximize their 10 willingness to purchase content from the Represented Creator accounts. These 11 Defendants are referred to collectively as the "Agency Defendants." 12

45. Each Agency represented at least one Creator subscribed to and 13 followed by a Plaintiff. The identities of those Creators and Plaintiffs—along with 14 additional details about each Agency's conduct—are provided in Sections IV. H 15 and I, below. 16

Defendant Boss Baddies LLC ("Boss Baddies") was registered in 46. 17 Wisconsin on April 26, 2021. Boss Baddies' principal office is 2800 E Enterprises 18 Avenue, Suite 333, Appleton, Wisconsin 54913-7889. Boss Baddies LLC has 19 branches registered in Ohio and Washington. On information and belief, Boss 20 Baddies LLC is actively doing business as Siren Agency, and will be referred to as 21 "Siren" throughout this Complaint. Siren lists Los Angeles, California as its 22 principal place of business on its website. 23

47. Defendant Moxy Management ("Moxy") was registered on June 21, 24 2021, as a California corporation. Moxy's principal place of business is 19016 25 Devonport Lane, Tarzana, CA 91356. 26

48. Defendant Unruly Agency Limited Liability Company ("Unruly") 27 was registered on March 20, 2020, as a California limited liability company.

28

1 Unruly's principal place of business is 8581 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 403, 2 West Hollywood, CA 90069. On information and belief, Unruly is doing business 3 as Unruly Agency. Upon information and belief, **Dysrpt Agency** ("Dysrpt") is a 4 trademark of Unruly and Unruly is also doing business as Dysrpt. Defendant 5 Behave Agency LLC ("Behave") was originally formed in Delaware on June 24, 6 2020. On December 12, 2021, Behave was registered in California as a foreign 7 LLC. Behave's principal office address is 16192 Coastal Highway, Lewes, 8 Delaware 19958. On information and belief, Behave is a subsidiary of Unruly. 9 Together, Unruly, Dysrpt, and Behave will be referred to in this Complaint as the "Unruly Defendants." 10 Defendant A.S.H. Agency ("A.S.H.") was formed by well-known 11 49. 12 adult film star Riley Reid in 2021. On information and belief, A.S.H.'s principal place of business is 299 Patrician Way, Pasadena, CA 91105. 13 14 50. Defendant Content X, Inc. ("Content X") was registered on 15 September 1, 2020, as a California corporation. Content X's principal place of 16 business is 21800 West Oxnard Street, Suite 940, Woodland Hills, California 17 91367. On information and belief, Content X, Inc. is doing business as Content X 18 Studios. Defendant Verge Agency, Inc. ("Verge") was originally formed in 19 51. 20 Delaware on March 24, 2021. On March 3, 2023, Verge Agency, Inc. was incorporated as a California corporation. Verge Agency, Inc.'s principal place of 21 business is 10960 Wilshire Boulevard, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90024. On 22 23 information and belief, Verge Agency, Inc. is doing business as Verge Agency. 24 Defendant Elite Creators LLC ("Elite Creators") is a Florida LLC 52. 25 registered in June 2022. Defendant Creators Inc. ("Creators Incorporated") is a 26 Florida corporation registered in September 2022. In documents filed with the 27 Florida Secretary of State, Elite Creators is listed as the only officer or director of 28 Creators Incorporated. On information and belief, Elite Creators provides its -11"management services" in conjunction with multiple other companies, all of whom
 do business under the Creators Inc. brand. The two Defendants named in this
 paragraph will be referred to in this Complaint as "Creators Inc."

# IV. FACTS

5

A.

4

# History of OnlyFans

53. OnlyFans was founded in 2016 by 33-year-old British tech
entrepreneur and investor Timothy Stokely, who had previously owned similar
niche- and/or custom-pornography sites including GlamGirls, GlamWorship, and
Customs4U, and would go on to be described as "the king of homemade porn."<sup>9</sup>

54. Perhaps unsurprisingly given Stokely's background, OnlyFans
immediately became dominated by (and known for) adult content and quickly
acquired a significant user base. Within its first month, OnlyFans had over 1,000
paying subscribers, and the platform grew quickly from there, reaching 10,000
users by September 2016, and 100,000 users by January 2017. By mid-2018, the
platform had over 1 million users and had paid out over \$10 million to Creators.

16 55. That same year, venture capitalist Leonid Radvinsky bought a
17 controlling share in Defendant FIL, the company Stokely had incorporated to house
18 the OnlyFans brand. Radvinsky, already the owner of one of the world's largest
19 webcam sites,<sup>10</sup> was a veteran in the online pornography industry. He was also a
20 veteran in the online deception business: at age 17, he helped start a company that

- 21
- <sup>9</sup> Charlotte Colombo, *Meet the king of homemade porn a banker's son making millions*, THE TIMES (Sept. 14, 2021),
- 24 www.thetimes.com/uk/society/article/meet-the-king-of-homemade-porn-a-bankersson-making-millions-z9vhq9c9s (last visited July 29, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> On MyFreeCams, adult models broadcast themselves stripping or performing
 sex acts online in exchange for tips from viewers. *See* Matthew Field, *The elusive porn baron behind OnlyFans*, THE TELEGRAPH (October 1, 2022),

https://web.archive.org/web/20240501112404/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/busines
 s/2022/10/01/elusive-porn-baron-behind-OnlyFans/# (last visited July 29, 2024).

made money by funneling traffic to pornography sites by falsely claiming to offer "hacked" and/or "illegal teen" passwords.<sup>11</sup>

56. OnlyFans continued to grow steadily after the change in ownership,
but the growth of its initial few years was dwarfed by the growth of the platform
during the COVID-19 epidemic.

57. Just between March and April 2020, both the Fan base and the number
of Creators on the platform grew by 75%, with the site becoming widely known
enough that pop icon Beyoncé mentioned the platform in a song that year—
boosting its recognition even further. Over the next year, multiple "mainstream"
celebrities joined the platform, introducing OnlyFans to their existing Fans—many
of whom, judging by the numbers, joined the platform as well.

12 58. By the end of the fiscal year 2020, more than 1.6 million Creator
13 accounts had been created on the platform, and over 82 million Fans had signed up.
14 Transactions on the platform in 2020 increased by 553%—to \$2.4 billion.

15 59. In 2021, FIL reported an over 600% increase in profits—from \$61
16 million in 2020 to \$433 million in 2021.

17 According to publicly filed financial statements from FIL, the vast 60. majority of OnlyFans revenue comes from the 20% it collects from the content 18 Creators. Since 2019, FIL has reported "major sources" of revenue in only two 19 20 categories-both of which represent OnlyFans' cut of revenue generated by content Creators on the platform: "subscription-based payments," which the company 21 22 describes as "transactions where the group facilitates Creator's providing content to Fans for a period of time," and "non-subscription-based payments," which include 23 24 "one-time transactions such as messaging and access to content, that the group 25 facilitates between the Fans and the Creators." The specific numbers are reproduced 26 in Figure 1, below.

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 $^{11}$  Id.

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1 2	Fiscal Year Ending	Subscription- based Revenue		Non-subscription- based Revenue		Total Revenue
3	2019-11-30	\$87,000,000	+	\$73,000,000		\$160,000,000
4 5	2020-11-30	\$285,000,000	+	\$263,000,000	=	\$548,000,000
6	2021-11-30	\$489,000,000	+	\$443,000,000	=	\$932,000,000
7	2022-11-30	\$522,000,000	+	\$568,000,000	=	\$1,090,000,000
		•	-	•		

*Figure 1.* Defendant FIL's annual revenues as reported in the company's publicly filed financial statements, including Fenix International Limited, Annual Report and Financial Statements (covering Dec. 2021 to Nov. 2022, Dec. 2020, to Nov. 2021, Dec. 2019 to Nov. 2020, Dec. 2018 to Nov. 2019).

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61. In 2021, after OnlyFans' recorded record profits, the magazine Fast Company declared OnlyFans one of the "10 most innovative social media

13 companies of 2021"—lauding the ability to find "creative ways to sell intimacy

during a time of social distancing," and describing it as a "clever hack of the social
sphere to monetize exclusive content."<sup>12</sup>

16 **B**.

### How OnlyFans Makes Money

17 62. The financial mechanics of OnlyFans' "clever hack" revolve around
18 the multiplicity of ways that the platform has to part Fans from their money—all of
19 which take advantage of various psychological biases and phenomena to steadily
20 escalate Fan engagement and willingness to pay.

63. The basic Fan experience on OnlyFans is like other social media sites.
When a Fan logs in, they see their "home" screen, which features a "feed"
containing posts—either from Creator accounts the Fan has subscribed to, or
suggested posts from OnlyFans. Even before a Fan subscribes to any Creator
profiles—and thus before OnlyFans "knows" anything about the Fan—OnlyFans

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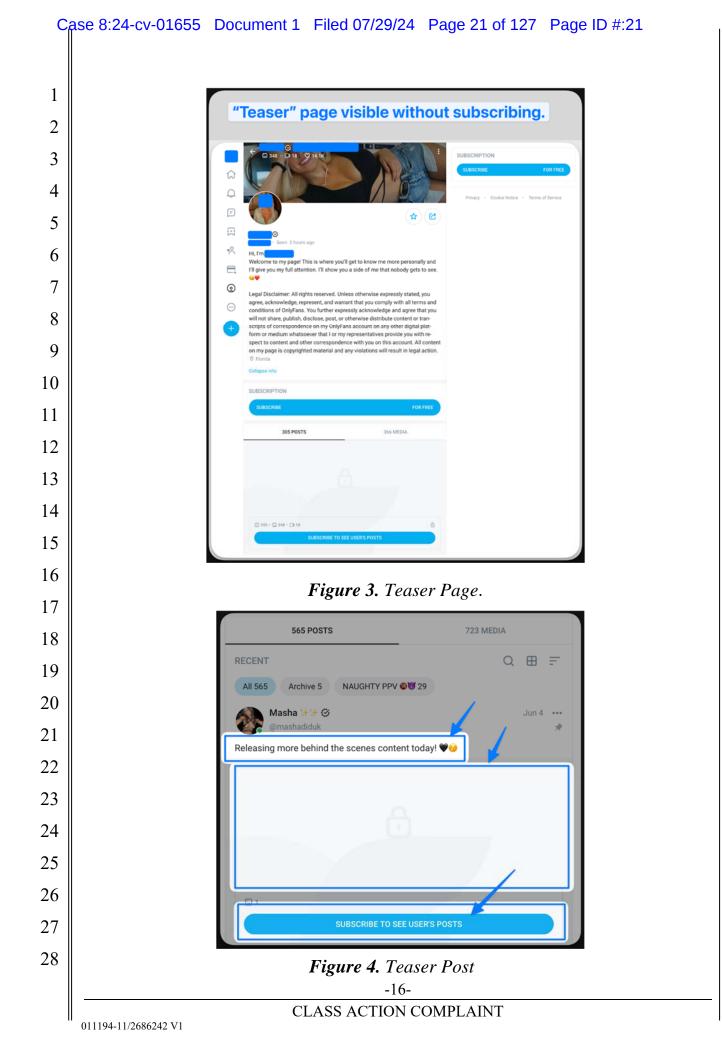
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<sup>12</sup> Sarah Flynn, *The 10 Most Innovative Social Media Companies of 2021*, FAST COMPANY (Mar. 9, 2021), <u>www.fastcompany.com/90600321/social-media-most-</u> innovative-companies-2021 (last visited July 29, 2024).



26 of a post but not the photo. *See* Figures 3 & 4.



65. 1 To see additional content, a Fan must subscribe to a Creator's page. 2 66. Clicking "Subscribe" then begins the barrage of "monetization 3 opportunities" that made the OnlyFans platform popular with Creators initially. 4 67. For "Paid Accounts"—*i.e.*, those requiring a paid subscription—Fans 5 must agree to pay a monthly fee ("Subscription Fee"), which is set through the 6 Creator Account. On information and belief, Agency Defendants set the 7 Subscription Fee for each of their Represented Creators. 8 68. OnlyFans' Terms of Service require Fans to agree to "auto-renew" any subscription they sign up for.<sup>13</sup> This can be modified, but only by taking the 9 affirmative step of turning the auto-renew function "off" in the account settings-10 and only after the Fan signs up for the subscription. 11 12 69. To subscribe to *any* account—even a "Free Account"—Fans must add 13 a payment card to their account. 14 70. This makes sense, because while Free Accounts do not charge a 15 monthly Subscription Fee, those accounts can still charge Fans in multiple ways, 16 including: a. **PPV (Pay-Per-View) Content**, which can be offered via direct messages, 17 posts, and/or live streams. OnlyFans emphasizes that especially "[f]or free 18 profiles, using PPVs effectively is crucial to maximizing monetization on 19 20 OnlyFans."; and 21 b. Creator Tips, which can be in amounts up to \$200, but without any 22 limitation in a given timeframe, and can also be collected via posts, 23 messages, streams, or just through a direct link on a Creator's profile. 24 OnlyFans recommends that, to "maximize monetization," Creators have a "tip menu": 25 26 27 <sup>13</sup> Terms of Use for Fans ¶ 8(h), ONLYFANS, https://onlyfans.com/terms (last 28 visited June 29, 2024). -17-

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	Create A Tip Menu
	You can accept tips over DM in exchange for custom content, speci
	requests, advice, recipes, lessons, or almost anything else. Many OnlyFans creators choose to put a tip menu on their pinned post,
	offering different types of content or engagement in exchange for
	tips. <sup>14</sup>
71.	Indeed, OnlyFans specifically touts the high monetization potential
its free Cre	eator accounts. The Creator Center portion of its website emphasizes:
	Free Accounts Still Earn Money
	It might surprise you that some of the highest-earning creators on
	OnlyFans don't charge monthly subscription fees. Consider the other
	advantages that free accounts offer:
	• On average, free accounts gain subscribers more quickly
	• Fans are less likely to unsubscribe when you take content breaks
	• Free accounts have access to pay-per-view posts and streams, an can require Fans to tip first before sending a direct message <sup>15</sup>
72.	Many free profiles, however, are simply "teaser" accounts intended
funnel Fan	s to accounts that require a paid subscription.
73.	Indeed, OnlyFans encourages the use of multiple accounts to slowly
reel in cust	comers, encouraging Creators to "Build Your Own 'VIP Section'":
	A free profile paired with a paid subscription profile is
	another approach creators use to monetize on OnlyFans.
	By <b>teasing some content</b> on a free profile, you can let your subscribers know that there's more to unlock when
	they upgrade to your paid profile.
	Two tiers of access creates [sic] a low-pressure
	environment for you to cultivate new fans. Plus, it gives
	your "VIPs" a way to stay connected with you if they ever need to drop down a tier. <sup>16</sup>
	1 
<sup>14</sup> Blog	Post, Creator Center, Maximizing Monetization, ONLYFANS,
	g.onlyfans.com/creator-center/ (last visited July 29, 2024).
<sup>15</sup> " <i>Id</i> .	
	Post, Creator Center, Advanced Earnings Tools, ONLYFANS,
•	<u>g.onlyfans.com/creator-center/</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).
	-18-
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1 2 74. Together, Subscription Fees, PPV Charges, and Creator Tips will be referred to as "Premium Content Fees" throughout this Complaint.

75. OnlyFans' platform took off, in large part because of the offer to
engage in a connection—a two-way street—with the Creators. Indeed, from
academics to marketing professionals, it's difficult to find any serious analysis of
OnlyFans' success that doesn't attribute a large part of that success to its promise of
"direct connection" between Creators and Fans. Commentators almost universally
agree that the predominance of sexually explicit content on the platform—while it
may play a large part in its initial attraction—cannot by itself explain OnlyFans'

10 spectacular growth.

11 76. Instead, the site's most potent lure (and hook) is "the ability to interact
12 directly with one of the content creators." This differentiates it from pornography,
13 which, "while explicitly sexual, does not offer a personal relationship that one can
14 curate for individuals."<sup>17</sup> And, on top of this, as one commentator wrote of
15 OnlyFans' meteoric rise, "The platform was already compelling due to its sexually
16 charged content, but what supercharged the content itself was its ability to be the
17 "supply" for the "demand" of loneliness."<sup>18</sup>

18 77. Fans themselves have confirmed this insight. One Fan, upon
19 discovering that he had been misled into communicating with chatters and not the
20 model he was following, asked "Why would anyone go on OnlyFans in the first
21 place, when you can get content almost anywhere (free in most cases)? The
22 opportunity to Direct Message the Creator you are subscribed to."<sup>19</sup>

https://medium.com/@julian.frazier.phd/the-dark-psychology-of-OnlyFans-

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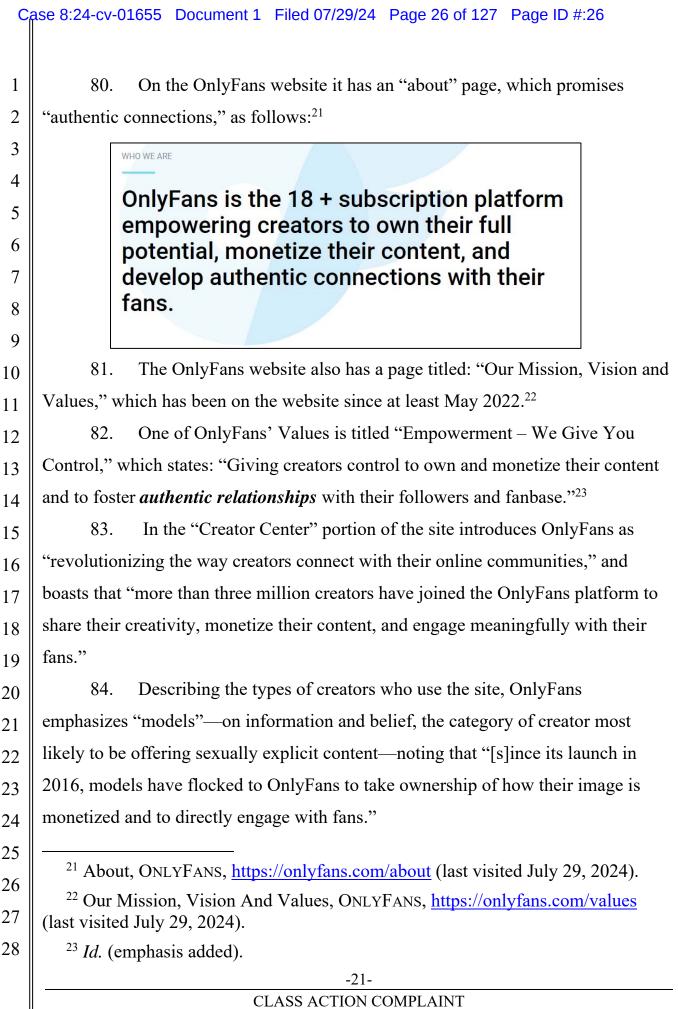
<sup>19</sup> User Post, *Was not chatting to the creator I was subscribed to*, PISSED
 CONSUMER (May 12, 2023), <u>https://onlyfans.pissedconsumer.com/32/RT-</u>
 P.html?sort=latest#reviews (last visited July 29, 2024).

735c22efde6 (last visited July 29, 2024).

<sup>17</sup> Julian Frazier, *The Dark Psychology of OnlyFans*, MEDIUM (Sep 22, 2022),

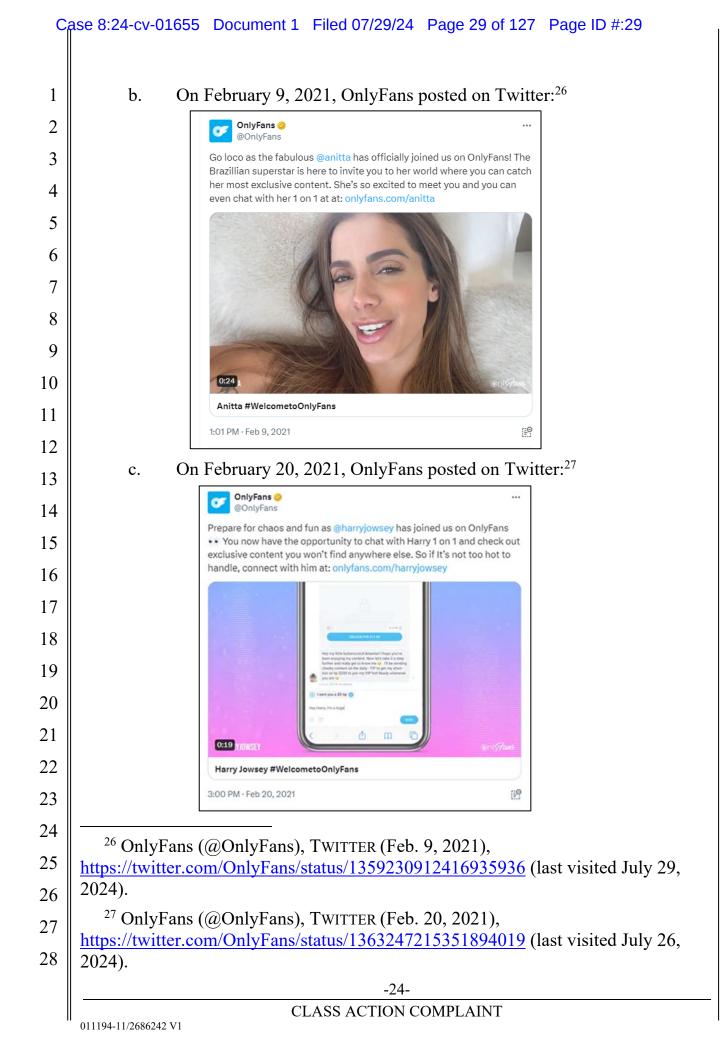
 $^{18}$  *Id*.

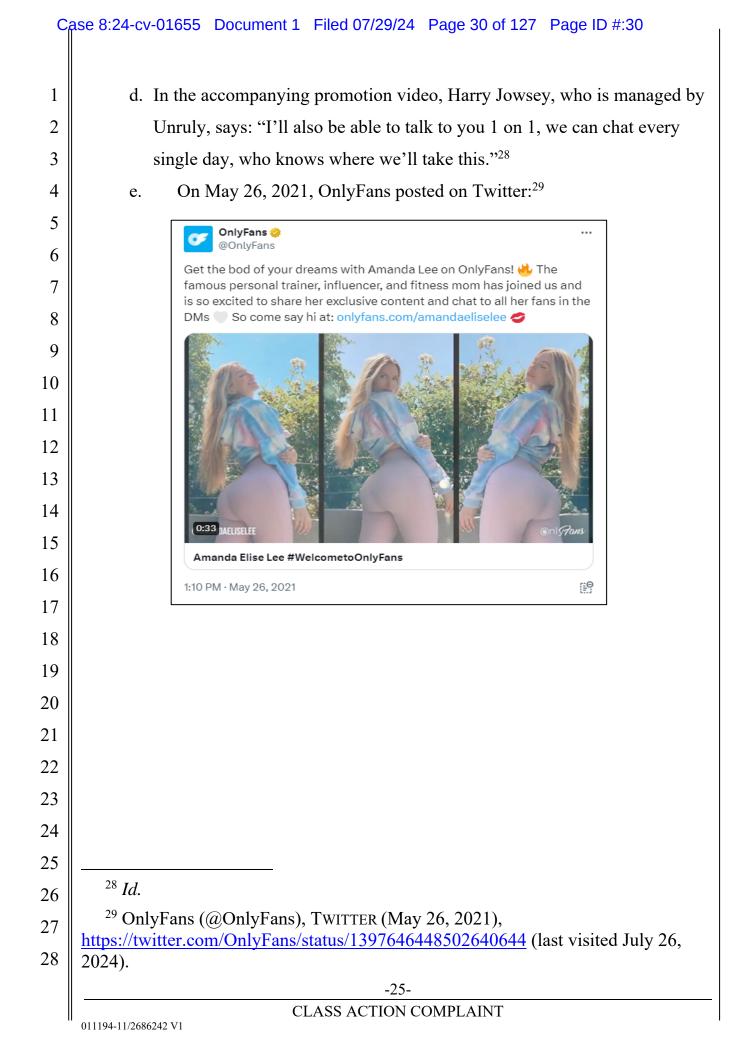
1	78. This explanation for the success of OnlyFans is echoed again and					
2	again in media coverage of the site—and by OnlyFans itself, often directly quoting					
3	Creators. For example, in a 2019 blog post, OnlyFans profiled a British model,					
4	noting that "her advice for OnlyFans creators is to prioritise communication with					
5	their fans," and highlighting a quote in which she emphasizes how critical "direct"					
6	messaging is for a Creator's bottom line:					
7	One of the most important things to remember to do is to					
8	answer all of your DMs! I know this may seem like a daunting job if you have fallen behind on them, but it's so					
9	important. A lot of people join up just so they can chat with you on a one to one level. Ignoring DMs or not					
10	replying before sending out a mass message could be losing you money. You could miss custom requests,					
11	important questions, requests for videos, tips for pics etc. This is a sure way of losing loyal subscribers! <sup>20</sup>					
12						
13	C. OnlyFans falsely promises Fans "authentic" and "direct" connections with Creators.					
14	79. OnlyFans is not coy or allusive about the fact that the core promise of					
15	its platform hinges on the authenticity of the personal interaction between Fans					
16	and Creators. Its marketing consistently revolves around this idea. Its website and					
17	other public statements teem with references to "authenticity" and "direct					
18	connection" and "meaningful" engagement.					
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27	<sup>20</sup> Blog Post, <i>How to Earn More on OnlyFans</i> , ONLYFANS (Oct. 21, 2019), https://web.archive.org/web/20200518163750/https://blog.OnlyFans.com/how-to-					
28	<u>earn-more-on-OnlyFans/</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).					
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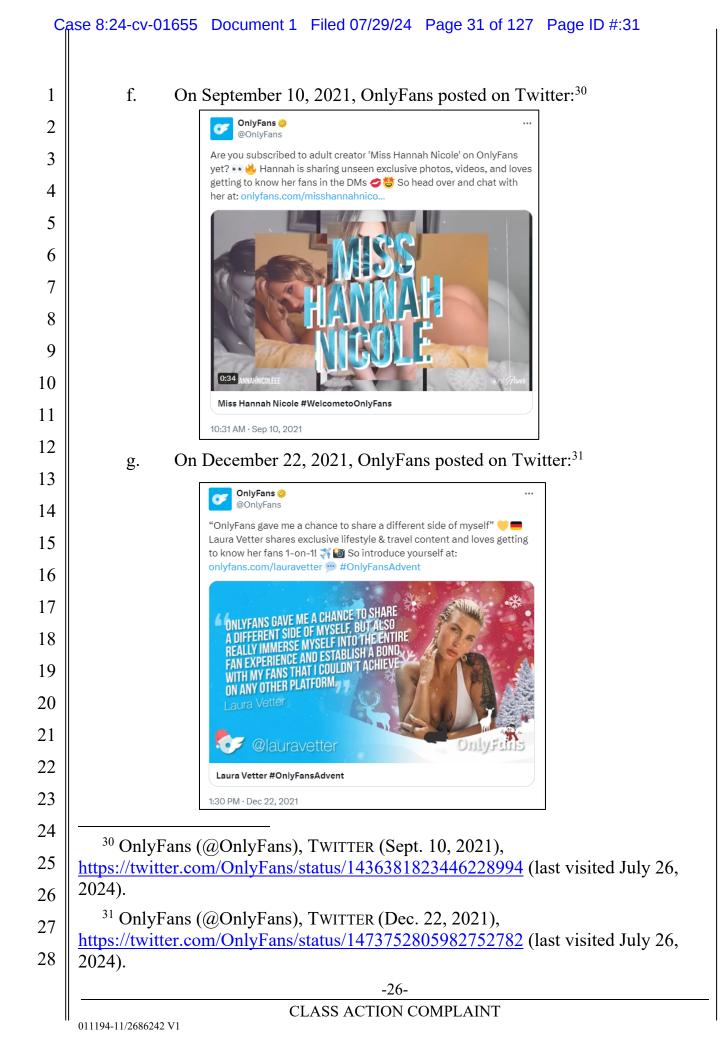


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1	85. (	OnlyFans has used this type of language since the platform began. For					
2		rchived version of the OnlyFans home page from 2017 contains this					
3	mission statement:						
4		OnlyFans is the social platform <b>revolutionizing creator</b> and fan connections. The site is inclusive of artists and					
5		<b>nd fan connections.</b> The site is inclusive of artists and ontent creators from all genres and allows them to					
6	n	nonetize their content while developing authentic relationships with their fanbase.					
7		OnlyFans urges Fans to subscribe to specific Creators using the					
8	following lang	guage:					
9	S	SUBSCRIBE AND GET THESE BENEFITS:					
10		Full access to this user's content Direct message with this user					
11		Cancel your subscription at any time					
12	87. 7	This language is automatically generated by OnlyFans, cannot be					
13	removed or m	odified by Creators, and appears on every single creator's profile. As					
14	soon as a user	clicks the "Subscribe" button on <i>any</i> Creator profile—paid or free—					
15	a popup conta	ining the subscription benefits language appears:					
16							
17		where you'll get to know me more personally and 'll show you a side of me that nobody gets to see.					
18		served. La					
19 20		t, and wa					
20		e, post, d my Only- hat I or n SUBSCRIBE AND GET THESE BENEFITS:					
21 22		rrespond V Full access to this user's content Iterial an V Direct message with this user					
22		Cancel your subscription at any me					
23		PLEASE ADD A PAYMENT CARD					
25		CLOSE					
26		366 MEDIA					
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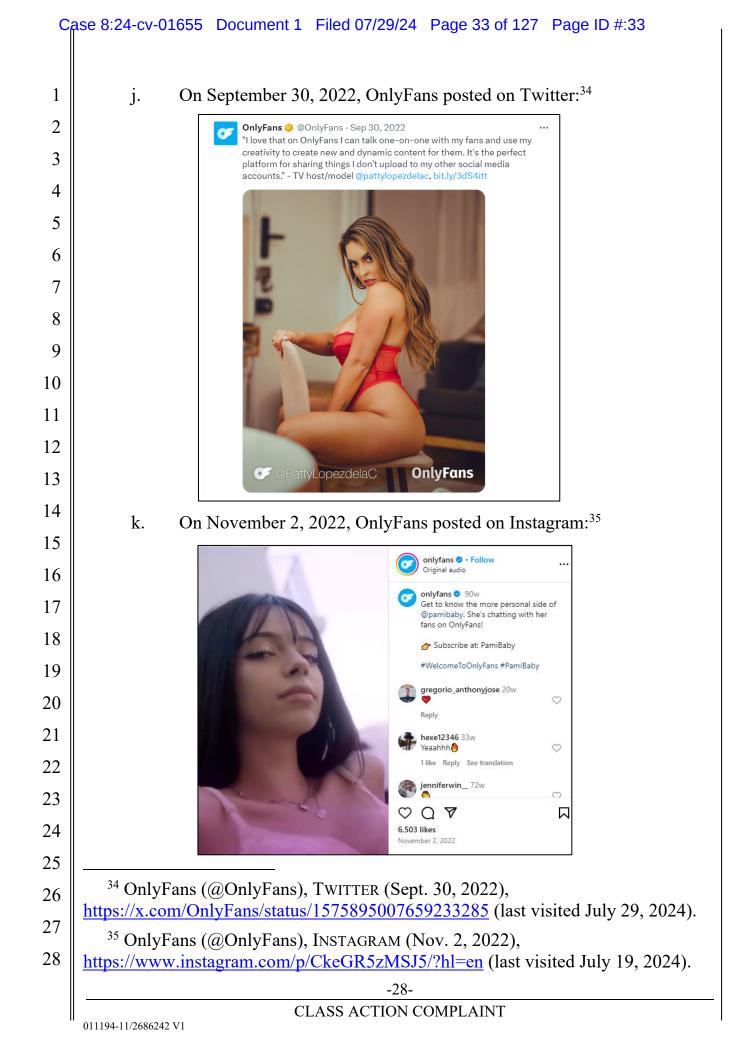
1	88. Direct messaging or "DM" has a very specific meaning. It indicates
2	that messages are being sent between two people, they are only visible to the sender
3	and recipient, and they are being sent in real time. <sup>24</sup>
4	89. OnlyFans' marketing on Social Media, like Twitter/X (referred to
5	herein as Twitter) and Instagram likewise often and repeatedly endorsed, published,
6	and emphasized the opportunity to "direct message," "DM," directly "chat," chat "1
7	on 1," and build personal and authentic relationships with specific Creators. Some
8	of the many examples include:
9	a. On January 17, 2021, OnlyFans posted on Twitter: <sup>25</sup>
10	OnlyFans 🤣
11	<ul> <li>@OnlyFans</li> <li>"What I love most is the direct messaging. I'm able to chat to get to know</li> </ul>
12	and give each person more time" Jade Ramey. Have you chatted with Jade on OnlyFans yet? She can't wait to hear from you, so just drop her a
13	message at: onlyfans.com/jaderamey #CreatorReviews
14	<b>66</b> WINT ILLOVE MOST IS THE
15	DIRECT MESSAGING. I'M ABLE
16	GIVE EACH PERSON MORE TIME
17	Jade Ramey
18	@ @jaderamey     @nly7ans
19	1:00 PM · Jan 17, 2021
20	
21	
22	
23	<sup>24</sup> See Blog Post, What is direct messaging?, SLACK,
24	https://slack.com/blog/collaboration/direct-messaging-
25	guide#:~:text=Direct%20messaging%20is%20a%20private,your%20conversation%
26	20history%20for%20reference (last visited July 29, 2024). <sup>25</sup> OnlyFans (@OnlyFans), TWITTER (Jan. 17, 2021),
27	https://twitter.com/OnlyFans/status/1350895752571211777 (last visited July 29,
28	2024).
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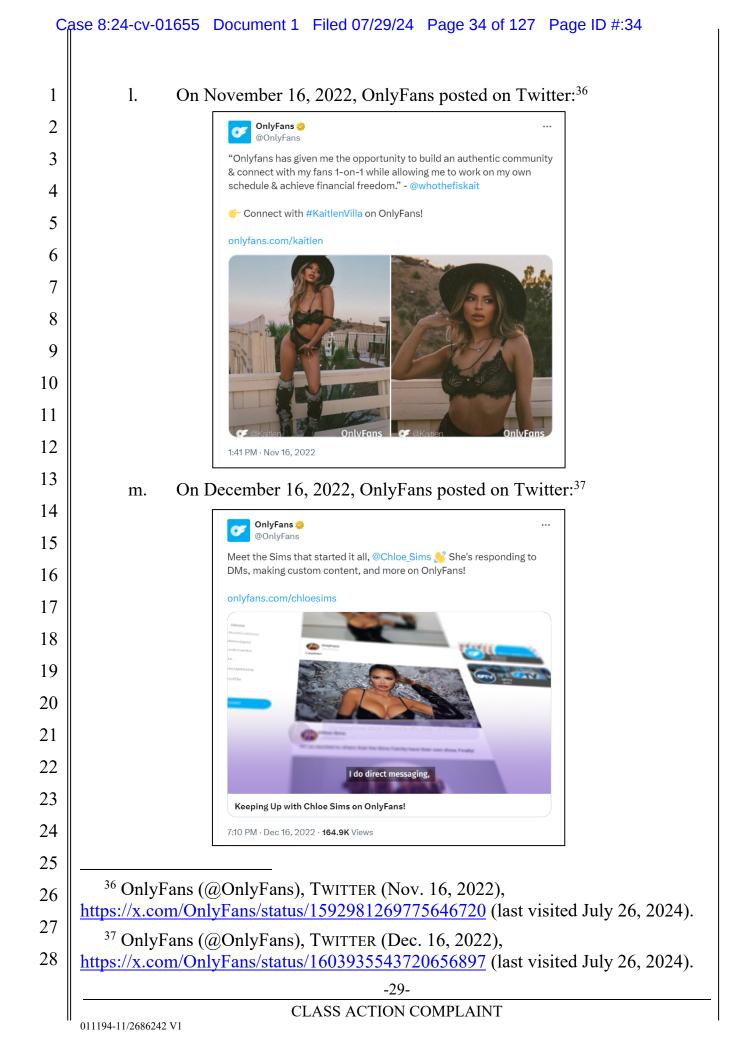






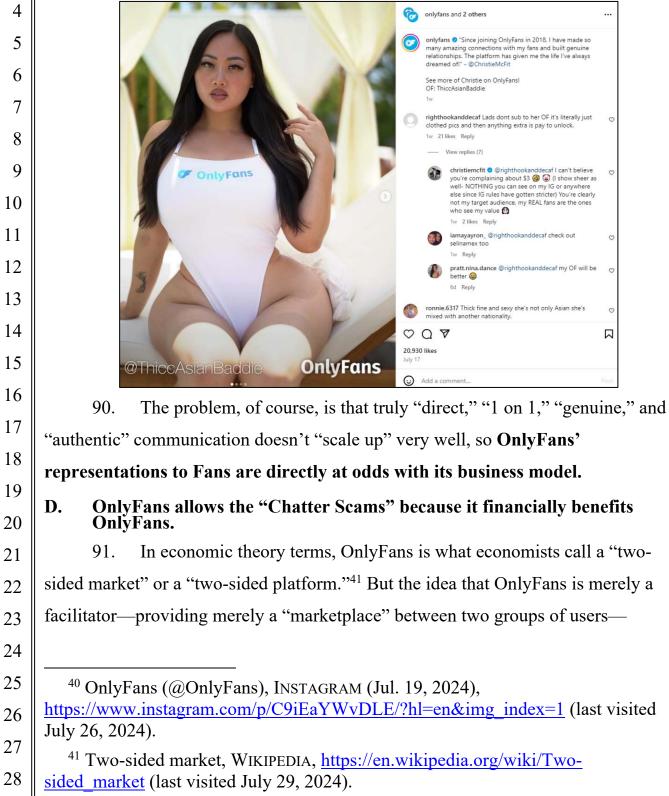








p. On July 17, 2024, OnlyFans posted on Instagram: "Since joining
 OnlyFans in 2018, I have made so many amazing connections with my fans and
 built genuine relationships." <sup>40</sup>



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obscures the reality that OnlyFans has vastly lop-sided incentives when it comes to 1 2 protecting the interests of each group, which has resulted in allowing the Chatter 3 Scams to increase its own profits.

4

92. Because OnlyFans takes a cut of Creators' revenues—and those 5 revenues represent the vast majority, if not all, of OnlyFans' own revenues— 6 OnlyFans' ability to increase its own profit relies in large part on its ability to 7 attract *Creators*—something it has done by emphasizing their ability not just to 8 make money from their content, but to increase that money exponentially by 9 increasing and communicating with their Fan base.

10 The primary narrative of OnlyFans' own documents—in both publicly 93. 11 filed financial reports and public-facing materials (including the OnlyFans 12 website)—revolves around the platform's goal of "empower[ing]" Creators to monetize their content. For example, FIL's financial reports filed in August 2023 13 14 emphasize that "[a]s OnlyFans continues to grow, The Group continues to invest in 15 the scaling and development of the platform and product development **to better** serve the Creator community and to enhance its best in class safety controls."42 16

17 94. OnlyFans' marketing was geared almost exclusively towards Creators for at least the first few years of its existence. 18

For example, until at least mid-2019, OnlyFans' home page featured, 19 95. 20 on one side, a "Subscribe" button with the tagline: "Sign up to make money and 21 interact with your fans!" On the other side, it showed an image of a smartphone 22 screen containing an "About" page for OnlyFans designed to look like a settings

- 23
- 24
- 25

<sup>42</sup> Fenix International Limited Strategic Report for the Year Ended 30 November 26 2022, filed with UK Companies House at 1, https://find-and-update.companyinformation.service.gov.uk/company/10354575/filing-27

history/MzM5MDY3MzE3MWFkaXF6a2N4/document?format=pdf&download=0 28 (last visited Jul. 28, 2024).

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screen, with emphasis on the details of how (and how much) OnlyFans pays

Creators. *See below*, Figure 5.

4 .∎ EE ♥ 09:55 @ \$ 90% ■	only tans
5 OnlyFans About Sig	n up to make money and interact with your fans!
6 FACTS	Sign Up / Login with Twitter
7 Registered Users 3,000,000+ >	- 5.6.1 op / 208.1 mil 1 milet
Content Creators 18,000+ >	OR
8 Paid Out To Creators \$35,000,000+ >	
9 Paid Out To Referrers \$750,000+ >	
FEATURES E-I	mail
80% Commission On All Income	
10       80% Commission On All Income         11       5% Commission On All Referrals         12       9ay-Per-View Messaging & Tips         0aily, Weekly & Monthly Payouts       0aily, Weekly & Monthly Payouts	
Pay-Per-View Messaging & Tips Pa	assword
2 Daily, Weekly & Monthly Payouts	
	By signing up you agree to our Terms of
Mobile-Friendly Platform S	Service and Privacy Policy.
15	Login / Sign Up Forgot Password?
17	
18	

*Figure 5.* OnlyFans Home Page, geared toward Creators—not Fans96. Only much later did OnlyFans change the subscription tagline to the

more Fan-focused tagline: "Sign up to support your favorite creators."

97. Because OnlyFans profits when Creator accounts profit, OnlyFans has no incentive to protect Fans' interests and every incentive to encourage anything or any entity—that increases a Creator's revenue and makes good on the platform's promise to "empower" Creators, regardless of the effect on Fans.

98. Perhaps the most egregious activity implicitly encouraged and purposely overlooked or permitted by OnlyFans is the use of professional
"chatters" to impersonate OnlyFans Creators in order to manipulate Fans into

paying as much as possible for PPV content and tips, and to turn a single Creator
 account into as many "personal" relationships as possible—24 hours a day, 7 days a
 week. This Complaint refers to this as the "Chatter Scams."

4

### E. Anatomy of the Chatter Scams

5 99. The Chatter Scams are primarily perpetrated by "management 6 agencies" such as the Agency Defendants on behalf of and at the direction of the 7 Creators. As described in more detail below, these agencies sell their services to 8 OnlyFans Creators with promises that they can increase a Creator's revenue 9 exponentially—without the Creator ever having to actually do what OnlyFans promises: "directly connect" with Fans. Together, the Creators and Agency 10 11 Defendants work in unison to sign up as many Fans as possible while ensuring the 12 Creators have no real role in communications with their Fans.

13 100. Unlike simply posting content and charging for it, the Chatter Scams
14 involve industrial levels of coordination and data management to convince
15 individual Fans that they are actually having a direct interaction with a given
16 Creator.

17 101. On information and belief, once a Creator engages an agency to
18 operate his or her account, the agency takes over the Creator's account and operates
19 all aspects of the Creator's account.

102. Working in partnership with their Creators—and always with full
permission and authority from those Creators, as their agents—agencies contract
with chatters to conduct most, if not all, of the communications between the
Creators and the Fans. Without the Fans knowledge, the chatters impersonate the
Creators when direct messaging with Fans.

25 103. Agencies often use chatters of all genders and ages from countries like
26 the Philippines or Venezuela, where they can find relatively well-educated,
27 English-speaking (or even multilingual) workers—but pay them a fraction of what

1 the required skillset would command in the U.S. labor market. On information and 2 belief, most agencies pay chatters approximately \$3–\$4 dollars per hour.

3 104. Chatter positions—sometimes referred to using deliberately oblique 4 terms like "account manager" or "virtual assistant"—are openly advertised online, 5 and entire online discussion forums have developed around the jobs. Some forums 6 discuss how to get a chatter job, how chatters can avoid scammers posing as 7 "legitimate" agencies, what to expect in terms of pay, and even the difficulty of the 8 working conditions.

9 105. For example, several chatters post on the *r/onlyfanschatter* subreddit, 10 where posts have included chatters discussing the labor abuses they suffer at the 11 hands of agencies, such as being forced to work 70-hour weeks or being fired for 12 missing shifts for circumstances outside their control (e.g., power outages). Another 13 chatter lamented the fact that chatters are being treated like "robots," and felt the need to assert: "We're humans, we feel."

14

15 106. One chatter (a man in Venezuela) laid out the logistical difficulties 16 inherent in attempting to convince multiple Fans they were speaking to the same 17 young American model—and spoke in graphic detail about the psychological toll of the job: 18

19 Talking to hundreds of weirdos per shift while looking at their d<sup>\*\*\*</sup>s and telling them how big it is (even if it's not) 20 is not that easy. You are always talking to 10–15 guys at the same time. You also have to send mass DMS (which 21 they think is a dm just for them, but you are sending it to everyone) every 15–25 minutes... It's actually a very 22 organized job. I am not saying it's the hardest, but definitely consuming. As for the payment, third world 23 country payment so about 500\$ monthly for us (which is 24 nothing considering each creator's account made 15k-30k monthly 25 107. Chatters, once hired, are expected to learn as much as possible about 26 the Creator they will be impersonating, and are often given very explicit directions 27 28

1	about how to sound as much like the Creator as possible. One journalist who went		
2	"undercover" as an OnlyFans chatter described his first assignment like this:		
$\frac{2}{3}$			
4	The agency's manager sent me a background memo about the woman I'd be playing, a purported 21-year-old		
5	university student blessed with physical proportions that are in vogue these days. To ensure that my performance		
	was as authentic as possible, I spent two hours committing all of her details to memory: her favorite		
6 7	programming language, her favorite sushi roll, her favorite classic rock band, the width of her rear end. The		
8	memo also contained notes regarding her preferred		
8 9	chatting style (I had to strive to be "40 percent girly") and a pricing guide to all the exclusive content in her "vault." <sup>43</sup>		
10	108. Agencies even provide chatters with actual "scripts" similar to those		
11	used by telemarketers and call center employees, which give chatters a specific		
12	workflow to follow in order to maximize the amount of money extracted from any		
13	given Fan. One online commentator described how "each 'chatter' is given a		
14	carefully designed script to follow in their messages. The script has been designed,		
15	just as a sales script is, to lead the Fan into getting into a 'buying mood' and to end		
16	up buying content."		
17	109. The interactions that often garner the most money is those in which a		
18	Fan pays for "custom" PPV content created (ostensibly) specifically for that		
19	individual Fan. It is very common for Fans to request custom videos from		
20	Creators—often spending hundreds of dollars for a single video.		
21	110. Agencies must have sophisticated processes in place to facilitate the		
22	generation of custom content. The workflow for a given agency might vary slightly,		
23	but often looks something like the following:		
24	q. The agency requires a Creator to create a certain amount of "stock"		
25	content, in the form of prerecorded videos and contemporaneous still		
26			
27	<sup>43</sup> Brendan I. Koerner, <i>I Went Undercover as a Secret OnlyFans Chatter. It</i> <i>Wasn't Pretty</i> , WIRED, <u>https://www.wired.com/story/i-went-undercover-secret-</u>		
28	onlyfans-chatter-wasnt-pretty/ (last visited July 29, 2024).		
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1		photos, on a regular (usually weekly) basis. That content is uploaded to
2		the cloud using a service like Dropbox or Google Drive, which can then
3	be accessed by agency employees or contractors and used to populate a	
4		Creator's OnlyFans "Vault"—a specific online location provided by
5		OnlyFans and designed to keep "exclusive" content accessible only to
6		paying customers.
7	a.	Acting on behalf of and as the agent of the Creator, the agency provides
8		chatters with direct access to the Creator's OnlyFans account-whether
9		directly (by providing chatters with login information) or indirectly (via
10		third-party CRM software such as SuperCreator (described below).44
11	a.	Chatters communicate with Fans directly or indirectly through the
12		OnlyFans account, impersonating the Creator in order to sell Fans content
13		from the Creator's Vault and/or obtain Fans' requests for specific
14		"custom" content.
15	b.	When a Fan requests custom content, the chatter notifies the Creator of
16		the request ("Chatter-Fan Communication"). The specific communication
17		technology varies, but on information and belief, always takes place
18		outside of the OnlyFans platform itself—via, for example, a Slack
19		channel, a text or WhatsApp message, or a Google spreadsheet, in which
20		the chatter enters information about the custom request, including:
21		• The date of request;
22		• The Fan's name and/or username;
23		• A link to the Fan's profile on OnlyFans;
24		• The price being charged for the custom content; and
25		
26		encies almost universally require Creators, as a condition of
27	_	ntation" by the agency, to provide direct access to and control over their s accounts. Thus, the Creator never has to log into or operate the account
28	-	peration to run smoothly.
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1	• A copy of the Fan's original communication providing details about the content desired.
2 3	111. In addition to requesting custom content, it is common for Fans send
	their own photos or videos ("Fan-Generated Content") to a Creator and ask for the
4	Creator's reaction to the content—in which case the Chatter–Creator
5	Communication may also contain that Fan-Generated Content. Fan-Generated
6	Content often contains extremely private or sensitive material—in some cases, for
7	example, asking a Creator to "rate" some aspect of the Fan's sexual anatomy.
8	112. Agencies do not require chatters to be similar in any way to the
9	Creators they impersonate: indeed, reports abound on the internet of Filipino or
10	Venezuelan males being paid to impersonate young American female Creators.
11	113. These reports—and other details about the Chatter Scams—have
12	increasingly appeared as "exposés" in mainstream publications, including:
13	The New York Times, which, in May 2022, published an article
14	entitled "The 'E-Pimps' of OnlyFans: Clever marketers have
15	figured out how easy it is to simulate online intimacy at scale,
16	ventriloquizing alluring models with cheap, offshore labor."
17	c. Wired Magazine ("I Went Undercover as a Secret OnlyFans Chatter. It
18	Wasn't Pretty.") (May 15, 2024).
19	d. El Pais ("\$500 a day to pretend to be a model: The big business behind
20	OnlyFans 'chatters'") (November 2023).
21	e. Cosmopolitan Magazine ("Watch out for the OnlyFans pimps: can they
22	really make you millions?") (June 24, 2024).
23	114. Some reports describe individual chatters who are morally conflicted
24	about their work.
25	115. For example, the Venezuelan chatter quoted above—after talking
26	about the level of organization required for the job—went on to say:
27 28	I feel bad because I talked to MANY guys who fell in love for a girl who doesn't even know they exist and
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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1	we had to take as much money as we could from
2	everyone, that was the goal. <sup>45</sup>
3	116. And in 2021, chatters employed by Defendant Unruly Agency sued the
	agency for wage theft, unlawful termination, and the intentional infliction of
r 	emotional distress. As Business Insider reported:
, , ,	In the suit, [the chatters] also broke an informal code of
	silence around the company by saying Unruly required them "to intentionally lie to, dupe, and mislead fans."
7	The lawsuit, which includes examples of conversations in which account managers pretended to be [model Abby
	Rao], says that the fans who pay to message Unruly <i>clients believe they are "communicating directly with the</i>
	<i>models,</i> " and they, in turn, divulge their "deepest and
)	innermost personal secrets including sexual fantasies and fetishes, marital troubles, suicidal ideations, and other
	private desires to [the chatters]."
2	"For instance, one fan lamented the demise of his marriage (and provided intimate details regarding the
;	same) and details about his sexual fantasies to [a chatter] believing that she was [Rao], and he continued to send in
ł	money on the basis of this deception," the lawsuit says. "You're basically a professional scammer," Emma said
	of working at Unruly.
	117. For the most part, though, the agencies engaged in Chatter Scams
7	don't appear to have any qualms about defrauding Fans-often using terms like
	"farming" to refer to the process of fleecing or squeezing Fans for as much money
)	as possible.
)	118. In addition, multiple companies in recent years have developed
	specialized tools designed to facilitate the use of a single OnlyFans account by
2	multiple people—including, explicitly, teams of Chatters. These tools are
	essentially customer relationship management ("CRM") software designed to allow
1	agency teams to access OnlyFans simultaneously.
5	
5	
7	<sup>45</sup> MediaVSReality, <i>The Dirty Secrets About OnlyFans that Nobody Seems to</i> <i>Know</i> , MEDUM, https://mediavsreality.medium.com/the.dirty_truth_about_onlyfans
8	<i>Know</i> , MEDIUM, <u>https://mediavsreality.medium.com/the-dirty-truth-about-onlyfans-</u> <u>c82b5ef1b151</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).
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1 119. For example, an application called "SuperCreator" explicitly
 advertises to agencies and Creators their ability to facilitate the use of OnlyFans
 accounts by Chatters. See the Figures below, all taken from the SuperCreator
 website:<sup>46</sup>

Chatting tools that drive more sales 🚊 With powerful tools that guide you through your entire chatting workflow -Boost your chatting results with actionable insights on fans and PPVs Find Where's The Money 🐋 Prioritize your chatting by spotting hot fans with high spending potential, and avoiding freeloaders. All right from your inbox, with no extra effort. Maya Tom Heiss Management Matching Fans The best thing about Supercreator is The tools has helped me create a how simple it is to use, we barely had money-making system without any to explain anything to our chatters. All effort on my end and with consister in all we have been working with results from my chatters. My Mass Supercreator for 3 months now, and it Messages revenue grew up significa has become an integral part of our as well. chatting strategy and workflows. On information and belief, OnlyFans is aware of the use of CRM 120. software on its platform—as well as the fact that the use of such software violates OnlyFans' Terms of Service—but chooses to do nothing to prevent the use of such <sup>46</sup> Features, SUPERCREATOR,

https://supercreator.app/features/?utm\_content=sess\_1717808225737\_3y8kr0lsb8u
(last visited accessed June 7, 2024).

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software in order to continue profiting from the increased revenues facilitated by
 the CRM software.

3 121. Nor do the agencies appear to have much fear of reprisal from
4 OnlyFans—even though the Chatter Scams blatantly violate OnlyFans' company
5 policies, as described in more detail below.

6 122. OnlyFans knows that its Creators are not personally chatting with
7 Fans. For example, OnlyFans promotes that fans can direct message with Chloe
8 Sims, *see* paragraph 0(i) *supra*, yet OnlyFans filmed an "OnlyFans Original" reality
9 show that followed Ms. Sims while filming the show. Despite substantial time on
10 camera for a long period of time, nowhere did it show Ms. Sims communicating
11 with Fans. Yet, on information and belief, Ms. Sims brings in over \$100,000 a
12 month.

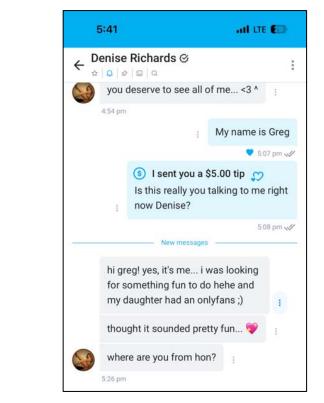
123. But when a Fan communicates with Ms. Sims, she assures them it is her:





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-41-CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 1 124. Similarly, Denise Richard reportedly makes \$2,000,000 a month on
 2 OnlyFans. Yet she also tells Fans that they are communicating directly with her,
 3 that she is "personally answering" comments, even though she could not possibly
 4 be direct messaging with her Fans:



### 

# F. OnlyFans knows or should know that Chatter Scams are rampant on the platform.

19 125. The prevalence of Chatter Scams has long been an open secret to
20 industry insiders, and while OnlyFans publicly disavows any association with the
21 management agencies, myriad evidence supports an inference that OnlyFans is
22 aware of the Chatter Scams.

126. Indeed, despite the fact that the platform's policies contain specific
terms purporting to prohibit Creators from allowing anyone else to even access
their accounts, other terms found in the policies specifically contemplate that a
Creator might "have an agent, agency, management company or other third party"
which not only "assists" the Creator with "the operation of [the] Creator account,"
but possibly "operates it on…behalf" of the Creator.

1	127. Tellingly, however, that language appears <i>only</i> in the provisions of the		
2	policies purporting to limit OnlyFans' liability for the actions of third parties, where		
3	it provides that "Only individuals can be Creators. Every Creator is bound		
4	personally by the Terms of Service. If you have an agent, agency, management		
5	company or other third party which assists you with the operation of your		
6	Creator account (or operates it on your behalf), this does not affect your		
7	personal legal responsibility."47		
8	128. One Creator—formerly represented by Defendant Siren Agency—		
9	described the incentives for the informal code of silence that exists in the industry		
10	with respect to the use of chatters by agencies. In an interview posted on YouTube,		
11	in which she described the experience of being represented by Siren Agency, the		
12	Creator, named Riley, explained:		
13	[T]he reason a lot of [OnlyFans] models don't want to		
14	come forward and tell people what their experience is because [OnlyFans] is supposed to be this fan-based,		
15	personal experience that you're supposed to get with the model. So if you're saying, "Hey, I had this agency		
16	messaging for me," they're not going to look at that as, "oh, I wanted to better your experience." It's like, "wow,		
17	you couldn't even message me. And that's what it's for." So I totally get why people aren't coming out and		
18	speaking out about it Nobody wants to say, "Hey,		
19	there was someone messaging that wasn't me messaging me—but it <i>was</i> ."		
20	OnlyFans actively monitors the traffic on its platform—including information that would allow OnlyFans to detect the use of		
21	chatters by a Creator Account.		
22	129. Evidence of OnlyFans' actual knowledge of the Chatter Scams is		
23	bolstered by evidence that if nothing else, OnlyFans should know about the scams		
24	from monitoring its platform-something it not only admits doing, but actively		
25	touts as part of its emphasis on "safety." In 2022, for example, OnlyFans' then-		
26			
27	<sup>47</sup> Terms of Use for Creators ¶ 7, ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u> (last		
28	visited June 29, 2024) (emphasis added).		
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CEO Ami Gan told Time magazine that "[s]afety is ultimately the foundation of our 1 2 entire business," boasting that the company's verification protocols were so robust 3 that "we have no anonymity on the platform; we know who everyone is." She went 4 on to describe what she called the platform's "very robust content moderation," 5 confirming that not only can OnlyFans monitor the activity happening on Creator accounts, but the company prides itself on doing so: "Everything on OnlyFans, we 6 7 see it, we're able to view it, moderate it, and make sure that everyone is following 8 our terms of service. While we do use some automated technologies to help us prioritize content, ultimately everything on the site is reviewed by a human."<sup>48</sup> 9

10 130. These statements are also consistent with OnlyFans' Privacy Policy,
11 which claims to be collecting customer data *for the specific purpose of detecting*12 *deceptive activity*— explaining that one of the reason the company collects and
13 processes customer data is the purpose of "[m]onitoring transactions and company
14 network, systems, applications, and data" in order to, among other things, "detect
15 malicious, deceptive, fraudulent, or illegal activity."<sup>49</sup>

16 131. This not only (falsely) suggests to Fans that OnlyFans is actively
17 trying to prevent fraud and deceptive conduct but demonstrates that OnlyFans has
18 the *ability* to do so given the type of data it collects.

<sup>48</sup> Raisa Bruner, OnlyFans CEO Ami Gan Wants to Dispel Misconceptions
 About the Company, TIME (July 31, 2022), <u>https://time.com/6202306/onlyfans-ceo-ami-gan-interview/</u> (last visited July 29, 2024) (emphasis added).

<sup>49</sup> Privacy Policy ¶ 11, OnlyFans, <u>https://onlyfans.com/privacy</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).

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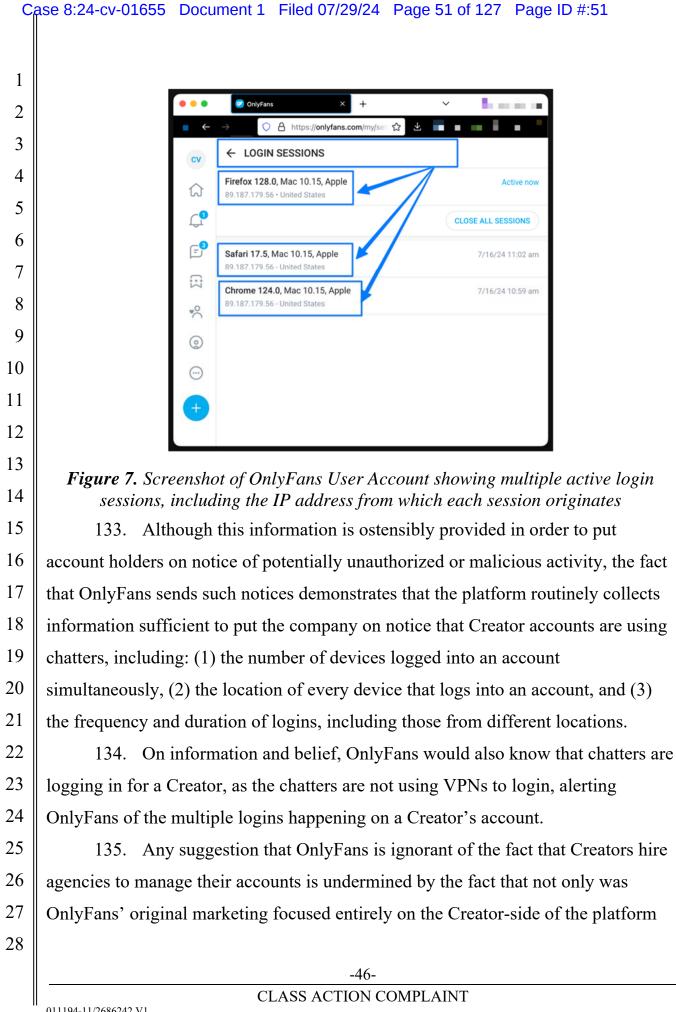
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1	132. For example, data gathered about the use of the "company network" or	ſ
2	"systems" includes information about how many different devices are logged into	
3	an account at a given time, as well as where those devices are located. The fact that	
4	OnlyFans routinely gathers this information is evident in the "security" emails it	
5	sends to users when an account is accessed from a new device or a new location,	
6	see Error! Reference source not found., below—and the fact that it even provides	3
7	account holders (both Fans and Creators) with information on specific "login	
8	sessions" occurring on their accounts, see Error! Reference source not found.,	
9	below.	
10		
11	OnlyFans	
12	Hi <b>ng and A</b>	
13	We noticed a login to your account @u from a new device. Was this you?	
14	New login	
15	Location* United States, Miami OS Windows 10	
16	Browser Chrome 126.0	
17	*Location is approximate based on the login's IP address. If this was you	
18	You can ignore this message. There's no need to take any action.	
19	If this wasn't you	
20	Complete these steps now to protect your account.	
21	<ul> <li><u>Change your password.</u></li> <li><u>Review the login sessions</u> that have access to your account and</li> </ul>	
22	Figure 6. Email sent from OnlyFans to a user after a new login attempt	
23	from an unusual location	
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1	(as described above), OnlyFans has specifically marketed directly to the agencies	
2	themselves.	
3	136. The archives of the OnlyFans Blog shows a post in February 2019	
4	entitled "Unlocking the earning potential for agencies and talent managers," which	
5	explained that "as brands and manufacturers look to access influencers that	
6	synergise with their audience demographic, agencies have become a key ally to	
7	help develop subliminal content marketing campaigns and connect brands with	
8	the right type of influencer."50	
<ul> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Whilst OnlyFans has become a major force in the influencer market, enabling content creators to connect with fans on a higher value basis by attracting subscribers from their loyal fanbase, our platform also provides a substantial opportunity for agencies, agents and influencer management companies. With content creators delivering exclusive content on OnlyFans, adding value to what they do on their mainstream platforms, typically 1%-5% of their audiences are gravitating to their OnlyFans account and paying for their content, at a subscription rate determined by the influencer.</li> <li>It also provides a differential to free-to-view platforms by encouraging a different kind of connection via direct messaging and requests for personalised content creators globally and it has paid out in excess of \$100m to them in subscriber income. Indeed many boost their income via our referral programme too, receiving 5% of incomes from new creators they introduce to OnlyFans. This is additional to the incomes they receive from brand deals and ambassadorships.</li> <li>With agencies playing a pivotal role through their connections with influencers and the handling of their commercial interests via brand campaign.</li> </ul>	
26	<sup>50</sup> Blog Post, ONLYFANS, Unlocking the Earning Potential for Agencies and	
27	Talent Managers, https://web.archive.org/web/20220811014012/	
	https://blog.OnlyFans.com/unlocking-the-earning-potential-for-agencies-and-talent-	
28	managers/ (last visited July 29, 2024) (emphasis added).	
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1	opportunity for agencies to gain by association with OnlyFans returns two primary benefits.
2 3	Next, it provides a significant final incentive for the agency to boost their own income by referring their network of influencers. <sup>51</sup>
4	137. Then, in a section entitled "HOW YOUR AGENCY BENEFITS,"
5	OnlyFans provided a graphic representation of an "example agency model" in
6	which the agency's annual income from the platform totaled nearly half a million
7	dollars, suggesting that that engaging with the platform "and making OnlyFans a
8	part of your agency proposition" could make a "significant impact on agency
9	incomes" and that "OnlyFans provides a lucrative opportunity for creators and
10	<i>agencies</i> ," so "[w]hy not give us a call or email us to discuss the potential of
11	OnlyFans to your agency business and influencer communities?"52
12	138. Not only did the post generally refer to income-generating
13 14	opportunities, though. It also specifically referred to the "additional income
14	opportunities" an agency might gain from "assist[ing] creators on their subscriber
13	
16	<i>content</i> and campaigns for brands"—and strongly suggested that such assistance by
16 17	<i>content</i> and campaigns for brands"—and strongly suggested that such assistance by agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content:
17	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained
17 18	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained comes down to ensuring the content experience is enhanced for paying fans, who are really at the heart of
17 18 19	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained <i>comes down to ensuring the content experience is</i> <i>enhanced for paying fans</i> , who are really at the heart of this. It's not simply a matter of expecting fans to pay for
17 18 19 20	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained comes down to ensuring the content experience is enhanced for paying fans, who are really at the heart of this. It's not simply a matter of expecting fans to pay for what they already get on Instagram, or other social platforms, for free. Getting this right depends of [sic] the
17 18 19 20 21	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained <i>comes down to ensuring the content experience is</i> <i>enhanced for paying fans</i> , who are really at the heart of this. It's not simply a matter of expecting fans to pay for what they already get on Instagram, or other social platforms, for free. <i>Getting this right depends of</i> [sic] <i>the</i> <i>expertise of agents to manage their creator communities</i> and, in doing so, it provides a longterm income stream for
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<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained <i>comes down to ensuring the content experience is</i> <i>enhanced for paying fans</i> , who are really at the heart of this. It's not simply a matter of expecting fans to pay for what they already get on Instagram, or other social platforms, for free. <i>Getting this right depends of</i> [sic] <i>the</i> <i>expertise of agents to manage their creator communities</i> and, in doing so, it provides a longterm income stream for creators and agency businesses. <sup>53</sup>
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ol>	agencies would in fact be critical to the ability of Creators to monetize content: Ensuring subscriber numbers grow and are retained <i>comes down to ensuring the content experience is</i> <i>enhanced for paying fans</i> , who are really at the heart of this. It's not simply a matter of expecting fans to pay for what they already get on Instagram, or other social platforms, for free. <i>Getting this right depends of</i> [sic] <i>the</i> <i>expertise of agents to manage their creator communities</i> and, in doing so, it provides a longterm income stream for creators and agency businesses. <sup>53</sup> 139. The post was still on the OnlyFans website as of August 2022.
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# Fans who discovered the Chatter Scams claim to have directly contacted **OnlyFans only to be ignored.** 140. In addition to the media exposés described above, online complaints

by Fans who have discovered the scams have not only outlined the deception in detail, but specifically described complaining directly to OnlyFans, only to be ignored—or even retaliated against. 141. One Fan wrote a post entitled "OnlyFans - Was not chatting to the Creator I was subscribed to," in which the Fan detailed the process by which they learned that they had been chatting not to a creator, but to a paid chatter: Why would anyone go on OnlyFans in the first place, when you can get content almost anywhere (free in most cases)? The opportunity to Direct Message the creator you are subscribed to (DM). I was subscribed to a model who has a well established career outside of OnlyFans, so I know some things about her already. If I asked any questions about her past work which I am curious about, she would not answer. Instead, there was always a push to unlock content. The creator sent a preview pic where there was a guitar in the photo behind her. She is known as a guitar player and enthusiastic guitar collector in real life. I asked: "What make of guitar do you have there in the picture?" The answer: "I will check when I get back home. It was a gift from my mom." I was stalled for over 20 minutes before the creator returned with an answer which was Ibanez. which is a guitar brand. The fact that a guitar enthusiast didn't know what make her guitar was ringing alarm bells. It wasn't the creator I had been chatting to. She has hired a 'catfish' to impersonate her. 22 This is a complete betrayal of trust, especially when you consider that I had said many things to this person in 23 confidence, thinking it was the creator. 24 This is literally fraud. It is a scam which is being 25 perpetrated by creators on OnlyFans across the board. **OnlyFans are ultimately responsible for this.** 26 Naturally, I complained to their tech support. They're 27 useless. They said that [OnlyFans] do allow creators to

hire a 3rd party to manage their account (but they didn't

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1		say anything about a 3rd party masquerading as the creator).
2	r ·	To say that I feel violated would be an
3 4		understatement. I hope that one day the authorities will catch up with [OnlyFans], and someone will go to jail for this fraud.
5 6		User's recommendation: Don't do it! Avoid at all costs. This is the biggest scam going in the world today.
7	I	Preferred solution: The scammers to be arrested. <sup>54</sup>
8	142.	The next day, the Fan updated the post to note: "I'll never trust an
9	online compa	my that charges money to view creator content ever again."55
10	143.	Another Fan wrote:
11		Consistent with other reviews, I have found multiple
12		circumstances where the content creator (model) is NOT the actual person communicating with you on [OnlyFans]
13	6	even though they tell the subscriber they are in fact communicating. Many models PAY agents, management
14		companies, and others to manage their feed on [OnlyFans] for them. <b>These "hired" people then</b>
15	6	"impersonate" the model and use the first person, "Yes its [sic] me", and "I", falsely and fraudulently, to
16	\$	give the subscriber the impression that they are communicating with the model, but in these cases,
17	г -	<b>THEY ARE NOT!</b> Asking for a spontaneous photo with
18	, y	a time stamp, or a request to "put your finger on the tip of your nose" and take a photo, are denied, for the simple
19		reason that the actual model IS NOT at the keyboard, and could not spontaneously do that for you. In these cases,
20		the subscriber is being deceived by an imposter.
21		[OnlyFans], for their part, when pushed to confirm or deny this, not only ADMITTED that "content creators can
22	1   t	use agents, management companies, and other 3rd parties to OPERATE their account for them, but DEFENDED
23		that its perfectly ok with them for IMPOSTERS to
24	54 Llaan Da	at Was not about in a to the executor Lense subscribed to Discopp
25		st, <i>Was not chatting to the creator I was subscribed to</i> , PISSED May 12, 2023), <u>https://onlyfans.pissedconsumer.com/32/RT-</u>
26	· ·	latest#reviews (last visited July 29, 2024).
27		st, <i>Hired staff impersonate models in chat FRAUD</i> , PISSED Aug 05, 2023), <u>https://onlyfans.pissedconsumer.com/23/RT-</u>
28		latest#reviews (last visited July 29, 2024).
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	operate a content creator's account and [lie] to the subscriber about who they are chatting with. So a subscriber might think they are having an intimate chat with a professional model, but in reality, they are chatting perhaps with a STAFFER not even of the same sex as the model! *** The conversation in chat with this STAFFER is designed to give a false sense of a true, real connection with the subscriber and is completely false, intended only to convince the subscriber to spend more money on behalf of the content creator. The staffers are seemingly trained to embellish that a subscriber has actually created a true friendship with the model, when in reality, this is closer to a CONFIDENCE / ROMANCE SCAM.	
9 10 11 12	In addition to the time stamp photo denials, simultaneous messaging on [OnlyFans] and [Instagram] for the exact same model, was easily busted as NOT THE SAME PERSON and that in one particular case NEITHER was the actual model, both the [OnlyFans] and [Instagram] streams were run by HIRED STAFFERS.	
13 14	The FBI refers to this as "impersonating another person online for the purpose of soliciting money in another person's name"	
15 16 17 18 19	<ul> <li>[OnlyFans] refers to this as "described in our policies and guidelines."<sup>56</sup></li> <li>144. A few weeks later, the Fan updated the review to include:</li> <li>OnlyFans spotted my review and rather than want to resolve a customer problem, they arrogantly sent me a message that instead, they TERMINATED my account! How's THAT for a customer experience?<sup>57</sup></li> </ul>	
20	G. OnlyFans Actively Facilitates Chatter Scams	
21	145. OnlyFans has meticulously created its reputation as a platform where	
22	Fans can communicate "directly" with Creators, and continues to work hard to	
23	sustain the illusion of "meaningful" and "authentic" engagement—despite knowing	
24	that its universal promise of "direct" connections is not realized by many (if not	
25	most) Fans. This is unsurprising, given that, as explained earlier, the amount of	
26		
27	56 <i>Id.</i>	
28	<sup>57</sup> Id.	
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1 OnlyFans' profits bears a direct relationship to the amount of profits that can be 2 generated by the platform's Creator accounts—which in turn relies on Fans' belief 3 that OnlyFans offers a possibility for two-way personal interaction that 4 distinguishes it from other social media sites where Fans can only "consume" 5 content, which flows only one way: from Creator to Fans.

6 146. OnlyFans knew, and should have known, that its Creators were using 7 chatters to engage with Fans—including based on the revenue being generated by 8 those Creators; the number of direct messages with Fans; the number of different 9 logins to a given Creator's account; and the Fan complaints (which OnlyFans 10 ignored). Despite this, OnlyFans continued to promote its site as providing its Fans 11 a direct connection with its Creators.

12

147. Upon information and belief, OnlyFans willfully ignored or 13 encouraged the use of chatters because its entire revenue source relies on volume 14 and chatters facilitate high volumes for popular Creators.

15 148. In addition to the deception inherent in the schemes, however, the 16 Chatter Scams depend on Fans' private communications and personal information 17 being shared—without their consent—with multiple third parties.

18 149. Nothing in OnlyFans' Terms of Service (or any other document 19 provided to Fans by OnlyFans) informs Fans of the possibility that their Private 20 Communications might be disclosed to Unauthorized Third Parties—much less do 21 those documents obtain Fans' consent for such disclosures.

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## OnlyFans' failure to enforce its own policies goes beyond mere negligence and supports an inference that OnlyFans is acting intentionally to facilitate the Chatter Scams.

150. OnlyFans' refuses, or at best fails, to meaningfully enforce its own 24 25 policies—despite its modification of the language of those policies over time 26 designed to make the policies *appear* stricter with respect to Creator responsibilities 27 and prohibitions on particular activities.

1	a. Agencies are violating explicit platform policies.
2	151. None of what agencies (including Agency Defendants) are doing to
$\frac{2}{3}$	perpetuate the Chatter Scams is actually "allowed" by OnlyFans' "Terms of
4	Service" ("TOS")—which OnlyFans defines as "the legally binding agreement
5	between you and us which consists of" nine different documents: (1) Terms of Use
6	for all Users ("TOU"); (2) Terms of Use for Fans ("Fan TOU"); (3) Terms of Use
7	for Creators; (4) Privacy Policy ("PP"); (5) Acceptable Use Policy ("AUP"); (6)
8	Referral Program Terms ("RPT"); (7) Complaints Policy; (8) Platform to Business
9	Regulation Terms; (9) Community Guidelines. <sup>58</sup>
10	152. OnlyFans' TOU requires Fans and Creators to make a series of
11	"commitments," including those that promise to protect personal and confidential
12	information:
13	You will keep your account/login details confidential
14	and secure, including your user details, passwords and any other piece of information that forms part of our
15	security procedures, and you will not disclose these to anyone else. You will contact <u>support@OnlyFans.com</u>
16	promptly if you believe someone has used or is using your account without your permission or if your account has
17	been subject to any other breach of security. You also
18	agree to ensure that you log out of your account at the end of each session, and to be particularly careful when
19	accessing your account from a public or shared computer so that others are not able to access, view or record your
20	password or other personal information. <sup>59</sup>
21	153. And the AUP contains the following list of prohibitions applicable to
22	Creator accounts:
23	Do not use OnlyFans to engage in " <b>misleading or</b> deceptive conduct, or conduct that is likely to mislead
24	or deceive any other User
25	
26	
20	<sup>58</sup> Terms, ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).
27	<sup>59</sup> Terms of Use for All Users ¶ 7(e), ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u>
20	(last visited July 29, 2024). -53-
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1	Do not do anything that violates our or someone else's
2	<b>rights,</b> including intellectual property rights (examples of which are copyright, trademarks, <b>confidential</b>
3	<b>information</b> , and goodwill), personality rights, unfair competition, <b>privacy</b> , and data protection rights <sup>60</sup>
4	154. But OnlyFans' ability to control the Creator accounts on its platform
5	and enforce its policies is not limited to suing for indemnification. OnlyFans also
6	gives itself the power to, among other things:
7	a. <u>Withhold Creator Earnings</u> (the amount OnlyFans transfers to Creator
8	Accounts after taking its 20% cut) <sup>61</sup> in the event that, in OnlyFans'
9	unilateral determination, an account has violated platform policies—or
10	even when OnlyFans "suspect[s]unlawful or fraudulent activity."
11	Creator TOU ¶ 13(a). <sup>62</sup> OnlyFans can even keep Creator Earnings that are
12	unrelated to any breaches of policy or fraud—in order to set off its own
13	losses—if, again, in OnlyFans' unilateral determination, the breaches
14	cause (or even "may cause") any loss to OnlyFans. Creator TOU $\P$
15	$13(e).^{63}$
16	b. Conduct investigations, and withhold Creator Earnings for as "for as
17	long as is necessary to investigate the actual, threatened or suspected
18	breach by you or the suspected unlawful activity." Creator TOU ¶ 13(b).64
19	c. Suspend Creator Accounts for violations—or suspected violations—of
20	the platform's policies, or for violations of "any applicable law."
21	
22	<sup>60</sup> Acceptable Use Policy ¶ 13, ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).
23	<sup>61</sup> Creator Terms of Use ¶ 5, ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u> (last visited
24	July 29, 2024) ("We charge a fee to you [the creator] of twenty per cent (20%) of
25	all Fan Payments made to you The remaining eighty per cent (80%) of the Fan Payment is payable to you (called " <b>Creator Earnings</b> " ).
26	$^{62}$ <i>Id.</i> ¶ 13(a).
27	$^{63}$ <i>Id.</i> ¶ 13(e).
28	<sup>64</sup> <i>Id.</i> $\P$ 13(b).
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OnlyFans may suspend the account for an indefinite amount of time, regardless of the impact on the Creator, and then "take any action we consider appropriate." TOU  $\P$  8.<sup>65</sup>

d. <u>Terminate Creator Accounts</u> "for any reason" with 30 days' notice, or "immediately and without prior notice" in the event OnlyFans "think[s]" a Creator has "or may have" breached the TOS; or threatens to do so "in a way which has or could have serious consequences for us or another User"; or takes "any action that in our opinion has caused or is reasonably likely to cause us to suffer a loss or that otherwise harms the reputation of OnlyFans." TOU ¶ 8.<sup>66</sup>

11 155. On information and belief, OnlyFans has never exercised any of its
12 powers to prevent the use of chatters by any Creator—much less a high-earning
13 Creator—or rectify the violations of its terms, including those protecting the Fans'
14 rights to privacy and confidentiality of personal information, and those against
15 impersonation and other deceptive acts. To the contrary, it generally refuses to do
16 so and at times takes action against the complaining Fan.

17 156. Nor has OnlyFans (or any of the Agency Defendants) taken any
18 actions that might put Fans on notice that OnlyFans' promise of connecting
19 personally and "directly" with Creators is false or misleading and done in a way
20 that exposes their personal, confidential information and communications.

157. For example, OnlyFans could require that Creator Accounts explicitly
disclose the use of third-party chatters, as well as the fact that a Fans' messages and
personal information are shared with third parties—something that is not currently
(and, on information and belief, never has been) required by the Creator TOU—and
possibly stored in various servers around the world.

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<sup>66</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Terms of Use for All Users ¶ 8(a)-(d), ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).

158. OnlyFans could itself provide a general disclaimer in the OnlyFans 1 2 signup process that puts Fans on notice that they may not be communicating directly with the Creator whose name is on the OnlyFans account. Not only is this 3 4 something that OnlyFans could easily do at the precise point in the signup process 5 where it currently puts its misleading "Subscription Benefits" language, but there is 6 precedent for such disclaimers on other sites that purport to offer "chatting" with 7 real people—something increasingly common with the growing number of interactive "profiles" that purport to offer "chatting" with real people, but which 8 9 actually use generative artificial intelligence to post content and respond to user 10 messages.

11 159. For example, Facebook created several celebrity-inspired profiles in
12 which users could interact with a celebrity in the form of a specific character. While
13 the profiles contained an invitation from the celebrity to "message me," the chat
14 windows in which users conducted the actual messaging contained a disclaimer
15 noting: "Messages are generated by Al. Some may be inaccurate or inappropriate."
16 See Figure 8, below.

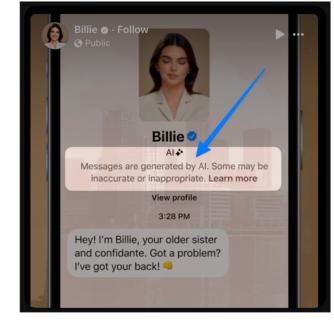


Figure 8. Screenshot of Facebook video demonstrating use of AI profiles

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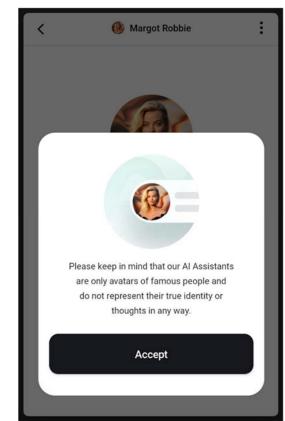
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1 160. Likewise, a company selling "AI Assistants" meant to impersonate
 2 certain celebrities markets its platform saying "chat with the celebrities. Get up
 3 close and personal," but also provides the disclaimer below in Figure 9 during its
 4 sign-up process:



### Figure 9. Screenshot of AI assistant disclaimer Together with the other facts alleged in this Complaint, the fact that, 161. despite having the contractual tools to do so, OnlyFans refuses to put an end to the Chatter Scams-or even to require disclosures and/or consent for the use of chatters-support an inference that OnlyFans has chosen to actively and intentionally facilitate the use of chatters. -57-CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

	H. Agency-Specific Facts
	Creators Inc.
;	162. The website for Creators Inc. describes the agency as "the largest and
1	most dynamic social media management agency in the world," with a "vast networ
5	of 400+ Creators." <sup>67</sup>
5	163. The website also describes its "Los Angeles Headquarters" as a "Co-
,	working collaboration hub in Hollywood."
3	164. On information and belief, the agency is primarily managed by
)	Andrew Bachman, who serves as the CEO of the agency and is listed as a co-
0	manager of Defendant Elite Creators.
1	165. On information and belief, Creators Inc. manages or at one point
2	managed the accounts of the following Creators, who are followed by either
3	Plaintiff N.Z., Plaintiff B.L., Plaintiff S.M., and/or Plaintiff A.L.:
4	a. Stephanie Landor (aka @littlelandor • @stephlandor • @littlelandorvip)
5	b. Romey Marie (aka @romey_mae)
6	c. Jostasy Nick (aka Baby J • @jostasy)
7	d. Nala the Ninja (aka @nalafitness • @fitness_nala)
8	e. Elseana Panzer (aka @elseana)
9	f. McKinley Richardson (aka @mckinleyrichardson • @mckinleyexclusive
)	g. Summer Soderstrom (@summersoderstrom)
1	166. Creators Inc. uses taglines for its Creators' accounts that emphasize the
2	personal nature of the interactions that Fans will have on the OnlyFans platform.
3	For example:
4	a. Baby J (@Jostasy)'s OnlyFans account says: "🍓 I personally reply to
5	every message, so messages with tips attached get priority! Please be
5	patient if there isn't one!"
7 8	<sup>67</sup> "Creators Inc." Agency Website, at <u>https://creatorsinc.com/</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).
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1	b. Romey (@romey_mae)'s OnlyFans account says:
2	Your Sub[scription] Includes:
3	<ul> <li>Instant access to all photos and videos on my timeline (700+)</li> <li>Regular posts</li> </ul>
4	Wy most EXPLICIT content
5	Access to DMs with me
6	Access to Exclusive Content 167 Creators Inc. has filed multiple lawsuits including in California state
7	167. Creators Inc. has filed multiple lawsuits—including in California state
8	courts—seeking to recover "management fees" allegedly owed to the agency by
9	former Represented Creators. These include:
10	a. <i>Creators Inc and Elite Creators LLC v. Megan McCarthy</i> , No. 2024- 003685-CA-01 (Fl. Cir. Ct. of 11th Judicial Cir., Miami-Dade County,
11	filed Feb. 29. 2024).
12	b. Lexington Capital Management, LLC; Creators Inc., and Elite Creators,
13	LLC. v. Elena Kamperi, No. 23SMCV01175 (Cal. Super. Ct., L.A. Cty.,
14	filed Mar. 16, 2023).
15	c. Creators Inc. and Elite Creators, LLC. v. Ava Hinojosa, No.
16	24CHCV01901 (Cal. Super. Ct., L.A. Cty., filed May 17, 2024).
17	168. The agency's filings in these lawsuits demonstrate:
18	d. Creators Inc. takes between 20% and 30% commission on its Creators'
19 20	earnings and has Represented Creators earning hundreds of thousands of
20	dollars per month.
21	e. Creators Inc.'s "management services" include "staffing [creators']
22	account[s] with someone to respond to direct messages on the OnlyFans
23 24	platform 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
24	f. Creators Inc.'s agreement requires its Represented Creators to provide the
23 26	agency with access to their OnlyFans accounts, and specifically "not to
20	change [their] account passwords." Indeed, the basis for the agency's
28	breach of contract claim against one Creator was that "[b]y changing her
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1	passwords and blocking Creators Inc. from the account, [the Creator was]
2	unlawfully attempting to avoid paying Creators Inc. the management fee
3	owed" to the agency.
4	g. As part of its agreement with Represented Creators, Creators Inc. agrees
5	to "have trained staff members helping [Creators] to manage [their] work
6	load in the DMs."
7	169. On information and belief, nowhere does Creators Inc. disclose to Fans
8	that it employs chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.
9	Moxy Management
10	170. Defendant Moxy Management ("Moxy") is a California corporation
11	formed in 2021 and headquartered in Los Angeles, California, with its principal
12	place of business located at 19016 Devonport Lane, Tarzana, CA 91356.
13	171. Moxy describes itself as a "management and consulting company"
14	based in Los Angeles.
15	172. Moxy was founded by two "influencers," Ryan Nassif and Slater
16	Davis. Nassif's LinkedIn profile lists his role in strategic planning and business
17	development, while Davis's LinkedIn profile emphasizes his experience in digital
18	marketing and brand management. Both founders emphasize their ability to
19	leverage industry knowledge and networks to build Moxy's reputation as a
20	management agency.
21	173. Moxy's marketing emphasizes its ability to help Creators "increase
22	engagement with their fans and followers exponentially."
23	174. Moxy uses taglines for its Creators' accounts that emphasize the
24	personal nature of the interactions that Fans will have on the OnlyFans platform.
25	For example, Sierra Skye's profile tagline reads: "Keep this between us and let's
26	have fun! Hehe 😈 💮 ."
27	175. On information and belief, Moxy charges its Represented Creators a
28	commission of 20-30% of their earnings.
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1	176. On information and belief, Moxy manages over 100 OnlyFans
2	accounts on behalf of individual Creators, with the majority of those Creators
3	making \$40,000-\$80,000 per month, and over 10 making approximately \$500,000
4	per month.
5	177. On information and belief, Moxy manages or at one point managed the
6	accounts of the following Creators, who are followed by either Plaintiff N.Z.,
7	Plaintiff R.M., Plaintiff B.L., Plaintiff S.M., and/or Plaintiff A.L.:
8	a. Breckie Hill (aka @breckie)
9	b. Briana Armbruster (aka @officialskimaskgirl • @skimaskgirluncensored)
10	c. Carolina Samani (aka @carolinasamani)
11	d. Chyanne Burden (aka @chyburd)
12	e. Claire Stone (aka @cclaire.bbearxo)
13	f. Cristy Senskey (aka @cristyann)
14	g. Julia Piccolino (aka @julia.pic)
15	h. Kaitlyn Krems (aka @kaitkrems )
16	i. Sierra Skye (aka @sierraskye)
17	178. As part of its management of those accounts, Moxy provides Chatter
18	Services, employing chatters to impersonate the Creator and communicate with
19	Fans without the Fans' knowledge.
20	179. Moxy's Services Agreement with models explicitly provides services
21	including "Facilitation of all content that is posted on Paid Content Platforms
22	including [OnlyFans], and that: "On a daily basis, [Moxy] will respond to messages
23	on Paid Content Platforms on behalf of [the Creator], and use its reasonable, good
24	faith efforts to upsell the products and content Talent offers on Paid Content
25	Platforms."
26	180. The Agreement also grants Moxy full access to and control over each
27	Represented Creator's OnlyFans account, stipulating: "Talent has a duty to
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irrevocably grant to Company unfettered administrative access to [OnlyFans], for as
 long as Gross Earnings are generated."

181. Although Moxy generally takes advantage of the ability of Creator
accounts on OnlyFans to mask the number of subscribers they have, on information
and belief, Moxy's Represented Creators have subscriber bases so large that
interacting on a direct personal basis with even a fraction of those Fans would be
physically impossible for a single individual.

8 182. On information and belief, nowhere does Moxy disclose to Fans that it
9 employs chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.

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### **Siren Agency**

11 183. Defendant Boss Baddies d/b/a Siren Agency ("Siren") has multiple
12 websites, where it has described itself as "a Los Angeles based full service, non13 exclusive talent agency" that is "here to handle the busy work and help [Creators]
14 stay focused on expressing [themselves] creatively and growing [their] personal
15 brand[s]."<sup>68</sup>

16 184. Indeed, one of Siren's websites promises "Growth Without
17 Restrictions," and claims that Creators represented by the agency have over
18 "450M+ followers."<sup>69</sup>

19 185. Siren operates primarily out of Los Angeles, California, where it
20 maintains a lavish headquarters in a hillside residence with a swimming pool,
21 dubbed "The Siren House" and featured in the agency's promotional videos on
22 TikTok.

186. Siren's newer website uses the phrase "dedicated to empowering
women in the industry" three separate times, despite being run someone who has
been called "misogynist of the year" by one commentator, and lambasted in

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<sup>68</sup> Home Page, SIREN (Website #1), <u>https://www.sirenagency.com/</u> (last visited
 July 29, 2024).

<sup>69</sup> Id.

1	multiple YouTube videos for his demeaning dating advice and Siren's manipulative
2	and exploitative practices in managing Creator accounts. <sup>70</sup>
3	187. On information and belief, Siren charges its Represented Creators a fee
4	of approximately 30% of their earnings.
5	188. On information and belief, Siren uses marketing—including taglines
6	for its Creators' accounts-that emphasize the personal nature of the interactions
7	that Fans will have on the OnlyFans platform.
8	189. On information and belief, Siren manages or at one point managed the
9	account of the following Creator, who is followed by Plaintiff A.L.:
10	j. Bri Jordan (@thebrijordan)
11	190. As part of their management of those and other accounts, Siren
12	provides Chatter Services, employing chatters to impersonate the Creator and
13	communicate with Fans without the Fans' knowledge.
14	191. A previous version of Siren's website contained text explicitly
15	advertising "Content Management" services, which included "Full service
16	<i>messaging</i> and fan site support." <sup>71</sup>
17	192. In addition, the LinkedIn profile for the company showed employees
18	with job titles including "Virtual Assistant" and "Chatter."72
19	
20	<sup>70</sup> See, e.g., Down The Siren Agency Rabbit Hole, VERY REALLY GOOD
21	YOUTUBE CHANNEL (Dec. 24, 2022),
22	https://web.archive.org/web/20240704070739/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i WzaA9lAA2Y (last visited July 29, 2024); Alex Lasker, Problematic dating coach
23	branded As 'misogynist of the year in brutal video, IN THE KNOW BY YAHOO!
24	(August 10, 2020), <u>https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/problematic-tiktok-dating-</u> <u>coach-branded-192743046.html</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).
25	$^{71}$ Home Page, SIREN (Website #2),
26	https://web.archive.org/web/20230702030432/https://www.srn-agency.com/ (last
27	visited July 27, 2024).
28	<sup>72</sup> Siren Agency, LINKEDIN, <u>https://linkedin.com/company/siren-agency</u> (last visited Jul. 29, 2024).
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193. Although the Siren generally takes advantage of the ability of Creator
 accounts on OnlyFans to mask the number of subscribers its Creators have, on
 information and belief, Siren's Represented Creators have subscriber bases so large
 that interacting on a direct personal basis with even a fraction of those Fans would
 be physically impossible for a single individual.

6 194. On information and belief, nowhere does Siren disclose to Fans that
7 they employ chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.

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### **Unruly Defendants**

9 195. Defendant Unruly Agency, LLC ("Unruly") is a California Limited
10 Liability Company formed in 2020 in the State of California and headquartered in
11 West Hollywood, California.

12 196. Unruly is the owner of the trademarks for Defendant Dysrpt Agency
13 ("Dysrpt"), which, on information and belief, is a subsidiary of Unruly.

14 197. On information and belief, Defendant Behave Agency ("Behave") is15 also a subsidiary of Unruly.

16 198. Together, Unruly, Behave, and Dysrpt are referred to as "Unruly17 Defendants."

18 199. Unruly describes itself as a "management and consulting company"
19 specializing in social media and influencer marketing. Its primary focus is on
20 helping Creators maximize their earnings and engagement on platforms such as
21 OnlyFans.

22 200. Unruly (and, on information and belief, its subsidiary agencies) were
23 co-founded by Tara Niknejad and Nicky Gathrite.

24 201. On information and belief, the Unruly Defendants charge their
25 Represented Creators a fee of approximately 30% of their earnings.

26 202. On information and belief, the Unruly Defendants emphasize—both in
27 their general marketing and in taglines for their Creators' accounts—the personal

1	nature of the interactions that Fans will have on the OnlyFans platform. For
2	example:
3	k. The LinkedIn page for the agency claims: "Behave strives to provide
4	models all the tools necessary to leave their digital footprint, promote
5	their brand to a wider audience, and build genuine connections with their
6	<i>fans</i> ." <sup>73</sup>
7	203. On information and belief, Unruly manages or at some point managed
8	the accounts of the following Creators, who are followed by either Plaintiff A.L.,
9	Plaintiff N.Z., Plaintiff R.M., and/or Plaintiff B.L.:
10	a. Anna Louise (aka @officialannalouise)
11	b. Kayla Lauren (aka @kaylalauren)
12	c. Mia Huffman (aka @prettybitchmia • @prettybitchmiavip)
13	d. Leah Ray (aka @leahray_x • @leahray_xx)
14	e. Nicky Gile (@nickygile • @nickygileprivate)
15	f. Sara Underwood (aka @saraunderwood)
16	g. Stefanie Gurzanski (aka @stefbabyg)
17	h. Tina Louise (aka @tinalouise)
18	i. Tara Electra (aka @billiondollarbabie)
19	j. Kinsey (@kinsey)
20	k. Emily Elizabeth (aka @emmilyelizabethh)
21	204. On information and belief, Dysrpt manages or at some point managed
22	the account of the following Creator, who is followed by Plaintiff R.M.:
23	a. Emily Elizabeth (aka @emmilyelizabethh)
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25	
26	
27	<sup>73</sup> Behave Agency, at <u>https://linkedin.com/company/behaveagency/</u> (last visited
28	Jul. 25, 2024 (emphasis added).
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1	205. On information and belief, Behave manages or at some point managed
2	the accounts of the following Creators, who are followed by either Plaintiff B.L.
3	and/or Plaintiff A.L:
4	a. Chloe Rosenbaum (aka @chloerosenbaum)
5	b. Kayla Simmons (aka @kaylasimmons)
6	c. Ryann Murphy (aka @itsryannmurphy)
7	206. As part of their management of those and other accounts, the Unruly
8	Defendants provide Chatter Services, employing chatters to impersonate the
9	Creator and communicate with Fans without the Fans' knowledge.
10	207. Unruly's provision of those services has been described in multiple
11	lawsuits filed against the agency.
12	208. These include a suit by individuals employed as "account managers,"
13	such as Machabeli v. Unruly Agency, LLC, et al., No. 21STCV41395 (Cal. Super.
14	Ct., L.A. Cty, filed Dec. 9, 2021), in which the plaintiffs alleged that:
15	a. "[A]s their primary job duties, they were required to create, post and chat
16	on behalf of $-i.e.$ , surreptitiously pretend to be $-$ Defendants' models to
17	provide the "full fantasy girlfriend experience" to paying visitors (or
18	"Fans") to www.OnlyFans.com."
19	b. "Niknejad and Gathrite specifically informed" the plaintiffs "that, to
20	provide this "full fantasy girlfriend experience," Fans would falsely
21	believe that they were paying for direct interactions with Defendants'
22	models."
23	c. Unruly directed the plaintiffs "to intentionally lie to, dupe, and mislead
24	Fans into misbelieving that the Fans are paying to have direct, personal
25	communications and interactions with Defendants' Models."
26	d. "Unwitting Fans divulged some of their deepest personal secrets including
27	sexual fantasies, marital troubles, suicidal ideations and other private
28	desires. For instance, one Fan lamented the demise of his marriage (and
	-66-

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1	provided intimate details regarding the same) to [the plaintiff] believing
2	she was model Abby Rao, and continued to send her money on the basis
3	of this deception."
4	209. Unruly has also been sued by its Represented Creators, at least one of
5	whom claimed to be unaware of the fact that Unruly's chatters were impersonating
6	her. In <i>Stage v. Unruly Agency LLC et al.</i> , No. 22STCV06689 and <i>Quezada v.</i>
7	Unruly Agency LLC et al. (both filed in Cal. Super. Ct., L.A. Cty. on Feb. 23,
8	2022), two of Unruly's Represented Creators alleged that:
9	a. "Unruly messaged subscribers of OnlyFans while pretending to be [the
10	Creators] and solicited pictures of subscribers' penises in exchange for
1	payment, without [the Creators'] consent or knowledge."
12	b. "Unruly, posing on behalf of [the Creators'], solicited a picture of a
13	subscriber's penis and offered to 'rate' his penis in exchange for money."
14	c. When the Creators protested Unruly's unauthorized behavior, the
15	agency's founders "claimed that [the Creators'] OnlyFans account[s]

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have, on information and belief their Represented Creators have subscriber bases so large that interacting on a direct personal basis with even a fraction of those Fans would be physically impossible for a single individual.

24 211. On information and belief, nowhere do the Unruly Defendants disclose
25 to Fans that they employ chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.

[their] behalf to unknowing subscribers of OnlyFans."

belonged to them, and threatened to sue [the Creators] if [they] did not

210. Although the Unruly Defendants generally take advantage of the

ability of Creator accounts on OnlyFans to mask the number of subscribers they

continue allowing them to post and message sexually explicit content on

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### Content X

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2 212. Defendant Content X Studios ("Content X") is a California corporation
3 registered in September 2020, with its Principal Address at 21800 W Oxnard St
4 #940, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

5 213. Headquartered in Los Angeles, CA and founded by well-known
6 American actress and entertainer Bella Thorne and her manager, Thor Bradwell,
7 Content X has described itself as a "full service production company."

8 214. Thorne, herself an OnlyFans Creator, has been reported to have earned
9 one million dollars in a single day on the platform—which apparently "crashed the
10 moment Thorne announced her \$102 for six month subscription."<sup>74</sup>

215. On information and belief, Content X uses marketing—including
taglines for its Creators' accounts—that emphasize the personal nature of the
interactions that Fans will have on the OnlyFans platform.

14 216. On information and belief, Content X manages or at some point
15 managed the accounts of the following Creators, who are subscribed to by either
16 Plaintiff S.M. and/or Plaintiff B.L.

- a. Bella Thorne (aka @bellathorne)
- b. Abella Danger (aka @dangershewrote @abelladangervip)
- c. Mathilde Tantot (aka @mathildtanot)
- d. Pauline Tantot (aka @popstantot @popstantotvip)

21 217. On information and belief, as part of its management of those and
22 other Creator accounts, Content X provides Chatter Services, employing chatters to
23 impersonate the Creator and communicate with Fans without the Fans' knowledge.
24 218. This is supported by statements made by former Represented Creators

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- <sup>74</sup> Lara Swift, *Why So Many Mainstream Celebrities Are Turning To OnlyFans*, NICKI SWIFT (March 9, 2023), <u>https://www.nickiswift.com/1223642/why-so-many-</u> <u>mainstream-celebrities-are-turning-to-onlyfans/</u> (last visited July 29, 2024).

of the agency, who, in a Rolling Stone article, discussed the sub-par nature of the

chatter services provided by Content X ("The way they would answer messages 1 2 was super lazy [and] super robotic..."), as well as the pressure they received to provide "account managers" with sexually explicit photographs despite initial 3 4 promises that they would not have to provide nude photos for their OnlyFans page 5 (one Creator "[said] Content X staffers who managed her OnlyFans page wanted 6 her to send them more risqué and lingerie content . . . [and] claims she was told by 7 staffers as an incentive how much more money she could earn off risqué photos.").<sup>75</sup> 8

9 219. Although Content X generally takes advantage of the ability of Creator
10 accounts on OnlyFans to mask the number of subscribers they have, on information
11 and belief Content X's Represented Creators have subscriber bases so large that
12 interacting on a direct personal basis with even a fraction of those Fans would be
13 physically impossible for a single individual.

14 220. On information and belief, to provide those and other services, Content
15 X has full access to and control over each Represented Creator's OnlyFans account.

16 221. On information and belief, nowhere does Content X disclose to Fans
17 that it employs chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.

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#### A.S.H. Agency

19 222. Defendant A.S.H. (which stands for "All-Star Hustle") Agency
20 ("A.S.H.") manages OnlyFans accounts on behalf of individual Creators, including
21 what one journalist described as "some of the biggest fish in the industry,"
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 <sup>75</sup> Cheyenne Roundtree, '*It's a Hot Mess': Why Influencers Are Ditching Bella Thorne's OnlyFans Company*, ROLLING STONE (May 5, 2022), https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/bella-thorne-onlyfans-

28 content-x-1347011/ (last visited July 29, 2024).

1	including "superstars like Angela White, Sky Bri, Kazumi, Violet Myers, Dainty		
2	Wilder, and more." <sup>76</sup>		
3	223. A.S.H. is owned by adult entertainment star Riley Reid—who is		
4	herself in the top 0.01% of earners on the platform—and, on information and belief,		
5	uses marketing—including taglines for its Creators' accounts—that emphasize the		
6	personal nature of the interactions that Fans will have on the OnlyFans platform.		
7	224. On information and belief, A.S.H. manages or at some point managed		
8	the accounts of the following Creators, who are followed by either Plaintiff S.M.,		
9	and/or Plaintiff N.Z.:		
10	e. Sky Bri (aka @skybri)		
11	f. Jane Wilde (aka @janewilde)		
12	g. Kaitlin Trujillo (aka @trukait • @freetrukait)		
13	225. As part of its management of those and other accounts, A.S.H.		
14	provides Chatter Services, employing chatters to impersonate the Creator and		
15	communicate with Fans without the Fans' knowledge.		
16	226. On information and belief, to provide those and other services, A.S.H.		
17	has full access to and control over each Represented Creator's OnlyFans account.		
18	227. Although A.S.H. generally takes advantage of the ability of Creator		
19	accounts on OnlyFans to mask the number of subscribers they have, on information		
20	and belief A.S.H.'s Represented Creators have subscriber bases so large that		
21	interacting on a direct personal basis with even a fraction of those Fans would be		
22	physically impossible for a single individual.		
23	228. On information and belief, nowhere does A.S.H. disclose to Fans that		
24	it employs chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.		
25			
26	<sup>76</sup> Ryan Leutz, Riley Reid and Ash Agency: From Adult Film Superstar to		
27	<i>Entrepreneur Extraordinaire</i> , THE VILLAGE VOICE (June 27, 2023), <u>https://www.villagevoice.com/riley-reid-and-ash-agency-from-adult-film-superstar-</u>		
28	to-entrepreneur-extraordinaire/ (last visited July 29 2024).		
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT		

## Verge Agency

2 229. Defendant Verge Agency, Inc. (aka The Verge Agency, Inc.)
3 ("Verge") was originally formed in Delaware on March 24, 2021. On March 3,
4 2023, Verge Agency, Inc. was registered in California as an out-of-state
5 corporation. Verge's principal place of business is 10960 Wilshire Boulevard, 5th
6 Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90024. On information and belief, Verge is doing business
7 as Verge Agency.

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230. Founded by former UC Berkeley cheerleader Jessica Bartlett, Verge describes itself as a "premier talent agency located in the heart of Los Angeles."

231. On information and belief, Verge uses taglines and captions for its
Creators' accounts that emphasize the personal nature of the interactions that Fans
will have on the OnlyFans platform. For example:

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232. The first post on the "VIP" page for creator Mikayla Demaiter says:

233. Welcome to my Only Fans! So excited to be here and have you! Here
I'll be posting my most exclusive content, as well the only place I will be
responding to all my messages! Tip \$100 to join VIP for unlimited FREE chat and
MOST exclusive content! See you there! Excited for what's to come.

18 234. Another Represented Creator's account solicits paid subscriptions by
19 saying: "Let me be your virtual girlfriend Ø."

20 235. Another Represented Creator's "VIP" page says "Hi there ♡You
21 found my EXCLUSIVE page! ② come talk to me ♥."

22 236. On information and belief, Verge manages or at some point managed
23 the accounts of the following Creators, who are followed by Plaintiff A.L.:

- a. Katie Williams (aka @katie\_dubbs)
  - b. Mikayla Demaiter (aka @mikayla\_demaiter @mikayladvip)

26 237. As part of its management of those and other accounts, Verge provides
27 chatter services, employing chatters to impersonate the Creator and communicate
28 with Fans without the Fans' knowledge.

1	238. Of the 35 LinkedIn members associated with Verge's profile, 23 are		
2	located in the Philippines, and many of those list their positions at Verge using job		
3	titles that often refer to chatter positions, including: "Account Manager," "Virtual		
4	Assistant," "Social Media Account Manager," and "Chat Support."		
5	239. Although Verge generally takes advantage of the ability of creator		
6	accounts on OnlyFans to mask the number of subscribers they have, on information		
7	and belief Verge's Represented Creators have subscriber bases so large that		
8	interacting on a direct personal basis with even a fraction of those Fans would be		
9	physically impossible for a single individual.		
10	240. On information and belief, nowhere does Verge disclose to Fans that it		
11	employs chatters to impersonate its Represented Creators.		
12	I. Plaintiffs' Stories		
13	Plaintiff N.Z.		
14	241. Plaintiff N.Z. has been an OnlyFans user from approximately 2020 to		
15	present. During 2020–2023, Plaintiff N.Z. subscribed to the following Creator		
16	accounts (collectively, for this section, "Subscribed Creator accounts"), which have		
17	been linked to—and, on information and belief, were used by—the Agency		
18	Defendants to perpetrate the Chatter Scams:		
19	a. Breckie Hill (Moxy Management)		
20	b. Sara Underwood, Nicky Gile, and Stefanie Gurzanski (Unruly)		
21	c. Sky Bri and Kaitlin Trujillo (A.S.H. Agency)		
22	d. McKinley Richardson (Creators Inc.)		
23	242. Plaintiff N.Z. relied on OnlyFans' successful efforts to market itself as		
24	a "revolutionary" platform that allowed content Creators to have direct interactions		
25	with their Fans, as well as OnlyFans' representations that subscribing to a Creator's		
26	account gave him "benefits" that specifically included the ability to "[d]irect		
27	message with this user."		
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243. As a result, when he subscribed to each Creator's account, Plaintiff
 N.Z. expected and believed that any information or communication—but
 particularly any personal or sensitive information, including thoughts, feelings,
 and/or images of a private, emotional, and/or sexual nature—that he exchanged
 with the Creator via her account on OnlyFans would be kept entirely private,
 confidential, and strictly between himself and the Creator.

7 244. Because of these expectations and beliefs, Plaintiff N.Z. felt
8 comfortable sharing information through OnlyFans, and at all times relevant to this
9 Complaint, he believed that when he was communicating with a Creator's account,
10 he was communicating directly and privately with that Creator.

245. Plaintiff N.Z. communicated via direct message with each of the
accounts listed above. Those communications included direct messages that
contained personal and sensitive information, including personal photos and videos
of himself, and information about his personal interests, sexual interests,
professional occupation, and location.

16 246. Plaintiff N.Z. did not consent to having any of his personal information
17 or communications shared with anyone other than the Creator, and was unaware of
18 the fact that his messages and their content were being disclosed to one or more
19 agents or contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional chatters.

20 247. Although he was aware that "management agencies" existed, he
21 believed they only assisted Creators with marketing and social media management,
22 and Plaintiff N.Z. was not aware that the Creators listed above were utilizing
23 management agencies until he contacted undersigned counsel, which occurred on
24 approximately December 5, 2023.

25 248. He was not aware that Defendants were engaged in a scheme to
26 deceive Fans into believing that Creators were communicating "directly" with their
27 Fans when they were actually interacting with professional chatters pretending to be

the Creators—some of whom, on information and belief, shared almost no relevant
 characteristics in common with the Creators they were impersonating.

249. When he found out about the Chatter Scams, Plaintiff N.Z. felt
betrayed and violated. He had divulged sensitive and/or personal information not to
the individuals he thought he was communicating with—but to imposters paid to
impersonate those individuals.

7 250. If he had known about the Chatter Scams, or that any of his
8 expectations or beliefs about the nature of the communication on OnlyFans were
9 not true with respect to a particular Creator, he would not have subscribed to or
10 interacted directly with the Creator's account at all—much less would he have paid
11 any Premium Content Fees to do so.

12 251. Plaintiff N.Z. estimates that during the time he was using his OnlyFans
13 account, he spent approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000 on Premium Content Fees—
14 20% of which went to OnlyFans.

15 252. Plaintiff N.Z. did not receive what he paid for. He would not have paid
16 as much for Premium Content Fees if he had known that he was communicating not
17 with the Creators themselves, but with chatters paid to impersonate the Creators.

18 253. Plaintiff N.Z. did not stop using his OnlyFans account after learning of
19 the Chatter Scams through the present litigation. However, he altered his habits and
20 no longer interacts with the Creators or shares any personal or private information
21 since he no longer trusts that the Creator is not being impersonated by an unknown
22 third party.

23

#### Plaintiff R.M.

24 254. Plaintiff R.M. was an OnlyFans user from approximately 2019 to
25 2023. During that time, Plaintiff R.M. subscribed to the following Creator accounts
26 (collectively, for this section, "Subscribed Creator accounts"), which have been
27 linked to—and, on information and belief, were used by—the Agency Defendants
28 to perpetrate the Chatter Scams:

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- a. Chyanne Burden and Claire Stone (Moxy Management)
- b. Emily Elizabeth (Dysrpt Agency)

255. Plaintiff R.M. relied on OnlyFans' successful efforts to market itself as a "revolutionary" platform that allowed content Creators to have direct interactions with their Fans, as well as OnlyFans' representations that subscribing to a Creator's account gave him "benefits" that specifically included the ability to "[d]irect message with this user."

8 256. As a result, when he subscribed to each Creator's account, Plaintiff
9 R.M. expected and believed that any information or communication—but
10 particularly any personal or sensitive information, including thoughts, feelings,
11 and/or images of a private, emotional, and/or sexual nature—that he exchanged
12 with the Creator via her account on OnlyFans would be kept entirely private,
13 confidential, and strictly between himself and the Creator.

14 257. Because of these expectations and beliefs, Plaintiff R.M. felt
15 comfortable sharing information through OnlyFans, and at all times relevant to this
16 Complaint, he believed that when he was communicating with a Creator's account,
17 he was communicating directly and privately with that Creator.

18 258. Plaintiff R.M. communicated via direct message with each of the
19 accounts listed above. Those communications included direct messages that
20 contained personal and sensitive information, including information about his full
21 legal name, social media accounts, personal interests, sexual interests, and location.

22 259. In addition, Plaintiff R.M. viewed videos sent to him via direct
23 message through Creators' accounts—some of which he had specifically
24 requested—without knowing those videos had been sent by one or more agents or
25 contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional chatters.

26 260. Plaintiff R.M. did not consent to having any of his personal
27 information or communications shared with anyone other than the Creator, and was
28 unaware of the fact that his messages and their content were being disclosed to one

or more agents or contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional
 chatters.

3 261. Plaintiff R.M. confronted Emily Elizabeth via direct message and she
4 said it was her replying to messages.

262. Although he was aware that "management agencies" existed, he
believed they only assisted Creators with marketing and social media management,
and Plaintiff R.M. was not aware that the Creators listed above were utilizing
management agencies until he contacted undersigned counsel, which occurred on
approximately January 26, 2024.

263. He was not aware that Defendants were engaged in a scheme to
deceive Fans into believing that Creators were communicating "directly" with their
Fans when they were actually interacting with professional chatters pretending to be
the Creators—some of whom, on information and belief, shared almost no relevant
characteristics in common with the Creators they were impersonating.

15 264. When he found out about the Chatter Scams, Plaintiff R.M. felt
16 betrayed and violated. He had divulged sensitive and/or personal information not to
17 the individuals he thought he was communicating with—but to imposters paid to
18 impersonate those individuals.

19 265. If he had known about the Chatter Scams, or that any of his
20 expectations or beliefs about the nature of the communication on OnlyFans were
21 not true with respect to a particular Creator, he would not have subscribed to or
22 interacted directly with the Creator's account at all—much less would he have paid
23 any Premium Content Fees to do so.

24 266. If he had known about the Chatter Scams from the beginning, he likely
25 would not have signed up for an OnlyFans account in the first place.

26 267. Plaintiff R.M. estimates that during the time he was using his
27 OnlyFans account, he spent approximately \$200 to \$300 on Premium Content
28 Fees—20% of which went to OnlyFans.

1	268. Plaintiff R.M. did not receive what he paid for. He would not have		
2	paid any Premium Content Fees—and certainly would not have paid as much—if		
3	he had known that he was communicating not with the Creators themselves, but		
4	with chatters paid to impersonate the Creators.		
5	269. Plaintiff R.M. stopped using his OnlyFans account at the end of 2023,		
6	after learning of the Chatter Scams through the present litigation.		
7	Plaintiff B.L.		
8	270. Plaintiff B.L. has been an OnlyFans user from approximately 2020 to		
9	present. During 2020–2023, Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to the following Creator		
10	accounts (collectively, for this section, "Subscribed Creator accounts"), which have		
11	been linked to—and, on information and belief, were used by—the Agency		
12	Defendants to perpetrate the Chatter Scams:		
13	a. Briana Armbruster and Sierra Skye (Moxy Management)		
14	b. Tina Louise, Kayla Lauren, and Anna Louise (Unruly)		
15	c. Ryann Murphy and Chloe Rosenbaum (Behave)		
16	d. Mathilde Tantot and Pauline Tantot (Content X)		
17	e. Summer Soderstrom (Creators Inc.)		
18	271. Plaintiff B.L. relied on OnlyFans' successful efforts to market itself as		
19	a "revolutionary" platform that allowed content Creators to have direct interactions		
20	with their Fans, as well as OnlyFans' representations that subscribing to a Creator's		
21	account gave him "benefits" that specifically included the ability to "[d]irect		
22	message with this user." As a result, when he subscribed to each Creator's account,		
23	Plaintiff B.L. expected and believed that any information or communication—but		
24	particularly any personal or sensitive information, including thoughts, feelings,		
25	and/or images of a private, emotional, and/or sexual nature—that he exchanged		
26	with the Creator via her account on OnlyFans would be kept entirely private,		
27	confidential, and strictly between himself and the Creator.		
28			

272. Because of these expectations and beliefs, Plaintiff B.L. felt
 comfortable sharing information through OnlyFans, and at all times relevant to this
 Complaint, he believed that when he was communicating with a Creator's account,
 he was communicating directly and privately with that Creator.

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273. Plaintiff B.L. communicated via direct message with each of the accounts listed above. Those communications included direct messages that contained personal and sensitive information, including personal photos and videos of himself, and information about his personal interests, hobbies, professional occupation, sexual interests and preferences, and location.

10 274. In addition, Plaintiff B.L. viewed videos sent to him via direct message
11 from Creators' accounts—some of which he had specifically requested—without
12 knowing those videos had been sent by one or more agents or contractors of the
13 Agency Defendants—including professional chatters.

14 275. Plaintiff B.L. did not consent to having any of his personal information
15 or communications shared with anyone other than the Creator, and was unaware of
16 the fact that his messages and their content were being disclosed to one or more
17 agents or contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional chatters.

18 276. Although he was aware that "management agencies" existed, he
19 believed they only assisted Creators with marketing and social media management,
20 and Plaintiff B.L. was not aware that the Creators listed above were utilizing
21 management agencies until he contacted undersigned counsel, which occurred on
22 approximately February 21, 2024.

23 277. He was not aware that Defendants were engaged in a scheme to
24 deceive Fans into believing that Creators were communicating "directly" with their
25 Fans when they were actually interacting with professional chatters pretending to be
26 the Creators—some of whom, on information and belief, shared almost no relevant
27 characteristics in common with the Creators they were impersonating.

278. When he found out about the Chatter Scams, Plaintiff B.L. felt
 betrayed and violated. He had divulged sensitive and/or personal information not to
 the individuals he thought he was communicating with—but to imposters paid to
 impersonate those individuals.

5 279. If he had known about the Chatter Scams, or that any of his
6 expectations or beliefs about the nature of the communication on OnlyFans were
7 not true with respect to a particular Creator, he would not have interacted directly
8 with the Creator's account at all. Plaintiff B.L. estimates that during the time he was
9 using his OnlyFans account, he spent approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 on
10 Premium Content Fees—20% of which went to OnlyFans.

280. Plaintiff B.L. did not receive what he paid for. He would not have paid
any Premium Content Fees—and certainly would not have paid as much—if he had
known that he was communicating not with the Creators themselves, but with
chatters paid to impersonate the Creators.

15 281. Plaintiff B.L. did not stop using his OnlyFans account after learning of
16 the Chatter Scams through the present litigation. However, he altered his habits and
17 no longer interacts with the Creators or shares any personal or private information
18 since he no longer trusts that the Creator is not being impersonated by an unknown
19 third party.

20

## Plaintiff S.M.

21 282. Plaintiff S.M. was an OnlyFans user from approximately 2018 to 2024.
22 During that time, Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to the following Creator accounts
23 (collectively, for this section, "Subscribed Creator accounts"), which have been
24 linked to—and, on information and belief, were used by—the Agency Defendants
25 to perpetrate the Chatter Scams:

26

a. Kaitlyn Krems and Breckie Hill (Moxy Management)

c. Bella Thorne and Abella Danger (Content X Studios)

27

b. Jane Wilde (A.S.H. Agency)

d. Stephanie Landor (Creators Inc. Agency)

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2 283. Plaintiff S.M. relied on OnlyFans' successful efforts to market itself as
a "revolutionary" platform that allowed content Creators to have direct interactions
with their Fans, as well as OnlyFans' representations that subscribing to a Creator's
account gave him "benefits" that specifically included the ability to "[d]irect
message with this user."

7 284. As a result, when he subscribed to each Creator's account, Plaintiff
8 S.M. expected and believed that any information or communication—but
9 particularly any personal or sensitive information, including thoughts, feelings,
10 and/or images of a private, emotional, and/or sexual nature—that he exchanged
11 with the Creator via her account on OnlyFans would be kept entirely private,
12 confidential, and strictly between himself and the Creator.

13 285. Because of these expectations and beliefs, Plaintiff S.M. felt
14 comfortable sharing information through OnlyFans, and at all times relevant to this
15 Complaint, he believed that when he was communicating with a Creator's account,
16 he was communicating directly and privately with that Creator.

17 286. Plaintiff S.M. communicated via direct message with each of the
18 accounts listed above. Those communications included direct messages that
19 contained personal and sensitive information, including personal photos of himself,
20 and information about his personal interests, sexual interests, professional
21 occupation, and location.

22 287. In addition, Plaintiff S.M. viewed videos sent to him via direct
23 message from the Subscribed Creator accounts—some of which he had specifically
24 requested—without knowing those videos had been sent by one or more agents or
25 contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional chatters.

26 288. Plaintiff S.M. did not consent to having any of his personal
27 information or communications shared with anyone other than the Creator he
28 believed he was communicating with, and was unaware of the fact that his

messages and their content were being disclosed to one or more agents or

2 contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional chatters.

3 289. He had heard of management agencies, and even confronted several 4 Creators via direct message regarding their possible use of management agencies to 5 run their accounts, but the Creators denied these claims and tried to make him feel 6 guilty about questioning their authenticity.

7 290. Plaintiff S.M. confronted Bella Thorne, Stephanie Landor, Breckie 8 Hill, and Kaitlyn Krems via direct message and they all said it was them replying to 9 messages and/or denied using chatters.

10 291. Plaintiff S.M. was not aware that the Creators listed above were 11 utilizing management agencies until he contacted undersigned counsel, which occurred on approximately February 8, 2024. 12

13 292. He was not aware that Defendants were engaged in a scheme to 14 deceive Fans into believing that Creators were communicating "directly" with their 15 Fans when they were actually interacting with professional chatters pretending to be 16 the Creators—some of whom, on information and belief, shared almost no relevant 17 characteristics in common with the Creators they were impersonating.

18 293. When he found out about the Chatter Scams, Plaintiff S.M. felt 19 betrayed and violated. He had divulged sensitive and/or personal information not to 20 the individuals he thought he was communicating with—but to imposters paid to 21 impersonate those individuals.

22 294. If he had known about the Chatter Scams, or that any of his 23 expectations or beliefs about the nature of the communication on OnlyFans were 24 not true with respect to a particular Creator, he would not have subscribed to or 25 interacted directly with the Creator's account at all—much less would he have paid any Premium Content Fees to do so. 26

27 295. If he had known about the Chatter Scams from the beginning, he likely 28 would not have signed up for an OnlyFans account in the first place.

1	296. Plaintiff S.M. estimates that during the time he was using his OnlyFans		
2	account, he spent approximately \$1,000 on Premium Content Fees—20% of which		
3	went to OnlyFans.		
4	297. Plaintiff S.M. did not receive what he paid for. He would not have paid		
5	any Premium Content Fees—and certainly would not have paid as much—if he had		
6	known that he was communicating not with the Creators themselves, but with		
7	chatters paid to impersonate the Creators.		
8	298. Plaintiff S.M. stopped using his OnlyFans account on approximately		
9	February 8, 2024, after learning of the Chatter Scams through the present litigation.		
10	Plaintiff A.L.		
11	299. Plaintiff A.L. was an OnlyFans user from approximately 2021 to 2024.		
12	300. During that time, Plaintiff A.L. subscribed to the following Creator		
13	accounts (collectively, for this section, "Subscribed Creator Accounts"), which		
14	have been linked to—and, on information and belief, were used by—the Agency		
15	Defendants to perpetrate the Chatter Scams:		
16	a. Bri Jordan (Siren Agency)		
17	b. Julia Piccolino, Breckie Hill, Carolina Samani, Briana Armbruster, Cristy		
18	Senskey, and Claire Stone (Moxy Management		
19	c. Tara Electra and Kinsey (Unruly Agency)		
20	d. Kayla Simmons (Behave Agency)		
21	e. Katie Williams and Mikayla Demaiter (Verge Agency)		
22	f. Elseana Panzer, Jostasy Nick, and Nala (also known as Nala the Ninja and		
23	Fitness Nala) (Creators Inc.)		
24	301. Plaintiff A.L. relied on OnlyFans' successful efforts to market itself as		
25	a "revolutionary" platform that allowed content Creators to have direct interactions		
26	with their Fans, as well as OnlyFans' representations that subscribing to a Creator's		
27	account gave him "benefits" that specifically included the ability to "[d]irect		
28	message with this user."		
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302. As a result, when he subscribed to each Subscribed Creator Account,
 Plaintiff A.L. expected and believed that any information or communication—but
 particularly any personal or sensitive information, including thoughts, feelings,
 and/or images of a private, emotional, and/or sexual nature—that he exchanged
 with the Creator via her account on OnlyFans would be kept entirely private,
 confidential, and strictly between himself and the Creator.

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303. Because of these expectations and beliefs, Plaintiff A.L. felt comfortable sharing information through OnlyFans, and at all times relevant to this Complaint, he believed that when he was communicating with a Subscribed Creator Account, he was communicating directly and privately with that Creator.

304. Plaintiff A.L. communicated via direct message with each of the
accounts listed above. Those communications included direct messages that
contained personal and sensitive information, including personal photos of himself.

14 305. In addition, Plaintiff A.L. viewed videos sent to him via direct
15 message through the Subscribed Creator Accounts—some of which he had
16 specifically requested—without knowing those videos had been sent by one or
17 more agents or contractors of the Agency Defendants—including professional
18 chatters.

306. Plaintiff A.L. did not consent to having any of his personal information
or communications shared with anyone other than the Creator he believed he was
communicating with, and was unaware of the fact that his messages and their
content were being disclosed to one or more agents or contractors of the Agency
Defendants—including professional chatters.

307. Although he was aware that "management agencies" existed, he
believed they only assisted Creators with marketing and social media management,
and Plaintiff A.L. was not aware that the Subscribed Creator Accounts were
utilizing management agencies until he contacted undersigned counsel, which
occurred on approximately March 27, 2024.

308. He was not aware that Defendants were engaged in a scheme to
 deceive users into believing that Creators were communicating "directly" with their
 Fans when they were actually interacting with professional chatters pretending to be
 the Creators—some of whom, on information and belief, shared almost no relevant
 characteristics in common with the Creators they were impersonating.

309. When he found out about the Chatter Scams, Plaintiff A.L. felt
betrayed and violated. He had divulged sensitive and/or personal information not to
the individuals he thought he was communicating with—but to imposters paid to
impersonate those individuals.

310. If he had known about the Chatter Scams, or that any of his
expectations or beliefs about the nature of the communication on OnlyFans were
not true with respect to a particular Creator, he would not have subscribed to or
interacted directly with the Creator's account at all—much less would he have paid
any Premium Content Fees to do so.

15 311. If he had known about the Chatter Scams from the beginning, he likely
16 would not have signed up for an OnlyFans account in the first place.

17 312. Plaintiff A.L. estimates that during the time he was using his OnlyFans
18 account, he spent approximately \$500-\$600 on Premium Content Fees—20% of
19 which went to OnlyFans.

313. Plaintiff A.L. did not receive what he paid for. He would not have paid
any Premium Content Fees—and certainly would not have paid as much—if he had
known that he was communicating not with the Creators themselves, but with
Chatters paid to impersonate the Creators.

314. He stopped using his OnlyFans account after learning of the ChatterScams through the present litigation.

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# V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

27 315. Plaintiffs bring this action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
28 23(b)(2) and (b)(3) on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated.

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1	316. Plaintiffs seek to represent a nationwide class of OnlyFans users
2	("Nationwide Class") defined as:
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4	All persons residing in the United States who had a Fan account on OnlyFans and paid Premium Content Fees to
5	any Creator who was represented by an Agency Defendant and that Agency Defendant used chatters to
6	communicate directly with these Fans on the OnlyFans platform during the Relevant Time Period.
7	317. Plaintiffs N.Z. and R.M. ("California Plaintiffs") seek to represent a
8	subclass of California residents ("California Sub-Class") defined as:
9	All persons residing in California who had a Fan account on OnlyFans and paid Premium Content Fees to any
10	Creator who was represented by any Agency Defendant
11	and that Agency Defendant used chatters to communicate directly with these Fans on OnlyFans platform during the Relevant Time Period.
12	318. The "Relevant Time Period" means the period of time established by
13	the Court for the claims alleged in this Complaint.
14	319. Excluded from the Classes (the members of which are collectively
15	referred to as "Class Members") are Defendants and their co-conspirators, officers,
16	directors, legal representatives, heirs, successors and wholly or partly owned
17	subsidiaries or affiliated companies; Class counsel and their employees; and the
18	judicial officers and their immediate family members and associated court staff
19 20	assigned to this case, and all persons within the third degree of relationship to any
20	such persons.
21	320. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend or modify the class definitions
22	after having had an opportunity to conduct discovery.
23 24	A. The Requirements of Rule 23(a)(1)-(4) Are Satisfied
24 25	Numerosity
	321. The Classes are so numerous that joinder of all members is unfeasible
26 27	and impracticable. OnlyFans has millions of subscribers worldwide, and on
27	information and belief, the practice of using chatters to impersonate Creators is so
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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

widespread that any reasonable estimate indicates there are hundreds of		
widespread that any reasonable estimate indicates there are hundreds of		
thousands—if not millions—of Class Members.		
Commonality		
322. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class Members,		
which include, but are not limited to:		
a. Whether OnlyFans Defendants misrepresented the nature of the		
communications between Fans and Creators;		
b. Whether the Agency Defendants used Chatters, who were pretending to		
be the Represented Creators, to communicate with Fans;		
c. Whether Agency Defendants released, transferred, disclosed and/or		
disseminated the personal or private information of Plaintiffs and Class		
Members—including personal communications and video-watching		
histories to unauthorized third parties, including Chatters.		
d. Whether Defendants engaged in or conspired to engage in a RICO		
enterprise that harmed Plaintiffs and the Class Members;		
e. Whether OnlyFans Defendants breached their contracts with Plaintiffs and		
the Class Members;		
f. Whether Defendants are liable under each of the causes of action as		
alleged herein;		
g. Whether Class Members were damaged and, if so, the appropriate		
measure of damages; and		
h. Whether Class Members are entitled to damages, equitable relief, and		
other relief.		
Typicality		
323. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other members in the		
Classes, as they arise out of the uniform and pervasive conduct of Defendants,		
involve the same legal theories, and challenge the same practices of Defendants.		
Plaintiffs and all Class Members have been subjected to the same falsehoods and		
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practices, hold the same rights, are entitled to the same legal and equitable relief,
 have suffered the same impact and injury, and sustained similar damage by paying
 for Premium Content Fees they would not have paid, or greater than that which
 they would have paid, had Defendants disclosed and/or taken action on the Chatter
 Scams and concomitant privacy and terms-of-service violations.

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#### Adequacy

324. Plaintiffs and their counsel will fairly and adequately represent the
interests of the Classes they seek to represent. Plaintiffs have no interests
antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the interests of the other Class Members.
Plaintiffs' lawyers are highly experienced in the prosecution of consumer class
actions and complex commercial litigation, capable of providing the financial
resources needed to litigate this matter to conclusion, and have litigated other
consumer rights matters in a class context.

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### B. The Requirements of Rule 23(b)(2) Are Satisfied

Defendants' conduct generally applies to Class, making injunctive relief for the class as a whole appropriate.

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10 the class us a white appropriate
19 class, Plaintiff must show "the party opposing the class has acted or refused to act
19 on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that final injunctive relief or
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23(b)(2).

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326. Here, Defendants' actions and failures to act are systemic and uniform across the class, as are the terms of service and other contract documents. The relief the Class seeks would require injunctive relief that conforms Defendants' conduct to the law and exiting contractual obligations.

327. Classwide equitable relief is appropriate under Rule 23(b)(2) because Defendants have acted on grounds that apply generally to the members of the Classes, and inconsistent adjudications with respect to the Defendants' liability would establish incompatible standards and substantially impair or impede the
 ability of Class Members to protect their interests. Classwide relief and Court
 supervision under Rule 23 assures fair, consistent, and equitable treatment and
 protection of all Class Members, and uniformity and consistency in Defendants'
 discharge of their duties to perform corrective action regarding the Class.

6 7 C.

# The Requirements of Rule 23(b)(3) Are Satisfied

#### Predominance

328. Class certification is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 9 23(b)(3) because the questions of law or fact common to class members 10 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members. "The 11 predominance analysis under Rule 23(b)(3) focuses on the relationship between the 12 common and individual issues in the case, and tests whether the proposed class is 13 sufficiently cohesive to warrant adjudication by representation." Abdullah v. U.S. 14 Sec. Assocs., Inc., 731 F.3d 952, 964 (9th Cir. 2013) (citations and internal 15 quotations omitted). Predominance "does not require a plaintiff seeking class certification to prove that each element of their claim is susceptible to classwide 16 17 proof, so long as one or more common questions predominate." Castillo v. Bank of 18 Am., NA, 980 F.3d 723, 730 (9th Cir. 2020) (citations and internal quotations 19 omitted). Plaintiff must also present a method showing "that damages are capable 20 of measurement on a classwide basis." Comcast Corp. v. Behrend, 569 U.S. 27, 34 21 (2013). Plaintiffs have met all of these requirements. In this case, liability would be 22 determined by common representations, acts, promises, and omissions, the proof of 23 which every class member could use to prove liability. Damages could be 24 determined using the records of Defendants or mechanically if by statutory damage 25 awards, even though individual differences in damages does not preclude 26 certification. 27

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#### **Superiority**

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329. A class action is superior to all other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the claims of Plaintiffs and the Class Members. Plaintiffs 3 and the Class Members—many of whom are unaware of their rights—have been 4 harmed by Defendant's misrepresentations.

330. Defendants have acted uniformly with respect to the Plaintiffs and 6 Class Members. Defendants' scheme treated consumers as a Class to be uniformly 7 deceived. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and 8 efficient adjudication of this controversy. Plaintiffs and Class Members have all 9 suffered economic harm and damage because of Defendants' unlawful and 10 wrongful conduct, which was directed toward Class Members and the public, rather 11 than specifically or uniquely against any individual Class Members. 12

331. There is currently no pending litigation regarding Defendants' conduct 13 and this class action will reduce the possibility of repetitious litigation relating to 14 Defendants' wrongful actions and provides an efficient mechanism for adjudication 15 for Class Members. 16

332. Absent a class action, most Class Members would likely find the cost 17 of litigating their claims prohibitively high and would therefore have no effective 18 remedy at law. Because of the small size of the individual Class Members' claims, 19 it is unlikely that the Class Members could individually afford to seek legal redress 20 for Defendants' misconduct. 21

333. Class treatment in this Court, where a majority of Defendants reside 22 where all Defendants do business, will conserve the resources of the courts and the 23 litigants, and will promote consistency and efficiency of adjudication by providing 24 common answers to the common questions of knowledge, conduct, duty, and 25 breach that predominate in this action. 26

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334. Because this case involves common conduct by Defendants and all
 Class Members have suffered the same harm, there are no obvious difficulties in
 managing this case as a classwide action.

- 4 335. Classwide equitable relief is appropriate under Rule 23(b)(2) because 5 Defendants have acted on grounds that apply generally to the members of the Classes, and inconsistent adjudications with respect to the Defendants' liability 6 7 would establish incompatible standards and substantially impair or impede the ability of Class Members to protect their interests. Classwide relief and Court 8 9 supervision under Rule 23 assures fair, consistent, and equitable treatment and 10 protection of all Class Members, and uniformity and consistency in Defendants' discharge of their duties to perform corrective action regarding the Class. 11
- 12

#### VI. TOLLING OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

336. The statutes of limitation applicable to Plaintiffs' claims are tolled as a
result of Defendants' knowing and active concealment of the alleged conduct.
Plaintiffs did not and could not have reasonably discovered the true nature of
Chatter Scams because OnlyFans Defendants falsely represented to users that they
were talking directly with Creators.

337. Agency Defendants, who were running their Represented Creators
Accounts, did not disclose that the accounts were being run by agencies or that
Plaintiffs and Class Members were communicating with chatters most of the time.
Moreover, Defendants denied that the communications were not coming from the
Creator and/or terminated the accounts of Fans who raised the chatter issue.

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338. Plaintiffs' claims are therefore tolled under the discovery rule.

339. The causes of action alleged herein did not accrue until Plaintiffs
discovered or should have discovered the Chatter Scams.

340. To this day, Defendants do not disclose the use of chatters or that users
will, for the most part, not be having personal, authentic, and direct

Case 8:24-cv-01655 Document 1 Filed 07/29/24 Page 96 of 127 Page ID #:96 1 communications with the Creators because most, if not all, of those 2 communications will be with chatters. 3 341. Plaintiffs and other Class Members could not have learned about the 4 full extent of the Chatter Scam or Defendants' misconduct through the exercise of 5 reasonable diligence, especially with Defendants working to conceal the Chatter 6 Scam. 7 342. For most users, the full extent of Chatter Scams is still unknown, 8 making the discovery rule appropriate. 9 343. For these reasons, all applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled 10 by the operation of the discovery rule. 11 VII. CAUSES OF ACTION 344. Each claim below incorporates all other paragraphs in this Complaint. 12 345. For ease of reading, the claims below each use the terms "Defendants" 13 14 and "Class Members." These terms may refer to the specific Defendants and Class 15 identified at the beginning of each claim section, but if not otherwise defined within a particular claim, the claim is brought against All Defendants on behalf of the 16 17 Nationwide Class or, in the alternative, on behalf of the California Class. 18 346. The term "Plaintiffs," used alone in these Claims, refers collectively to 19 the named Plaintiffs and all members of the relevant Class. 20 COUNT I **VIOLATION OF RICO** 21 (18 U.S.C. § 1962(c)) 22 347. RICO makes it "unlawful for any person employed by or associated 23 with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign 24 commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such 25 enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity." 18 U.S.C. § 692(c). 26 348. Under 18 U.S.C. § 1961(4), an "enterprise" may be an association-in-27 fact that, although it has no formal legal structure, has (i) a common purpose, 28

1 (ii) relationships among those associated with the enterprise, and (iii) longevity 2 sufficient to pursue the enterprise's purpose.

- 349. A "person" is "any individual or entity capable of holding a legal or 3 4 beneficial interest in property." 18 U.S.C. § 1961(3).
- 5 350. "Racketeering activity" includes wire fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1343. 6 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1).

7 351. 18 U.S.C. § 1343 provides that "[w]hoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or 8 9 property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television 10 11 communication in interstate or foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice." 12

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#### Each of Defendants Are Culpable Persons Under RICO A.

14 352. Defendants are all culpable "persons" under 18 U.S.C.§ 1961(3), as each of them is an entity capable of holding a legal or beneficial interest in 15 16 property.

17

#### The Content Fraud Enterprise is a RICO Enterprise **B**.

353. For the purposes of this claim, the RICO enterprise, referred to in this 18 Complaint as the "Content Fraud Enterprise," is an association-in-fact enterprise of 19 20 FIL and FIUSA (the OnlyFans Defendants), and Boss Baddies, Moxy, Unruly, 21 Behave, A.S.H., Content X, Verge, and Elite Creators (the Agency Defendants), 22 along with the Agency Defendants' co-conspirators, their Represented Creators.

23

354. OnlyFans Defendants and Agency Defendants play different roles, but 24 all cooperate on a common purpose: using chatters to extract Premium Content 25 Fees from Plaintiffs and Class Members.

26 355. OnlyFans Defendants have, continually since its inception, promised 27 to every Fan on the OnlyFans platform that they will be able to "direct message" 28 with the Creators they subscribe to.

1 356. As described herein, each of these communications was made directly 2 to Plaintiffs and the Class members when they signed up for each Creator's 3 subscription on the OnlyFans platform.

357. OnlyFans Defendants have also communicated to Plaintiffs and the Class Members on the various platforms, including its website that they will be able to "direct message" with Creators, chat "1 on 1" with the Creators, and build "genuine" and "authentic" connections.

358. Each of the Agency Defendants manages the OnlyFans accounts of its 8 9 Represented Creators, who are unnamed co-conspirators. On behalf of the Creators, 10 the Agency Defendants use chatters to post and communicate as the Represented 11 Creator on that Creator's account—what has been described herein as the Chatter Scams—surreptitiously impersonating the Creator. 12

13 359. Agency Defendants implemented the Chatter Scams on behalf of the 14 Creators they represent to convince Fans they were direct messaging with the 15 Represented Creators and receiving the promised "1 on 1," chats, "direct messaging." or "authentic" experience, when in fact the Fans were speaking with 16 17 third parties without their knowledge. As described herein, these false communications were made by the Agency Defendants on behalf of their 18 Represented Creators to Plaintiffs and Class Members each time they engaged in a 19 direct message with a Represented Creator. 20

21 360. The Agency Defendants' Chatter Scams are designed to use deception 22 to maximize the Premium Content Fees paid to the Creators by the Fans as 23 described herein, a portion of which is paid to the Agency Defendants.

24 361. Since their inception, the Agency Defendants engaged in the 25 fraudulent activities by controlling and distributing misleading and false digital 26 content to Fans through the Chatter Scams on behalf of the Creators, knowing that 27 OnlyFans Defendants was monitoring the platform but would not enforce its anti-28 fraud policies.

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362. OnlyFans Defendants, who claim to monitor everything that happens
 on the OnlyFans platform, are aware of Agency Defendants and encourage the use
 of such agencies.

363. OnlyFans Defendants intentionally failed to enforce its anti-fraud
policies—knowing non-enforcement would allow Agency Defendants to continue
their fraudulent activities and increase and maximize a Creator's Premium Content
Fees through the Chatter Scams—to continue to collect 20% of the revenue
generated by the fraudulent activity

9 364. The OnlyFans Defendants received complaints from its Fans about the
10 use of chatters, yet they continued to allow and support the fraudulent actions of the
11 Agency Defendants.

365. The OnlyFans Defendants platform's interface and marketing
strategies are designed to maximize engagement and revenue, regardless of the
authenticity of the content.

15 366. OnlyFans Defendants' profit motive drives them to engage in
16 fraudulent conduct, intentionally overlooking violations to maximize revenue.

367. Various other persons, firms, and corporations, including third-party
entities and individuals not named as Defendants such as Represented Creators,
have participated as co-conspirators with Defendants in these offenses and have
performed acts in furtherance of the conspiracy to increase or maintain revenues
and increase market share for Defendants and their unnamed co-conspirators.

22

#### C. Pattern of Racketeering Activity

368. The Content Fraud Enterprise is an ongoing, continuing group of
entities associated together for the common purpose of fraudulently increasing the
amount and number of Premium Content Fees each Fan pays.

369. The Content Fraud Enterprise has been ongoing since approximately
27 2016 and will continue as long as Defendants can continue to fraudulently collect
28 Premium Content Fees from Plaintiffs and the Class Members.

1 370. While the OnlyFans Defendants and Agency Defendants are members 2 of the Content Fraud Enterprise, and participated in and are part of the enterprise, 3 they all have an existence separate and distinct from the enterprise. The Content 4 Fraud Enterprise has a systematic linkage because there are financial ties and 5 coordination of activities between the OnlyFans Defendants and the Agency 6 Defendants.

7 371. The Content Fraud Enterprise engaged in, and its activities affected interstate and foreign commerce, because it involved commercial activities across 8 9 state boundaries and internationally, such as the marketing, promotion, advertisement, and sale of digital content on the OnlyFans platform. 10

11

D.

#### The Racketeering Activity or Predicate Acts

372. Defendants devised a scheme to defraud Fans by creating and 12 13 promoting misleading digital content on the OnlyFans platform, falsely 14 representing the nature, quality, and value of the content to induce Fans to pay 15 Premium Content Fees.

373. Defendants acted with the specific intent to deceive and defraud Fans 16 17 to increase their profits.

374. To carry out, or attempt to carry out the scheme to defraud, Defendants 18 conducted or participated in the conduct of the affairs of the Content Fraud 19 20 Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity in violation of 18 U.S.C. 21 § 1962(c), that employed the use of the wire facilities, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 22 § 1343.

23

375. Defendants participated in the scheme to defraud by using the internet 24 to transmit and operate the Content Fraud Enterprise.

25 376. OnlyFans Defendants used the internet to communicate to Plaintiffs 26 and Class Members that they could develop "authentic relationships" and 27 "authentic connections" with Creators, which currently is on the OnlyFans website 28 and has been on there since 2017, reiterated in May 2022 as set forth herein.

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1		On January 17, 2021, Only Fond Defendants represented on Twitter
2	a.	On January 17, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter
2	b.	that Fans could "direct message[]" and "chat with a Creator."
	0.	On February 9, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter
4	_	that Fans could "chat with [a Creator] 1 on 1."
5	с.	On February 20, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter
6		that Fans could "chat with [a Creator] 1 on 1."
7	d.	On March 2, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter that
8		Fans could "chat" with a Creator.
9	e.	On May 26, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter a
10		Creator would "chat with all her fans in the DMs."
11	f.	On September 10, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter
12		that a Creator "loves getting to know her fans in the DMs" and they
13		could "chat with her."
14	g.	On December 22, 2021, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter
15		that a Creator "loves getting to know her fans 1-on-1 so introduce
16		yourself."
17	h.	On January 6, 2022, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter that
18		a Creator "can't wait to chat with you."
19	i.	On March 8, 2022, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter that
20		a Creator "even chats with her fins in the DMs So go and say
21		hey."
22	j.	On October 22, 2022, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter
23		that Fans could "connect" with a Creator on a "deeper level."
24	k.	On September 30. 20222, OnlyFans Defendants represented on
25		Twitter that Fans could "talk one-on-one with" a Creator.
26	1.	On November 2, 2022, OnlyFans Defendants represented on
27		Instagram that a Creator was "chatting with her fans."
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1	m. On November 16, 2022, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter	
2	that Fans could connect with a Creator "1-on-1."	
3	n. On December 16, 2022, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter	
4	that a Creator was "responding to DMs."	
5	o. On August 19, 2023, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Instagram	
6	that Creator would "interact directly with [her] fans."	
7	p. On May 3, 2024, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Twitter that	
8	Fans could "connect[] personally" with a Creator.	
9	q. On June 18, 2024, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Instagram	
10	that a Creator made her living "chatting" with the Fans.	
11	r. On July 17, 2024, OnlyFans Defendants represented on Instagram that	
12	a Creator makes "amazing connections with [her] fans and built	
13	genuine relationships."	
14	377. OnlyFans Defendants made each of these statements to convince Fans	
15	to subscribe to Creators, collecting 20% of all those subscription fees, in addition to	
16	additional purchases made by the Fans after they subscribe.	
17	378. OnlyFans Defendants used the internet to communicate to each Fan	
18	who subscribed to a Creator's account that they would be able to "Direct message	
19	with this user." OnlyFans Defendants' records will show the exact date each	
20	Plaintiff and Class Member subscribed to a Creator account and received this	
21	communication. Agency Defendants as co-conspirators and agents of the	
22	Represented Creators, transmitted multiple communications through the internet to	
23	Plaintiffs and Class Members, falsely representing they were Creators, to convince	
24	Plaintiffs and Class Members to pay Premium Content Fees. Defendants' records	
25	will show the exact date of each communication, some of those communications	
26	include:	
27	a. Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Briana Armbruster (Moxy) on November	
28	28, 2023. The monthly subscription fee was \$14.99 and he tipped an	
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1		additional \$87.00 during the length of his subscription. Plaintiff B.L. is
2		not currently subscribed to Briana Armbruster.
3	b.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Tina Louise (Unruly) on October 9, 2020.
4		He tipped an additional \$59.69 during the length of his subscription.
5		Plaintiff B.L. is not currently subscribed to Tina Louise.
6	с.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Kayla Lauren (Unruly) on October 9,
7		2020. He tipped an additional \$44.00 during the length of his
8		subscription. Plaintiff B.L. is not currently subscribed to Kayla Lauren.
9	d.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Anna Louise (Unruly) on October 9, 2020.
10		He tipped an additional \$160.67 during the length of his subscription.
11		Plaintiff B.L. is not currently subscribed to Anna Louise.
12	e.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Ryann Murphy (Behave) on January 15,
13		2022. He tipped an additional \$51.00 during the length of his
14		subscription. Plaintiff B.L. is not currently subscribed to Ryann
15		Murphy.
16	f.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Mathilde Tantot (Content X) on May 13,
17		2021. He tipped an additional \$294.31 during the length of his
18		subscription. Plaintiff B.L. is still subscribed to Mathilde Tantot but no
19		longer interacts with her.
20	g.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Pauline Tantot (Content X) on May 13,
21		2021. He tipped an additional \$148.00 during the length of his
22		subscription. Plaintiff B.L. is still subscribed to Pauline Tantot but no
23		longer interacts with her.
24	h.	Plaintiff B.L. subscribed to Summer Soderstrom (Creators Inc.) on
25		January 3, 2023. He tipped an additional \$76.00 during the length of
26		his subscription. Plaintiff B.L. is not currently subscribed to Summer
27		Soderstrom.
28		
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1	i.	Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to Bella Thorne (Content X) in 2020. The
2		monthly subscription fee was approximately \$20.00. He made several
3		payments for content that was promised but never delivered or
4		misleading. For example, he paid for a "topless picture" and received a
5		picture of Ms. Thorne's back with no shirt and covering her breasts.
6	j.	Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to Jane Wilde (A.S.H.) in 2023 for two
7		months at approximately \$4.99 per month. He tipped \$40.00 for a
8		picture and video that was promised but not delivered. Ms. Wilde
9		never replied to any of his messages regarding the content that was
10		paid for but never delivered.
11	k.	Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to Abella Danger (Content X) from 2022-
12		2024. He subscribed to both her free page and her VIP page at \$19.99
13		per month. He tipped \$100.00 to become a VIP subscriber and was led
14		to believe he would receive exclusive "spicy content" monthly. He
15		received the same photos that were posted on Ms. Danger's Instagram
16		account. Ms. Danger never replied to any of his messages asking for a
17		refund.
18	1.	Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to Steph Landor (Creators Inc.) from 2021 -
19		2023 to both her free page and her VIP page at approximately \$20.00
20		per month. He spent over \$200.00 for content "of a hot and spicy
21		nature," such as topless photos and shower and bath videos. Instead, he
22		received the same photos that were posted on Ms. Landor's Instagram
23		account. He sent direct messages complaining and accusing her of not
24		being truthful with her promised content. He was told her management
25		team handles her OnlyFans account and they would be in touch with
26		him.
27	m.	Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to Kaitlyn Krems (Moxy) from 2023–2024.
28		He paid \$100.00 to become a VIP subscriber. He spent additional
		-99-
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1		money to purchase photos but they were all bikini photos rather than
2		explicit content.
3	n.	Plaintiff S.M. subscribed to Breckie Hill (Moxy) in 2023. He paid
4		\$100.00 to become a VIP subscriber. Instead of explicit content, he
5		only received a picture of Ms. Hill's face. When he questioned why, he
6		received no response.
7	0.	Plaintiff R.M. subscribed to Chyanne Burden (Moxy) on July 16,
8		2020. At the time, her page was free to subscribe to. He tipped an
9		additional \$55.00 during the length of his subscription. Plaintiff R.M.
10		is still subscribed to Chyanne Burden but no longer tips or interacts
11		with her. The current monthly subscription fee is approximately
12		\$20.00.
13	р.	Plaintiff R.M. subscribed to Emily Elizabeth (Dysrpt) on October 7,
14		2022. He tipped an additional \$65.00 to become a VIP subscriber. He
15		never received the picture he paid for with his VIP Picture
16		Subscription. Plaintiff R.M. is still subscribed to Emily Elizabeth but
17		no longer interacts with her.
18	q.	Plaintiff R.M. confronted Emily Elizabeth via direct message and she
19		said it was her replying to messages
20	379.	In addition to the acts of wire fraud identified above, Defendants' acts
21	also include:	
22	a. Pr	romotion of fraudulent digital content through the OnlyFans platform to
23	Pl	aintiffs and Class Members.
24	b. Electronic payment transactions processed by the platform—specifically	
25	by Defendant FIUSA—in which money was transferred from Fans to	
26	De	efendants.
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28		
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1	c. Communications between OnlyFans Defendants and Agency Defendants,	
2	instructing them on how to maximize profits through misleading content,	
3	as described herein.	
4	d. Defendants' false and fraudulent representation to Plaintiffs and the Class	
5	Members about the value and/or authenticity of the digital content.	
6	e. The fraudulent digital content itself.	
7	f. Communications promoting fraudulent content.	
8	g. Essential marketing and promotional materials.	
9	h. Fraudulent advertisements and representations.	
10	i. Fraudulently obtained payments from Fans.	
11	j. Documents and communications that facilitated the fraudulent scheme.	
12	k. False or misleading communications intended to obscure the fraud.	
13	1. Sales and marketing materials, including advertising, websites, product	
14	packaging, brochures, and labeling, which misrepresented, omitted, and	
15	actively concealed material facts about the true nature of the digital	
16	content.	
17	m. Documents intended to facilitate the marketing and sale of fraudulent	
18	content.	
19	n. Documents to process and receive payment for the digital content by	
20	unsuspecting Fans, including invoices and receipts.	
21	o. Deposits of proceeds.	
22	380. As described above, Defendants have committed, conspired to commit,	
23	and/or aided and abetted in the commission of, at least two predicate acts of	
24	racketeering activity within the past ten years.	
25	381. Defendants used, directed the use of, and/or caused to be used,	
26	thousands of wire communications in service of their scheme through virtually	
27	uniform misrepresentations, concealments, and material omissions.	
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382. The wire transmissions were made in furtherance of Defendants'
 scheme and common course of conduct to deceive Fans and lure them into paying
 money for a fraudulent "personal" virtual relationship and associated content.
 383. Many of the precise dates of the fraudulent uses of the interstate wire
 facilities have been deliberately hidden and cannot be alleged without access to

- 6 Defendants' books and records.
- 7 || E.

### Injury and Damages

8 384. Plaintiffs and the Class Members are victims of this nationwide
9 scheme, having signed up for the OnlyFans platform based on assurances from the
10 OnlyFans Defendants that the digital content and direct messaging was authentic
11 and as represented.

12 385. The OnlyFans Defendants falsely and fraudulently represented the13 value and authenticity of the digital content to Fans.

14 386. The Agency Defendants on behalf of the Represented Creators used
15 the Chatter Scams to increase the Premium Content Fees paid by Plaintiffs and the
16 Class Members, of which they took a portion.

17 387. Defendants' actions were done to induce Fans to pay Premium Content18 Fees, all to fraudulently increase Defendants' profits.

19 388. Defendants' scheme was reasonably calculated to deceive Plaintiffs
20 and Fans through the execution of their complex and illegal scheme to misrepresent
21 the authenticity of the digital content offered on the platform.

389. By reason of, and because of the conduct of Defendants, and each of
them, and in particular, their pattern of racketeering activity, Plaintiffs and Class
Members have been injured in their business and/or property in multiple ways,
including but not limited to:

26 390. Paying Premium Content Fees they would not have paid, had they
27 known they were communicating with chatters, not the Creators.

1	391. The lost expectation of having direct, authentic communications, and
2	the effort wasted communicating with Creators' chatters.
3	392. Overpayment for the digital content that was not as represented.
4	393. Overpayment for digital content that was misrepresented as to the
5	characteristics, source, or authenticity.
6	394. Other incidental and consequential expenses linked to the overpayment
7	for the digital content, including, but not limited to, additional interest on financing,
8	fees, and other financial harms.
9	395. Defendants' violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) have directly and
10	proximately caused injuries and damages to Plaintiffs and the Class, and Plaintiffs
11	and the Class are entitled to three times their actual damages, as well costs and
12	reasonable attorneys' fees under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c).
13	COUNT II
14	RICO CONSPIRACY (18 U.S.C. § 1962(d))
15	396. Agreement to Violate RICO. Defendants OnlyFans Defendants and
16	Agency Defendants, along with the Agency Defendants' co-conspirators,
17	knowingly agreed and conspired to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) by engaging in the
18	pattern of racketeering activity described above.
19	397. Participation in Conspiracy. Each Defendant knowingly agreed to and
20	participated in the conspiracy by performing various acts to further the fraudulent
21	scheme, including creating and distributing false digital content, and facilitating the
22	transactions through the platform.
23	398. Overt Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy. Defendants committed
24	numerous overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy, including but not limited to:
25	a. OnlyFans Defendants' development and implementation of policies that
26	ostensibly prohibited fraudulent activity but were intentionally not
27	enforced.
28	
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1	b. OnlyFans Defendants promised Fans that they could and would be direct
2	messaging with Creators, knowing that the Agency Defendants were
3	using chatters to impersonate Creators in violation of OnlyFans' policies.
4	c. OnlyFans Defendants' collection of 20% of the Premium Content Fees,
5	knowing that the Agency Defendants were using chatters to impersonate
6	Creators in violation of OnlyFans' policies, and in response to which
7	OnlyFans Defendants took no action.
8	d. Agency Defendants' creation and sale of fraudulent digital content,
9	knowing that OnlyFans Defendants would not take action to stop or
10	penalize such behavior.
11	e. Use of interstate wire communications to promote and facilitate the
12	fraudulent scheme, including internet promotions and electronic
13	transactions.
14	399. Injury and Causation. As a direct and proximate result of the
15	Defendants' conspiracy, Plaintiffs and the Class suffered financial harm through the
16	purchase of fraudulent digital content in the form of Premium Content Fees, leading
17	to significant monetary losses.
18	400. Defendants' actions were the proximate cause of the Plaintiffs' and
19	Class Members' injuries, as the fraudulent scheme depended on the implicit
20	coordination and mutual support of all Defendants.
21	401. By reason of, and because of the conduct of Defendants, and each of
22	them, and in particular, their conspiracy to commit a pattern of racketeering
23	activity, Plaintiffs and Class Members have been injured in their business and/or
24	property in multiple ways, including but not limited to:
25	a. Paying Premium Content Fees they would not have paid, had they known
26	they were communicating with chatters, not the Creators.
27	b. The lost expectation of receiving authentic digital content.
28	c. Overpayment for the digital content that was not as represented.
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	d. Overpayment for digital content that they did not receive or that was
	misrepresented as to the source or authenticity.
	402. Other incidental and consequential expenses linked to the overpaymen
	for the digital content, including, but not limited to, additional interest on financing,
	fees, and other financial harms.
	403. Defendants' violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d) have directly and
	proximately caused injuries and damages to Plaintiffs and the Class, and Plaintiffs
	and the Class are entitled to three times their actual damages, as well costs and
	reasonable attorneys' fees under 18 U.S.C. 1964(c).
	COUNT III
	VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL VIDEO PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT (VPPA)
	(18 U.S.C. § 2710)
	(Against All Defendants) 404. The Video Privacy Protection Act ("VPPA" or, in this claim, "the
	Act") was passed to protect the ability of Americans to obtain and watch video
	content in private spaces without risk that the businesses providing them those
	videos would disclose the nature of that content to anyone "without the watcher's
	consent." <sup>77</sup>
	405. To that end, the Act prohibits a "video tape service provider" from
	knowingly disclosing a customer's "personally identifiable information" without
	that customer's consent. <sup>78</sup>
	<sup>77</sup> "The Video Privacy Protection Act as a Model Intellectual Privacy Statute,"
	Developments in the Law, Harvard Law Review, 131 Harv. L. Rev. 1766, available at https://harvardlawreview.org/print/vol-131/the-video-privacy-protection-act-as-a
	model-intellectual-privacy-statute/ (last accessed Jul. 28, 2024).
	<sup>78</sup> See e.g., Mollett v. Netflix, Inc., 795 F.3d 1062, 1066 (9th Cir. 2015).
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A.

# The OnlyFans platform collects personally identifying information about Fans.

406. In its Privacy Policy, OnlyFans admits to collecting the following categories of information: "User Data," including a Fan's "email address" and "telephone number;" "Account Data," which includes: "profile name"; "password"; "avatars and headers of your Fan account"; "your subscriptions"; "comments on posts made from your Fan account"; "chat messages between you and other users"; "Commercial Information: Such as information about products or services purchased and your use of our Services"; and "Sensory Information: Such as pictures and videos (content) you upload to the Website."<sup>79</sup>

10 407. Each time a Fan interacts with a Creator's account via OnlyFans, the platform collects and transmits information sufficient to identify the specific Fan, 12 including the Fan's username, which can be used by anyone to locate and view the Fan's profile on OnlyFans. Thus, any interaction related to a Fan's request for or 14 viewing of any video content is considered personally identifying information 15 ("PII") about that Fan,<sup>80</sup> since it would allow an ordinary person to connect an 16 individual Fan with the specific content that they requested and/or viewed including the titles or filenames of videos, as well as the subject matter of those 18 videos—and thus to identify the video-watching behavior of individual Fans, 19 including Plaintiffs and Class Members.

20 408. Indeed, the Chatter Scams only function effectively through the 21 nonconsensual disclosure of Fan PII: by creating a communication history viewable 22 by chatters so that they can convincingly impersonate a specific Creator and 23

24 <sup>79</sup> Privacy Policy ¶¶ 9, 20 (California Specific Disclosures), ONLYFANS, https://onlyfans.com/privacy (last visited July 29, 2024). 25

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<sup>80</sup> The Act defines PII as "information which identifies a person as having 27 requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service 28 provider," 18 U.S.C. § 2710(a)(3).

pretend that the Creator has an ongoing relationship with the Fan—including
 intimate knowledge of the Fan's history and preferences, specifically with respect
 to video content—in order to manipulate Fans into purchasing additional content on
 those false pretenses.
 **B. Defendants are video tape service providers under the Act.**<sup>81</sup>

6 409. Each of the Agency Defendants is engaged in the business of selling
7 and/or delivering audiovisual materials as the agent or representative of the
8 Represented Creators.

9 410. The OnlyFans Defendants are also engaged in the business of selling
10 and/or delivering audiovisual materials. The entire purpose of the OnlyFans
11 platform is to deliver content from Creators to Fans (and vice versa, with respect to
12 Fan-Created Content).<sup>82</sup>

411. On information and belief, a substantial portion of that content is made
up of prerecorded videos,<sup>83</sup> which OnlyFans not only stores, but organizes, on
behalf of Creator accounts. OnlyFans describes this feature of the platform as "the
Vault," which "stores all of your previously-posted [sic] or scheduled photos,

<sup>17</sup>
<sup>81</sup> 18 U.S.C.S. § 2710(a)(4) (defining video tape service provider as "any person, engaged in the business, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of rental, sale, or delivery of prerecorded video cassette tapes or similar audio visual materials, or any person or other entity to whom a disclosure is made under subparagraph (D) or (E) of subsection (b)(2)").

<sup>82</sup> Another feature that OnlyFans touts is automatically turning livestreams into
pre-recorded video. Blog Post, *Ultimate Guide to OnlyFans Features*, ONLYFANS
(July 12, 2023), <u>https://blog.onlyfans.com/ultimate-guide-to-onlyfans-features/</u> (last
visited Jul. 29, 2024) ("OnlyFans automatically adds your streamed videos to your
Vault so fans can watch it later as a video-on-demand.").

<sup>83</sup> OnlyFans' TOU defines "content" as "any material uploaded to OnlyFans by any User (whether a Creator or a Fan), including any photos, videos, audio (for example music and other sounds), livestream material, data, text (such as comments and hashtags), metadata, images, interactive features, emojis, GIFs, memes, and any other material whatsoever." Terms of Use for All Users ¶ 2(c), ONLYFANS, <u>https://onlyfans.com/terms</u> (last visited June 29, 2024) (emphasis added).

videos, and live streams,"84 and emphasizes the Vault's ability to "set aside content 1 already shared with subscribers over DM," so that if a Creator "forgot which 2 content you've sent out over messages or PPV, the Vault will remember for you."85 3 4 OnlyFans also provides a "Stories" feature, which it describes as "videos that 5 display for only 24 hours."86

6

412. Plaintiffs and Class Members purchased RC Content directly from the 7 Agency Defendants, whose revenues are directly related to the amount of content purchased by Fans, and from OnlyFans Defendants, since OnlyFans' fee structure 8 effectively gives Defendants FIL and FIUSA what amounts to a "commission" on 9 10 every video sold via the platform—whether by subscription or PPV.

413. Defendants knowingly disclosed Plaintiffs' and Class Members' PII 11 without their consent. 12

414. Defendants know that the PII being disclosed is intended to be private 13 14 and confidential, yet neither OnlyFans nor the Agencies informed Plaintiffs or 15 Class Members of the possibility that their PII might be disclosed to anyone other than the Creator whose account they were interacting with ("Selected Creator"). 16

17 415. Neither OnlyFans nor the Agencies obtained Plaintiffs' or Class 18 Members' consent for their PII to be disclosed to anyone other than the Selected Creator. Nor did Plaintiffs or Class Members give such consent to any other 19 20 parties—including the Selected Creators themselves.

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23 <sup>84</sup> Another feature that OnlyFans touts is automatically turning livestreams into 24 pre-recorded video. Blog Post, Ultimate Guide to OnlyFans Features, ONLYFANS (July 12, 2023), <u>https://blog.onlyfans.com/ultimate-guide-to-onlyfans-features/ (last</u> 25 visited Jul. 29, 2024) ("OnlyFans automatically adds your streamed videos to your 26 Vault so fans can watch it later as a video-on-demand.").

<sup>85</sup> *Id*.

<sup>86</sup> Id.

1 416. Plaintiffs and Class Members did not consent to having any of their 2 communications or personal information—including PII—shared with anyone other 3 than their Selected Creators.

4 417. Plaintiffs and Class Members were unaware of the fact that their PII 5 (including names, usernames, messages, message content, and video viewing 6 histories) were being disclosed to anyone other than their Selected Creators.

7 418. Through its platform, which facilitates the communication of 8 information between Fan and Creator accounts, OnlyFans disclosed Plaintiffs' and 9 Class Members' PII to other people, including Agencies and chatters. OnlyFans 10 made such disclosures knowing that Plaintiffs and Class Members had not 11 consented to the disclosure of their PII to anyone other than their Selected Creators.

12 419. Each Agency Defendant also disclosed that PII to other people, 13 including chatters, despite knowing that Plaintiffs and Class Members had not 14 consented to the disclosure of their PII to anyone other than their Selected creators. 15 To facilitate the Chatter Scams, the Agencies allowed chatters to have access to 16 Agency Accounts on the OnlyFans platform—whether directly (by providing 17 chatters with login information) or indirectly (via third-party software such as 18 SuperCreator, which, as outlined above in Section VI.E. is designed to facilitate the 19 use of chatters by agencies).

20 420. None of the VPPA's exceptions to the consent requirement apply in 21 this case. Specifically, Defendants' wrongful disclosures were not done in the 22 "ordinary course of business but were done for the purpose of illegal and fraudulent 23 conduct.

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421. Defendants' conduct is illegal, offensive, and contrary to Plaintiffs' 25 and Class Members' expectations.

26 422. As a result of these violations, Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to 27 statutory damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees, and any other relief deemed 28 appropriate by the Court.

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1		COUNT IV		
2	VIOLA	FIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA INVASION OF PRIVACY ACT CAL. PENAL CODE § 630, ET SEQ.		
3	423.	CIPA § 631(a) imposes liability for distinct and mutually independent		
4	patterns of o	conduct. Thus, to establish liability under CIPA § 631(a), a plaintiff		
5	need only e	stablish that the defendant, "by means of any machine, instrument,		
6	contrivance	, or in any other manner," does any of the following:		
7		OR		
8		Willfully and without the consent of all parties to the		
9		communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads or attempts to read or learn the contents or meaning of any		
10		message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line or cable or is being		
11		sent from or received at any place within this state,		
12		OR		
13 14		Uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained,		
15		OR		
16		Aids, agrees with, employs, or conspires with any person		
17 18		or persons to unlawfully do, or permit, or cause to be done any of the acts or things mentioned above in this section.		
19	424.	Penal Code § 631(a) applies to "new technologies" such as computers,		
20	the Internet	, and email.		
21	425.	Defendants are "persons" within the meaning of CIPA.		
22	426.	The following items constitute machines, instruments, or contrivances		
23	under the C	IPA, and even if they do not, Defendants' deliberate and purposeful		
24	scheme that	a facilitated its use of Plaintiffs and the Class Members' communication		
25	falls under t	the broad statutory catch-all category of "any other manner":		
26	a. Tł	ne computer code and programs OnlyFans Defendants used to or enable		
27	th	e Agency Defendants to track Plaintiffs' and Class members'		
28	co	ommunications while they were on the OnlyFans website;		
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1	b. The programs the Agency Defendants used to execute the Chatter Scams;
2	c. California Plaintiffs' and Class Members' browsers and mobile
3	applications;
4	d. California Plaintiffs' and Class Members' computing and mobile devices;
5	and
6	e. The plan Defendants carried out to effectuate their use of Plaintiffs' and
7	the Class Members' communications.
8	427. Agency Defendants, as agents and representatives of the Represented
9	Creators, through their contractors (the chatters), without the consent of all parties
10	to the communications—specifically without the consent of California Plaintiffs
11	and Class Members—read or learned the content of California Plaintiffs' and Class
12	Members' private messages.
13	428. Agency Defendants, as the agents or representatives of the
14	Represented Creators, used the information obtained in the communications from
15	California Plaintiffs' and Class Members to solicit Premium Content Fees, while
16	falsely claiming to be the Represented Creators.
17	429. OnlyFans Defendants aided, agreed, conspired with, and/or permitted
18	Agency Defendants to obtain Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications
19	without their consent and to use those communications to solicit Premium Content
20	Fees from Plaintiffs and the Class.
21	430. The communications obtained by the Agency Defendants, as agents or
22	representatives of the Represented Creators, constituted "confidential
23	communications" as that term is used in Section 632, because Plaintiffs and the
24	Class had objectively reasonable expectations of privacy in their devices and
25	activity—in particular the sending and receiving of private messages containing
26	sensitive personal information.
27	431. Plaintiffs and the Class have additionally suffered loss by reason of
28	these violations, including, without limitation, violation of the right of privacy and
	-111-

1 payment of Premium Content Fees that Plaintiff and the Class would not have paid without the unlawful use of their confidential communications. 2 3 432. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to commit 4 such acts. 5 433. Plaintiffs have been injured by Defendants' violations of CIPA. 6 434. Plaintiffs seek all monetary and non-monetary relief allowed by law, 7 including actual damages, statutory damages in accordance with  $\S$  637.2(a), 8 punitive damages, preliminary and other equitable or declaratory relief, and attorneys' fees and costs. 9 10 COUNT V VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL WIRETAP ACT 11 18 U.S.C. § 2510, ET SEQ. 12 (Against Agency Defendants) 435. Title 1 of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, better known as 13 the "Wiretap Act," prohibits the interception of electronic communications. 14 15 436. To establish a prima facie case under the Wiretap Act, Plaintiffs and the Class must show: (1) Agency Defendants intentionally (2) intercepted (3) the 16 17 contents (4) of an electronic communication (5) Plaintiffs and the Class did not 18 consent to the interception (6) the interception was done for the purpose of 19 committing a criminal or tortious act and (7) Plaintiffs suffered damages. 20 437. Agency Defendants have engaged in unauthorized interception and use 21 of electronic communications of Plaintiffs and Class Members by monitoring and 22 capturing Plaintiffs' communications on the OnlyFans platform. This interception 23 included the real-time acquisition of messages, images, and other electronic communications by chatters, which Plaintiffs and Class Members were sending to 24 25 Represented Creators, without Plaintiffs' or Class Members' knowledge or consent, 26 for the purpose of fraudulently soliciting Premium Content Fees. 27 438. The intercepted communications contained sensitive and private 28 information, which Agency Defendants used to gain insights and financial -112-

1	advantage in the form of Premium Content Fees, thereby committing tortious acts
2	including invasion of privacy and fraud.
3	439. Plaintiffs and the class have suffered harm as a result of the Agency
4	Defendants' violations of the Federal Wiretap Act, including loss of privacy,
5	emotional distress, and unauthorized use of their personal information.
6	440. Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to statutory damages, punitive
7	damages, attorneys' fees, and any other relief the Court finds just and proper.
8	COUNT VI
9	BREACH OF CONTRACT (Against OnlyFans Defendants)
10	441. When Fans subscribe to Creator accounts on OnlyFans, they enter into
11	a contractual relationship with the OnlyFans Defendants.
12	442. When a Fan goes to subscribe to a Creator's page, OnlyFans
13	Defendants promise that the Fan will be able to "[d]irect message with this"
14	Creator.
15	443. Plaintiffs and Class Members accepted that promise by subscribing to
16	that Creator, adding a payment card, and, in most cases, paying a monthly fee to
17	OnlyFans for each Creator they subscribe to.
18	444. OnlyFans Defendants breach that contract by failing to provide the
19	promised services: direct messages with the Creators.
20	445. Instead, agencies are running the Creators' accounts and the majority,
21	if not all, of the direct messages Plaintiffs and the Class Members engage in are
22	with chatters.
23	446. Plaintiffs and Class Members also paid Creators tips and for pay-per-
24	view content, believing that under the contract they had with OnlyFans they would
25	be and were speaking directly with the Creators, which OnlyFans knows is not
26	happening, as communications are being handled almost exclusively by the Agency
27	Defendants' contractors, not the Creators.
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1	447. Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered injury in fact, including
2	monetary damages in the form of subscription fees, tips, and pay-per-view content
3	fees they would not have incurred, damages caused by the OnlyFans Defendants'
4	breach of contract.
5	448. Plaintiffs and Class Members may recover all damages associated with
6	this breach in an amount to be proven at trial, including attorneys' fees and costs.
7 8 9	COUNT VII FRAUD & FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT (COMMON LAW) (Against OnlyFans Defendants)
10	A. Fraud
11	449. OnlyFans falsely represented to Plaintiffs and the Class Members that
12	if they subscribed to Creators on the OnlyFans platform they would have "direct,"
13	"1 on 1," and "authentic" communications with those creators. OnlyFans
14	specifically promised Plaintiffs and Class Members they would be able to "direct
15	message with" the Creators.
16	450. These communications and representations were relayed/published to
17	Plaintiffs and the Class Members as outlined in paragraphs 79–90, above.
18	451. OnlyFans made these representations knowing they were false,
19	specifically knowing that most of the communications Plaintiffs and the Class
20	Members engaged in would be with chatters.
21	452. OnlyFans Defendants made these representations to fraudulently
22	induce Plaintiffs and Class Members to use the OnlyFans site and services and
23	increase the amount of Premium Content Fees they purchased.
24	453. Plaintiffs and the Class Members justifiably relied on these
25	representations.
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#### **B.** Fraud by Concealment

454. OnlyFans Defendants knowingly and intentionally concealed and
suppressed the fact that the OnlyFans platform employed practices that facilitated
the Chatter Scams, with the intent to mislead Plaintiffs and the Class.

455. OnlyFans Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to disclose the true nature
of their operations—all of which was in fact known by OnlyFans Defendants—
including the use of chatters to impersonate content Creators, the extent of data
collection and sharing, and the impact on Fan privacy, because Defendants:

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 a. Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Plaintiffs and Class Members; and/or

b. Made incomplete representations about the characteristics of the
OnlyFans platform through its widespread advertising and materials
created by OnlyFans Defendants and provided to Fans, while purposefully
withholding material facts from Plaintiffs that contradicted these
representations.

456. The facts that OnlyFans Defendants misrepresented, omitted, and
concealed were material to Plaintiffs and the Class. A product or service made by a
reputable company that emphasizes direct and authentic communication is worth
more than an otherwise comparable product or service made by a disreputable and
dishonest company that conceals its Chatter Scams.

457. Plaintiffs and the Class reasonably and justifiably relied on OnlyFans
Defendants' concealment of material facts. No reasonable consumer would have
used, paid a premium for, or paid as much in Premium Content Fees had OnlyFans
Defendants revealed the true nature of its Chatter Scams.

458. The truth about OnlyFans Defendants' Chatter Scams was known only
to themselves and was not known by Plaintiffs and the Class, and could not have
been discovered by Plaintiffs and the Class through any reasonable investigation,
since OnlyFans Defendants used sophisticated methods to conceal the truth.

459. Defendants actively concealed and/or suppressed that Plaintiffs and the
 Class would not be exclusively communicating directly with Creators, in whole or
 in part, to pad and protect its profits and to avoid the perception that its services did
 not or could not comply with its promises of direct Creator contact, which
 perception would hurt the brand's image and cost OnlyFans Defendants money, and
 it did so at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Class.

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# C. Plaintiffs and the Class Members were injured.

460. As a result of OnlyFans Defendants' intentional fraud, concealment
and/or suppression of material facts, Plaintiffs and the Class were damaged in that
they paid more for the services than they were worth at the time of use—and
indeed, paid Premium Content Fees based on the promise of direct and authentic
communication that they did not receive.

461. Accordingly, OnlyFans Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the
Class for damages in an amount to be proven at trial, for restitution, and, as a
conscious wrongdoer, for disgorgement of all profits wrongfully obtained as a
result of their wrongful conduct.

462. OnlyFans Defendants' acts and omissions were done wantonly,
maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless
disregard of Plaintiffs' rights and the representations that OnlyFans Defendants
made to them, in order to enrich OnlyFans Defendants. Defendants' conduct
warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such
conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

### COUNT VIII DECEIT, IN VIOLATION OF CAL. CODE §§ 1709 & 1710 (Against OnlyFans Defendants on behalf of California subclass)

463. California Civil Code § 1709 provides that "[o]ne who willfully deceives another with intent to induce him to alter his position to his injury or risk, is liable for any damage which he thereby suffers."

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464. California Civil Code § 1710 defines "deceit" as (1) the suggestion, as
a fact, of that which is not true, by one who does not believe it to be true; (2) the
assertion, as a fact, of that which is not true, by one who has no reasonable ground
for believing it to be true; (3) the suppression of a fact, by one who is bound to
disclose it, or who gives information of other facts which are likely to mislead for
want of communication of that fact; or (4) a promise, made without any intention of
performing it.

8 465. OnlyFans Defendants deceived Plaintiffs by making express
9 statements that by subscribing to a Creator, Plaintiffs would be exclusively "direct
10 messaging" with that Creator.

466. California Civil Code §§ 1709 and 1710 define and prohibit deceitful
practices. Deceit, as defined by these statutes, involves the willful misrepresentation
or concealment of a material fact, with the intent to deceive or mislead another
person, causing harm.

15 467. OnlyFans Defendants, through their actions as described in earlier claims, have willfully misrepresented and concealed material facts regarding the 16 17 nature of the interactions on its platform, particularly the impersonation of Creators by third-party chatters and the true source of the content sold. Such impersonations, 18 19 which almost exclusively make up the communications occurring via direct 20 messaging between Creators represented by the Agency Defendants and their Fans, 21 are not "direct messages." At best, the chatters' messages are indirect and 22 independent messages that are not confidential, not reviewed first (and likely not at 23 all) by the Creator, and the responses are not personal or authentic. Similarly, direct 24 messages to the Creator from a Fan are not private or exclusively direct in the first 25 instance, confidential, or handled by the Creator herself.

468. These misrepresentations and concealments were made with the intent
to deceive Plaintiffs and the Class, and encourage them to engage with the platform
and make purchases based on the misrepresented information.

469. Plaintiffs and the Class relied on these misrepresentations and 1 2 concealments to their detriment, resulting in financial and other damages. 3 470. As a result of these deceitful practices, Plaintiffs and the Class have 4 suffered harm and are entitled to compensatory damages, punitive damages, and 5 any other relief deemed appropriate by the Court. 6 COUNT IX VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S 7 FALSE ADVERTISING LAW (CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500, ET SEQ.) 8 (Against OnlyFans Defendants on behalf of California Subclass) 9 471. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 makes it unlawful for a company to 10 induce the public to enter into an obligation related to personal property with a 11 statement made in advertising, marketing, or publication, including any statement 12 made on the internet, it knows is untrue or misleading, or with the exercise of 13 reasonable care should know is untrue or misleading. 14 472. OnlyFans Defendants caused to be made or disseminated through 15 California and the United States, through advertising, marketing, social media, 16 product labels, and other publications, statements that were untrue or misleading, 17 and which were known, or which, if exercising reasonable care, would have been 18 known to OnlyFans Defendants, to be untrue and misleading to consumers, 19 including to Plaintiffs. 20 473. OnlyFans Defendants violated Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 21 because the misrepresentations that that Plaintiffs and Class Members would be 22 "direct messaging" with the Creators in a personal and authentic way were material 23 and likely to deceive a reasonable consumer. 24 474. OnlyFans Defendants made the misrepresentations with the intent to 25 induce consumers to use their platform and to pay additional amounts for Premium 26 Content Fees. 27 28

1 475. California Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered an injury in 2 fact, including the loss of money or property, because of OnlyFans Defendants' 3 unfair, unlawful, and/or deceptive practices. 4 476. In using OnlyFans, California Plaintiffs and Class Members relied on 5 OnlyFans Defendants' misrepresentations that they would be exclusively direct 6 messaging with the Creators. Had Plaintiffs known this, they would not have used 7 the platform and/or paid as much for the services. 477. All the wrongful conduct alleged occurred, and continues to occur, in 8 the conduct of Defendants' business. Defendants' wrongful conduct is part of a 9

pattern or generalized course of conduct that is ongoing, both in California and
nationwide.
A78 Collifornia Disintiffs in dividually and on hehalf of the Class resume

478. California Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Class, request
that this Court enter such orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to
Plaintiffs any money OnlyFans Defendants acquired by false advertising, via
restitution or disgorgement, and for any other just and proper relief.

#### COUNT X VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW ("UCL") (CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200, *ET SEQ*.)

# (Against OnlyFans Defendants on behalf of California Subclass)

479. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

21 proceeding purugraphs.
22 480. California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
23 § 17200, et seq., proscribes acts of unfair competition, including "any unlawful,
24 unfair or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or
25 misleading advertising."

481. Defendants are "persons" as defined by Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17201.

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1	482. Unlawful Act. Defendants committed unlawful business practices in
2	violation of the UCL, as follows:
3	a. OnlyFans Defendants' conduct constitutes an unlawful business practice
4	because they have violated: the California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal.
5	Penal Code §§ 630 to 638; Deceit under California Civil Code § 1709 et
6	seq.; and California's False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
7	§ 17500, et seq.
8	b. Agency Defendants' conduct constitutes an unlawful business practice
9	because they have violated the California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal.
10	Penal Code §§ 630 to 638.
11	483. Unfair Act. Defendants' conduct constitutes an unfair business
12	practice in violation of the UCL, as follows:
13	a. OnlyFans Defendants' conduct constitutes an unfair business practice in,
14	at a minimum, these ways:
15 16	• By falsely promising to California Plaintiffs and the Class Members that they could and would direct message with the Creators;
17	• By engaging in deceptive and misleading advertising to induce consumers to use their platform; and
18 19	• By not enforcing their policies and terms of service regarding the confidentiality of communications or ensuring the Creators are engaging in direct communications with the Fans.
20	b. Agency Defendants' conduct constitutes an unfair business practice in, at
21	a minimum, these ways:
22	• By using chatters to impersonate the Represented Creators; and
23 24	• By using chatters to facilitate the relationship to further the opportunity to collect (and solicit the purchase of) Premium Content Fees.
25	484. Unfair, Deceptive, Untrue, or Misleading Advertising. OnlyFans
26	Defendants falsely advertised that Fans could connect directly with the Creators,
27 28	with the intent to induce consumers to use their platform.
20	-120-
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485. OnlyFans Defendants knew, or should have known, that these
 representations were false because the majority, if not all, of the direct messages
 were not with Creators but chatters.

4 486. OnlyFans Defendants' misrepresentations caused California Plaintiffs
5 and Class Members to use the platform or pay more for its services. Absent those
6 misrepresentations, Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have used the platform
7 and/or paid as much for the services.

8 487. All the wrongful conduct alleged occurred, and continues to occur, in9 the conduct of Defendants' business.

488. California Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered injury in fact,
including lost money and undesirable service, as a result of Defendants'
misrepresentations.

489. Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Class, request that this
Court enter such orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to California
Plaintiffs and members of the Class via restitution or disgorgement, any monies
Defendants acquired by unfair competition, as provided by Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
§ 17203; and for such other relief as may be just and proper.

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# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and for members of the Class,
respectfully request that the Court enter judgment in their favor and against
Defendants, as follows:

A. Certification of the proposed Class, including appointment of
Plaintiffs' counsel as Class Counsel and Plaintiffs as Class Representatives;

B. An order temporarily and permanently enjoining Defendants from
continuing the unlawful, deceptive, fraudulent, and unfair business practices alleged
in this Complaint, including its representations that the OnlyFans platform provides
"direct," "personal," or "authentic" communication with Creators—or any other
language suggesting the same;

<ul> <li>C. Costs, restitution, damages, and/or disgorgement, each in an amount</li> <li>be determined;</li> <li>D. Punitive damages;</li> <li>E. Pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded;</li> <li>F. Treble damages as provided by 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c);</li> <li>G. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and</li> <li>H. Such other or further relief as may be appropriate.</li> <li><b>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</b></li> <li>Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.</li> </ul>	
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<ul> <li>H. Such other or further relief as may be appropriate.</li> <li>BEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</li> <li>Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>8 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</li> <li>9 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.</li> <li>10</li> </ul>	
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11       DATED: July 29, 2024         HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO L	LP
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