UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MCALLEN DIVISION

Noelia Silva, : Civil Action No.: 7:22-cv-53

Plaintiff,

v.

follows:

ARC Management Group, LLC,

COMPLAINT

JURY

Defendant.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Noelia Silva, by undersigned counsel, states as

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of the Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA") in its illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff, Noelia Silva ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Edinburg, Texas, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. The Defendant, ARC Management Group, LLC ("ARC"), is a Georgia business entity with an address of 1825 Barrett Lakes Boulevard, Suite 505, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144,

operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 6. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 7. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 8. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to ARC for collection, or ARC was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 9. The Defendant attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. ARC Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 10. On or about December 20, 2021, ARC called Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt and left a voicemail message ("The Voicemail").
- 11. The Voicemail identified the business name "ARC Management Group" which indicates that the caller is in the business of collecting debts.
- 12. The Voicemail identified that the call was regarding a "personal business matter," which is information outside the scope of required and permissible content in a limited content message per CFPB Regulation F.
- 13. In The Voicemail, ARC failed to advise Plaintiff that the communication was from a debt collector, as required for messages that fall outside the scope of a limited content message.

14. The Voicemail caused Plaintiff a significant amount of confusion and distress.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 15. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendant's unlawful conduct.
- 16. As a direct consequence of the Defendant's acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear and frustration.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 17. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 18. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendant engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 19. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendant used false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 20. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendant employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
- 21. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) in that Defendant failed to inform the consumer that the communication was an attempt to collect a debt.
- 22. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendant used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 23. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

24. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the

Defendant:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendant;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendant;
- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§ 1692k(a)(3) against the Defendant;
- 4. Actual damages from the Defendant for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff; and
- 5. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: February 16, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Jody B. Burton

Jody B. Burton, Esq. CT Bar # 422773 LEMBERG LAW, L.L.C. 43 Danbury Road, 3rd Floor Wilton, CT 06897

Telephone: (203) 653-2250 Facsimile: (203) 653-3424

E-mail: jburton@lemberglaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff