

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CONSUMER PROTECTION SEATTLE

Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a Delaware corporation,

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NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA

Petitioner,

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DECLARATION OF LORI ANN CHADSEY

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et

Respondents.

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I, Lori Ann Chadsey, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington, that the following is true and correct:

- 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration.
- 2. I reside at Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99202.
- 3. In October 2005 I rented a washer and dryer, and in September 2006 I rented a living room set from Rent-A-Center in Bellingham, Washington.
- 4. I filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy on November 13, 2007. I notified Rent-A-Center that I had filed bankruptcy. Rent-A-Center employees told me they would continue to call me and my references until I paid them or they received written notice of the bankruptcy.
- 5. For two weeks after I filed bankruptcy, Rent-A-Center employees harassed me with numerous calls to my home, my place of employment and to my references. The person who called most frequently said his name was Jeff and he was the manager at the Bellingham

Rent-A-Center. Some of the employees stated that bankruptcy law does not apply to Rent-A-Center.

- 6. I asked Rent-A-Center employees not to call me at work. Despite having my direct phone number in the equipment office at Construction, the Rent-A-Center employees called the administrative office of Construction and talked to three different employees in that office about their attempts to contact me. Steve the dispatcher for Construction, received one of the calls from a Rent-A-Center employee. Mr. passed along a message to me from Rent-A-Center that I needed to contact them to get the matter taken care of. As a result of Rent-A-Center's calls to the administrative office at Construction, I had to tell co-workers that I had filed bankruptcy.
- 7. Rent-A-Center employees left so many messages on my cell phone voice mail that I could no longer receive other messages. I had planned to save the messages as evidence of harassment. The messages from the employees were rude and nasty, and they stated they would continue to call me until I paid Rent-A-Center.
- 8. Rent-A-Center employees called my references Patty and Carmen every day in the weeks after I filed bankruptcy. I complained to Rent-A-Center employees and asked them to stop calling my references. One of the employees told me they would keep calling my references until I paid them. As a result of Rent-A-Center's calls to my references, I had to tell my friends that I had filed bankruptcy.
- 9. Rent-A-Center employees called me a thief and accused me of stealing. Jeff left several messages on my cell phone in which he accused me of stealing and threatened that if I

LORI ANN CHADSEY

1	did not come to the store by that night, he would be going to the police to file criminal theft
2	charges against me and I would be arrested.
3	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
4	foregoing is true and correct.
5	Signed this 23 day of March, 2009 in Spokane, Washington.
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7	LORI ANN CHADSEY
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1	PROOF OF SERVICE
2	I certify that I served a copy of this document on all parties or their counsel of record
3	on the date below as follows:
4	US Mail Postage Prepaid via Consolidated Mail Service
5 6	ABC/Legal Messenger: State Campus Delivery
7	Sent by e-mail:
8	e-mail: and
9	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the
10	foregoing is true and correct.
11 12	DATED this day of, 2009 at Seattle, Washington.
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was trying to reach Robin and she had named me as a reference. The phone number Sean left in the messages was 253 I didn't return Sean's calls as I was no longer in contact with Robin I had e-mailed Robin at her e-mail address but she did not return the e-mail message. I also tried to call Robin, but the number had been disconnected.

- 4. On a day that I was away from work to attend a funeral, my phone rang and it was Sean from Rent-A-Center. He said he was calling as he had been trying to reach Robin I told Sean I had received his previous messages but had not called him as I was no longer in contact with Robin and the phone number I had for Robin was now disconnected. I asked Sean to stop calling me. Sean said he would stop the calls.
- 5. A day or two after he said he would stop the calls, he started calling me again. Sean or another Rent-A-Center employee were calling me three or four times a day leaving messages that I needed to call them back as they were trying to reach Robin and I called the Rent-A-Center phone number and asked to speak to Sean. The man who answered at Rent-A-Center said Sean was not available. I believe he said his name was Justin. I told Justin that I was still receiving numerous messages from Sean after I had told him I was no longer in contact with the person they were trying to reach and he had promised to stop calling me. I told Justin I was tired of getting these messages and asked him to give Sean the message to stop calling me. Justin said he would give Sean the message.
- 6. The calls from Rent-A-Center stopped for a day or two, and then I started receiving messages from a Rent-A-Center employee who said his name was Matt. Matt stated in the messages he was trying to reach Robin and I needed to call him back as I was named as a reference for Robin. I was on an afternoon break at work and my cell phone was on as I was checking messages. The phone rang and it was Matt from Rent-A-Center. I told Matt I was really tired of getting calls from Rent-A-Center employees after I had already told them several times I was no longer in contact with Robin and I had no way of reaching her. I asked Matt to take me off their calling list. Matt said he would have my name taken off

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work my phone rang and it was Matt from Rent-A-Center again calling me after he had told me only a few hours earlier that he would stop the calls. I was really angry that I had to deal with the Rent-A-Center calls again. I reminded Matt that afternoon he had told me he would take me off their calling list and stop calling me. Matt was nasty in his response to me. I asked to speak to his supervisor. He told me he was the supervisor. I again asked him to take me off their calling list and to stop the calls. Matt asked for my phone number. I refused to give Matt my phone number and told him they must have the number because they have been calling me so often.

the calling list and would stop calling me. That evening at about 6:30 after I got home from

- 7. Matt continued to call me and leave messages. I estimate that Rent-A-Center employees called me at least 30 times despite my numerous requests that they take me off their calling list as I was no longer working with Robin and had no way of contacting her. The employees called me multiple times per day. I felt like they were harassing me.
- 8. I found it very troubling that Rent-A-Center employees somehow obtained my elderly in-laws' home phone number and called their home asking for me. My in-laws were scared by the calls as they had no idea why the employees were calling them. My husband answered one of the calls when he was at my in-laws' house. He demanded that Rent-A-Center employees stop calling his parents. I called the phone number I had for Rent-A-Center and asked how they had obtained my in-laws' phone number. The employee I talked to did not tell me how they obtained it. I told them they needed to stop calling my in-laws as they are elderly and have nothing to do with this issue.
- 9. I filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau and called the Rent-A-Center corporate headquarters to complain about the continuous harassing calls from Rent-A-Center employees. I talked with a district manager from Rent-A-Center about what was occurring and I asked him how Rent-A-Center obtained my in-laws' phone number. He said

1	they had no records that indicated my in-laws had been called. The calls finally stopped after I
2	filed the complaint.
3	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
4	foregoing is true and correct.
5	Signed this <u>May</u> day of May, 2009 in Tacoma, Washington.
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7	Sylvia Carr SYLVIA CARR
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1 Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a 9 Delaware corporation, NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA 10 Petitioner, **DECLARATION OF** 11 MARK PATRICK v. 12 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et. 13 Respondents. 14 I, Mark Patrick, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of 15 Washington, that the following is true and correct: 16 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration. 17 I reside at Street, College Place, Washington 99324. 2. 18 3. In the spring of 2008, I rented a big screen television from the Rent-A-Center 19 store in Walla Walla. 20 4. If I was late with the payment, Rent-A-Center employees called me on my cell 21 and home phone numbers several times per day. The employees called minutes apart from 22 four or five different phone numbers, including cell phone numbers. They often left phone 23 messages with profanity. The Rent-A-Center employees used profanity in at least half of the 24 phone calls and messages. One of the employees who called often was named Junior. 25 26

- 5. Rent-A-Center employees called my references when I was only a few days late on the payment. They also called references who were listed on my late mother's contract about my payment. I complained to the store employees they should not be calling people listed on my mother's contract about my account.
- 6. In the summer of 2008, my wife was hospitalized in Walla Walla and had to be transferred to a Spokane hospital for surgery. I called the Rent-A-Center store to explain I would be late in making the payment as I would be in Spokane with my wife. The person I talked to said that was no problem and to come in to make the payment when I returned. We were in Spokane for at least two weeks because my wife's doctor wanted her to stay in Spokane while she recovered. Rent-A-Center employees continued to call on our home and cell numbers several times a day while I was with my wife.
- 7. When we returned home, our neighbor told me that a man from Rent-A-Center had been at our house and appeared to be trying to kick down the door. The door frame was split from the door handle and there were shoe marks on the door where it had been kicked. The door had to be replaced.
- 8. I called the Rent-A-Center store to complain about their employee trying to kick in our door and damaging it. The employee responded that's what we get for not turning in their property. I told them they are not allowed to damage my property. The employee said they can do what they want to get their property back.
- 9. I went to the Rent-A-Center store to talk to the manager. I told him about the damage his employee caused to my door and asked him to pay for the door to be replaced. The manager denied that his employee had kicked our door and refused to pay for the replacement. I told him my neighbor saw it happen. I told the manager they could come to pick up the TV and I was not making any more payments. He said I had to pay all of the late fees. I told him I was not paying the late fees when their employee kicked and damaged our door. Two employees picked up the TV the next day.

1	10. I complained to the corporate office about Rent-A-Center's profane calls and
2	the damage caused by their employee kicking my door. Someone from that office called me
3	back and said these are not normal practices for their employees and asked if I had any proof. I
4	told him my neighbor saw the employee kicking the door, and I still had several profane
5	messages on my cell phone. He suggested that I have my phone carrier transfer the messages
6	to Rent-A-Center. I called Sprint to ask them to transfer the messages but the representative
7	said they could not do that.
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9	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
10	foregoing is true and correct.
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12	Signed this day of, 2009 in College Place, Washington.
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15	MARK PATRICK
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1 Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a 9 Delaware corporation, NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA 10 Petitioner, **DECLARATION OF** 11 CAROL L. HAMMONS 12 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et 13 Respondents. 14 I, Carol L. Hammons, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of 15 Washington, that the following is true and correct: 16 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration. 17 2. I reside at Place SE #A, Everett, Washington 98208. 18 In August 2006, I signed a contract to buy a sectional sofa with two recliners 3. 19 and a hide-a-bed from the Rent-A-Center store in Everett. The Rent-A-Center store delayed in 20 delivering the sofa to my apartment. When the sofa was finally delivered, the fabric was torn, 21 a foot was bent, and the recliner didn't work. I reported the problems with the sofas to the 22 Rent-A-Center store on August 16, 2006. 23 On August 23, 2006, I received a call at 10:00 pm from a male Rent-A-Center 4. 24 employee who told me he would be at my residence the next morning to make the repair. I 25 told him I would not be at home at that time. He asked if I could have my neighbor let him 26

into the apartment to do the repair. I thought it was unprofessional of a Rent-A-Center employee to call me so late at night and then expect me to allow my neighbor to let him in the apartment.

- 5. In late August 2006, I called the Rent-A-Center 800 number that I found on the website to complain about the sofas. I received no call back or correspondence from Rent-A-Center about my complaint. I complained to the Rent-A-Center store employees when I went in to make my payments, but the manager refused to talk to me about my complaint. The sofas were never repaired and I received no refund or credit from Rent-A-Center.
- 6. On October 21, 2006, I was at an all-day training event. My eleven year old autistic daughter was at home with two neighbor girls who were babysitting her. Rent-A-Center employees came to my apartment three times that day and harassed my daughter and babysitters. The new Everett manager, Seetin, was one of the employees who came to my apartment that day.
- 7. My babysitter said the Rent-A-Center employees told them I would be put in jail for theft if the sofas were not returned to them. The babysitter called me while I was at training and told me the Rent-A-Center employees were scaring them as they had come to the apartment three times that day and they refused to leave. I told the babysitter to tell the employees to leave immediately and if they did not leave to call the police. My daughter and the babysitters were very scared and upset by the Rent-A-Center employees' behavior.
- 8. On October 23, 2006 after a long day of classes and dealing with health-related issues, my daughter and I returned home at 8:00 p.m. There was a knock on my door and a Rent-A-Center employee demanded that the sofas be returned. I told her I wanted to speak to Thomas, one of the managers, as he and I had discussed an arrangement for Rent-A-Center to make repairs to the sofas. The employee instead called Seetin to come over. They claimed I was on a month-to-month rental and I had not paid for the sofas. I actually had a weekly rental

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and I told them I had been paying for the time the sofas had not been repaired and had worked out an arrangement with Thomas. Seetin ignored what I was saying.

- 9. A neighbor called me to ask why there were two police cars and a Rent-A-Center vehicle outside the apartment. I told Seetin to take the sofas.
- 10. My neighbor was also a Rent-A-Center customer. She told me that Seetin divulged my personal financial information to her. Seetin told Mika I had never made a payment for the sofas and he didn't know why they rented to me because I write bad checks. I had never paid Rent-A-Center by check. I made the payments to Rent-A-Center only in cash. It was embarrassing to me that Seetin was making claims about my personal financial information to others.

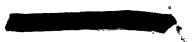
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this 2 day of April , 2009 in Everett, Washington.

DECLARATION OF CAROL L. HAMMONS

1	PROOF OF SERVICE		
2	I certify that I served a copy of this document on all parties or their counsel of record		
3	on the date below as follows:		
4	US Mail Postage Prepaid via Consolidated Mail Service		
5 6	ABC/Legal Messenger: State Campus Delivery		
7	Sent by e-mail:		
8	e-mail: and		
9	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the		
11	foregoing is true and correct.		
12	DATED this day of, 2009 at Seattle, Washington.		
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1 Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a 9 Delaware corporation, NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA 10 Petitioner, 11 TAMMY HAASE 12 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et 13 Respondents. 14 I, Tammy Haase, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of 15 Washington, that the following is true and correct: 16 I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration. 17 2. I reside at Road, Lynnwood, Washington 98087. 18 3. In the spring of 2007, my husband Philip rented a living room set from Rent-A-19 Center in Lynnwood, Washington. He always made the rental payments either in advance, on 20 or a few days after the due date. If he was not able to make it to the Rent-A-Center store in 21 Lynnwood to make the payment on the due date he would call the store manager Chad to let 22 him know he would be in the next day to make the payment. 23 4. Despite Philip's calls to Chad, as soon as the payment was late Rent-A-Center 24 employees would start repeatedly calling our house. They would also call Philip at work 25



where he is the Finance Director for the dealership. He had told them not to call him at work. The Rent-A-Center employees would call an average of six times throughout the day.

- 5. As soon as the payment was late, Rent-A-Center employees would come to cur house. It was usually a group of three large men driving a Rent-A-Center truck. If I saw them coming to our house and Philip was not at home I would close the automatic driveway gate. The men would then open the manual gate and walk to the house to ask me when the payment would be made.
- 6. On Sunday October 18, 2008, the rental payment to Rent-A-Center was two days late. Philip had just left for work. Two women came to our house and started pounding aggressively and continuously on the front door. One of the women identified herself as Christine from Rent-A-Center. I was home with our three children, two girls who are 18 and 16, and our 15 year old son. We were afraid to open the door. I told Christine that Philip was on his way to work and to stop pounding on the door. Christine yelled that we had stolen furniture and we needed to give her the furniture immediately. I asked Christine if she had a court order to take the furniture. She responded that she did have a court order. I asked her to slip the court order under the door so I could read it. She gave us no paperwork. Christine screamed that we are "ghetto trash" because we are people who gent our furniture instead of buying it. I told Christine that if she did not leave immediately I would call the police. She then screamed several vulgar names at me. My daughter recorded the incident on her cell phone.
- 7. My husband complained to Chad, the Lynnwood store manager, and to Jessie, the district manager for Rent-A-Center about Christine's actions. He was informed the woman who came to our house with Christine was a new employee who was being trained by Christine





in collection practices. We were appalled to learn that this is how Rent-A-Center employees are trained to collect payments. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed this 31 day of March, 2009 in Lynnwood, Washington.

DECLARATION OF TAMMY HAASE

1	PROOF OF SERVICE
2	I certify that I served a copy of this document on all parties or their counsel of record.
3	on the date below as follows:
4 5	US Mail Postage Prepaid via Consolidated Mail Service
6	ABC/Legal Messenger: State Campus Delivery
7	Sent by e-mail:
8	e-mail: and .
9 10	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the
11	foregoing is true and correct.
12	DATED this 3 day of March, 2009 at Seattle, Washington.
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14	Tammy Haase
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1 Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a 9 Delaware corporation, NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA 10 Petitioner, **DECLARATION OF** 11 ٧. KAREN LYONS 12 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et 13 Respondents. 14 I, Karen Lyons, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of 15 Washington, that the following is true and correct: 16 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration. 17 2. I reside at Hwy #826, Federal Way, Washington 98003. 18 I started renting items from the Rent-A-Center store on Martin Luther King 3. 19 Way in Seattle in 2004. In December 2005, the manager of the store combined the items into a 20 set so I could make one payment. The set included a living room couch and loveseat, an 21 entertainment center, a 56" television, a youth bed and a full-size bedroom furniture set. 22 I moved to Federal Way in July 2006 so my Rent-A-Center account was moved 23 to the Federal Way store. I made all my payments on the contract. If I was late with the 24 payment I paid the late fee. I didn't have too much trouble with the Federal Way manager and 25 staff until I lost my job in late 2006. I fell behind on the payment and Rent-A-Center staff 26

called me three or four times per day to tell me the payment was late. I borrowed money from my mother and other family members to make the payments because I was committed to paying off the contract. By late 2006 I had been making the payments for two years and I had about two years remaining until the contract was paid off. Dan, the manager at the Federal Way store told me the contract was not written correctly and the payment was too low. I told him that was not my fault as it had been written by the manager at the Martin Luther King Way store. Dan told me he would have to write up a new contract and I would have to start over with payments. I was not willing to do that after paying on that contract for two years.

- 5. I had been treated well by the Rent-A-Center staff on Martin Luther King Way. They were willing to work with me and did not threaten or harass me. Dan, the manager at the Federal Way store, and his employees were rude, disrespectful and threatening. They did not communicate with each other. If I contacted the store and left a message, the information was not noted on my account and the other employees claimed to have no notice that I had called.
- 6. I dealt with many instances of the Federal Way manager and employees' threatening and disrespectful treatment. One afternoon I returned home from work at about 3:00 pm and some neighbors were laughing at me and said I was in trouble. When I got to my apartment, I found at least 10 stickers from Rent-A-Center all over my door. I had been at work for four or five hours. I was embarrassed and called the store manager to complain.
- 7. In November 2006, I was late with a payment. I thought my daughter had made the payment, but she did not. A Rent-A-Center store employee called me. I told him I had half of the payment but I needed to go to the bank to cash a check so I could make the rest of the payment. I told him I would be in the store the next day to make the full payment.
- 8. The next day at about 10:00 a.m., someone started banging on my apartment door. I opened the door and saw that it was a woman from Rent-A-Center. She is an African American woman and I believe she was the only African American woman working at the Federal Way Rent-A-Center at that time. I had my grandsons with me. The baby was sleeping

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and the six year old was standing next to me. My brother was also at my apartment and he heard everything that was said. The woman said I needed to make the full payment immediately or they were taking the furniture that day. I told her I had already informed the store I had half of the payment and just needed to get to the bank to cash my check to have the rest of the payment and I would be making the full payment at the store that day. I offered to give her half of the payment immediately. She refused to accept it. The woman again told me I had to make the full payment immediately or they were going to take the furniture. I asked why she was putting me through this hassle. I told her I would not allow her to come into my apartment and I wasn't giving them the furniture after I had been paying on the contract for three years and I was close to paying it off. I told her again that I would be taking the payment to the store that day as soon as I could get to the bank. My brother told me to close the door. I tried to close the door and the woman stuffed her foot in the door and tried to push it open.

- 9. The woman told me they had to take the furniture or else they were calling the police. I asked why she was calling the police. She then said they were calling the police and I would be going to jail and the police would have to take my children to CPS. She asked why I would want my kids to go to CPS over something so petty. The woman said this could all be avoided if I let them take the furniture. I was appalled and upset with her threats. My grandson started crying. I told the woman to go ahead and call the police, but I was not letting her into my apartment. My brother took my grandson into another room to try to calm him down.
- 10. A male Rent-A-Center employee who was with the woman then called the Federal Way store on his cell phone. He told me I should speak to someone at the store. I told the person at the store their employee was way out of line with her threats and no one from their store had ever been that physical with me. He asked me when I would be in to make the payment. I told him I had to ride the bus to Wal-Mart to cash my check then I would have the

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full payment and could bring it to the store. He asked what time I would be at the store with the money. I told him I didn't know for sure because I had to ride the bus. He demanded a time so I told him I should be there in an hour. He told me if I had not made my payment in one hour, they would be back to pick up the furniture. I told him I was not giving up this furniture after all the years I had made payments.

- 11. My grandson was so upset by this incident that he didn't want to come visit me for several weeks because he was afraid the police would take him to jail.
- 12. The Federal Way Rent-A-Center employees seemed to get more aggressive in trying to take the furniture from me as I got closer to paying off the contract. I had worked too hard and struggled for so many years to make that payment that I did not want to lose the furniture or start over on the contract. I finally paid off the contract in early 2009.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this 26 day of June, 2009 in Federal Way, Washington.

KARENLYONS

1 Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a 9 Delaware corporation, NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA 10 Petitioner, **DECLARATION OF** 11 ν. **BRANDY COLEMAN** 12 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et 13 Respondents. 14 I, Brandy Coleman, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of 15 Washington, that the following is true and correct: 16 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration. 17 2. I reside at Road, Bremerton, Washington 98312. 18 3. In March 2006, my mother and I rented a television and 19 surround sound stereo/home theater from the Rent-A-Center store in Bremerton. The Rent-A-20 Center employees said the television was new, but I found out after we rented that it was used. 21 With semi-monthly payments of \$86.58, the purchase price of this used television was 22 \$6,412.50. I also rented a computer from this store in June 2007. The rental contracts for the 23 television and computer are attached. 24 25 26

- 4. I did not understand the contract terms as they were not explained to us as the contract was written. Debbie, the Bremerton store manager, and I disagreed on what I owed on the contracts.
- 5. After I paid approximately \$2,000 on the television rental contract, the television was picked up from my home by Rent-A-Center employees when I was six days late on a payment.
- 6. Debbie, the manager of the Bremerton store called and asked my mother and me to come back to the store as she did not want to lose our business. Debbie told us we could purchase the television for \$3,700 and she would credit our account for the \$2,000 we had already paid on the television. We re-rented the television in September 2007. A copy of the second contract is attached.
- 7. Rent-A-Center did not credit us for any payments we had already made on this television. We had to start the payments all over even though we had already paid \$2,000 on this television. The employees continually harassed us for payment after I thought the television had been paid for. Debbie insisted I still owed money on the television and that I had to return the television or pay for it in full at the \$3,700.00 price. I asked Debbie and other Rent-A-Center employees for print-outs of what I had paid on the television, but they refused to provide this to me.
- 8. I was out of town November 5 to December 10, 2007. Before I left, I notified Debbie at Rent-A-Center that I would be gone. I arranged for the friend who was staying at my house to make the payments to Rent-A-Center. My friend reported to me that he made the payments on the specified due dates, but Rent-A-Center employees called the house on a regular basis and came to the house two to four times per week, knocked on the door and harassed him for payment. While I was out of town, Rent-A-Center employees left over 50 messages on my phone message system.

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- 9. In December 2007, my mother had a heart attack and was hospitalized. Less than 24 hours after she returned home from the hospital, Debbie and another Rent-A-Center employee drove to our house in a personal vehicle. My mother and son were at home. One person went to the front door and continuously rang the doorbell while the other went to the window and shouted obscenities. The Rent-A-Center employees shouted for them to come outside and yelled, do you "want to go to jail over this?" The Rent-A-Center employees know my mother has a heart condition. My mother and son were very scared by this incident.
- 10. Debbie filed a report of stolen merchandise against me with the Bremerton Police. The police told me they were dropping the case as there was nothing they could do about it.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this <u>loth</u> day of June, 2009 in Bremerton, Washington.

Skuldf Willmo BRANDY COLEMAN

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CONSUMER PROTECTION SEATTLE

Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a
Delaware corporation,

Petitioner

V.

DECLARATION OF
LISA FOBIAN

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et
al.,

Respondents.

I, Lisa Fobian, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington, that the following is true and correct:

- 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration.
- 2. I reside at Drive SE, Snohomish, Washington 98296.
- 3. In March 2006, my husband Kent and I rented a washer and dryer from the Everett Rent-A-Center. In November 2006, we rented a living room set. The Rent-A-Center staff asked for Kent's work phone number for the contracts. We provided the phone number, but informed Rent-A-Center staff that Kent could not take calls at work.
- 4. The Everett Rent-A-Center was initially flexible in working with us on our rental payment date. If we were going to be a day or two late on the payment, I would call to let them know when my payment would be made. When a new manager was hired at the Everett store, he insisted the payment had to be made on the due date and if I could not pay

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that day they would come to our home to pick up the items and we could re-rent them when we were ready to make the payment. If the payment was late, the Rent-A-Center employees called us continuously at home and at Kent's work. We sometimes received up to twelve phone calls from Rent-A-Center employees in a day. Kent repeatedly reminded employees from Rent-A-Center who called him at work that he could not take calls at work. The employees continued to call him at work.

- 5. The treatment our family has endured from the Rent-A-Center staff has caused us a great deal of stress. The employees have called me derogatory names including deadbeat, liar and thief and they have told me they will press criminal charges against me for stealing.
- 6. In December 2006, my mother frented a sofa set and dining room set on her own account at the Everett Rent-A-Center. She kept these items at our house as she was living with us at the time. Without authorization, Rent-A-Center charged our rental payment to my mother's bank account causing her to have a negative balance. When my mother called to complain, the Rent-A-Center employee called her a "crazy bitch" and insisted my mother had called the store to authorize the withdrawal. It took the store 72 hours to restore the funds to her account.
- 7. In January and February 2007, Kent was unable to work as he had bronchitis. After he recovered, Kent had difficulty finding work and we were evicted from the rental house in Everett. We had to move in March 2007 so we asked Rent-A-Center to pick up the items. About two weeks later, we re-rented a less expensive washer and dryer, a refrigerator and the living room set from Rent-A-Center.
- 8. In June 2007, I went to the Everett Rent-A-Center store to make a payment. The manager told me he would not take my payment and they would be sending a truck to our house to pick up all of the items. I felt he was being unreasonable. I called the Everett Police Department as I was angry and frustrated trying to deal with the manager. When the police officer arrived the Everett manager claimed that I was harassing him and he had told me to

leave the store. The police officer told me I would be arrested if I didn't leave the store as directed.

- 9. I complained to the Rent-A-Center regional manager. He told me to go to the Lynnwood store to make my payment. When I arrived at the Lynnwood store, the manager refused to accept my payment. Apparently, the manager at the Everett store had called him to warn him not to accept my payment. I called the regional manager again and he instructed the Lynnwood manager to accept my payment and have the account transferred to the Lynnwood store.
- 10. In addition to making repeated phone calls to our house and to Kent's work, Rent-A-Center employees would drive a truck to our house and two men from the store would come to the door to ask for payment. They would make several visits per day to our house. If my husband was not at home, I would not let the men in the house because I was afraid of them. The men would often yell outside the door that they knew I was inside.
- 11. On one of the visits by Rent-A-Center employees, the men knocked on my door and told me they knew I was in the house. When I didn't answer the door, I heard one of the men walking around the outside of the house apparently to look in the windows. I was very frightened that this man was walking around my house.
- 12. The Rent-A-Center employees have come to our house when Kent and I were at work and our teenage children were home alone. The employees asked my children where their parents were and when we would be making a payment. My children were intimidated by these visits.
- 13. An employee from the Lynnwood Rent-A-Center store called our house and my fifteen-year old son Patrick answered the phone. The woman threatened that if his mother did not contact the store within three days they would take legal action against her because she doesn't keep her word. Patrick was terrified that a police officer would be coming to the house to arrest me.

(206) 464-7745

- In October 2007, the Lynnwood store withdrew a rental payment of \$93.90 14. from my checking account using my debit card account number without my authorization. The withdrawal caused me to incur about \$100.00 in NSF charges and late fees on my rent. When I called Chad, the Lynnwood manager to complain, he accused me of having no intention of making the payment.
- The Rent-A-Center employees called Kent repeatedly at work if our payment 15. was late, despite that we informed them he can receive no calls on his work phone. Kent was School. He carried his cell phone working as the IT Administrator at and answered all calls as he had to be accessible to school employees. Kent's supervisor asked him about the Rent-A-Center calls and told him he needed to get a handle on it as he should not be called at work. Rent-A-Center employees continued to call him at his work number. In January 2008 the school was bought by new owners. While he was in a meeting with the new owners to discuss if they should keep him on staff, an employee from the Lynnwood Rent-A-Center called Kent. She was very aggressive in the call. Kent told her he could not talk to her and hung up. She called him back immediately. Kent told her again he could not talk and to call me at our home number. The next day, the new owners of the school gave Kent a twoweek termination notice. We believe it was the calls from Rent-A-Center that caused Kent to lose his job.
- I called the Rent-A-Center corporate customer service office to complain about 16. the company's aggressive collection practices.

1	A representative from that office informed me that Rent-A-Center doesn't have to comply with
2	the Fair Debt Collection Act as they own the merchandise.
3	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
4	foregoing is true and correct.
5	Signed this 27 day of April, 2009 in Snohomish, Washington.
6	Lisa K. Japian
7	LISA FOBIAN
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1	PROOF OF SERVICE		
2	I certify that I served a copy of this document on all parties or their counsel of record		
3	on the date below as follows:		
4	US Mail Postage Prepaid via Consolidated Mail Service		
5	ABC/Legal Messenger: State Campus Delivery		
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8	Sent by e-mail: e-mail: and		
9			
10	I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the		
11	foregoing is true and correct.		
12	DATED this 27 day of Opil, 2009 at Seattle, Washington.		
13	DATED this <u>27</u> day of <u>April</u> , 2009 at Seattle, Washington.		
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1		Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale	
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6	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING		
7	RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a	l ·	
8	Delaware corporation,	NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA	
9	Petitioner,	DECLARATION OF	
10	V.	DIANNA VANDUSEN	
11	THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,		
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13	Respondents.		
14	I, Dianna Vandusen, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state o		
15	Washington, that the following is true and correct:		
16	1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration.		
17	2. I reside at Drive, Lakewood, Washington 98498.		
18	3. I have rented several items from Rent-A-Center in the past ten years, including		
19	two kids' bunk beds, couches, three washer and dryer sets, televisions and stereos. While I had		
20	many problems with Rent-A-Center's damaged items and collection practices, I rented from		
21	them because I can't qualify for credit to buy these items.		
22	4. I had trouble keeping up with the rental payments after a car accident in January		
23	2007 and my house cleaning and tanning businesses started failing. If my payment was a day		
24	late Rent-A-Center employees would call numerous times per day on my cell phone, at my		
25	home and at my businesses. The employees	usually blocked the phone numbers so I wouldn't	
26	know they were calls from Rent-A-Center.		
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1 Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdale 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 RENT-A-CENTER WEST, INC., a 9 Delaware corporation, NO. 08-2-32502-4SEA 10 Petitioner, DECLARATION OF 11 DORIAN MCDADE ٧. 12 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al., 13 Respondents. 14 I, Dorian McDade, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of 15 Washington, that the following is true and correct: 16 1. I am over 18 years of age and otherwise competent to make this declaration. 17 2. Seattle, Washington 98118. 18 3. In March 2008, I had surgery on my knee. I rented a reclining bed from the 19 Rent-A-Center store on Martin Luther King Way. I thought a reclining bed would be more 20 comfortable while I recovered from the surgery. 21 Rent-A-Center delayed in delivering the bed and when it was finally delivered 22 the bed did not have all of the parts. I talked to one of the store managers about the delay and 23 he told me they would change the payment date to compensate for the delay in delivering and 24 setting up the bed. Apparently, the change was not made to my account at the store and Rent-25 26

A-Center employees started calling me when I had not made a payment on the original payment date.

- 5. Rent-A-Center employees called me at home, on my cell phone and at work. They also came to my house and told me they were there to pick up the bed because I was late on the payment. I told them I was not late on the payment because their payment schedule was mixed up as it had not been changed as the manager promised.
- 6. In 2008 I was working as the night auditor at Hotel in downtown Seattle. After I had surgery, I was recovering at home. Micah, a co-worker, called me at home. He told me "the cops are looking for you." Micah said an officer from the King County Police had called the hotel to talk to me about a Rent-A-Center account. I asked if he was joking. Micah said no, someone from the King County Police had called and I better call him back. He gave me the telephone number.
- 7. I was very concerned about hotel management hearing that someone claiming to be with King County Police was calling me at work. As an auditor, I was responsible for handling money at the hotel and the managers would obviously be concerned if they thought the police were calling me.
- 8. I called the phone number and a man from Rent-A-Center answered. I told the man that someone left that phone number at my work and said he was with the King County Police and I was supposed to call about my Rent-A-Center account. The man denied that he had called the hotel.
- 9. I called the telephone number a second time and a woman from Rent-A-Center answered. I told the woman a man from Rent-A-Center had called the hotel where I work and claimed to be a police officer with King County Police. I told the woman I would be filing a complaint with the police department about this call. The woman responded that is not how they handle business and apologized for the call. She said she hoped I would not file a complaint with the police.

- Officers Ball at the hotel. I told her about the call from a Rent-A-Center manager impersonating a police officer. The police officer said I should come to their office to file a complaint as it was a crime for someone to impersonate a police officer. It was difficult for me to get to the police department while I was recovering from the surgery so I did not file the report.
- 11. I complained to a Rent-A-Center district manager about the call. The manager offered to resolve my complaint by discounting the price of the bed and pushing my payments back a month or two. He also told me they would stop all collection calls.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this $\sqrt{\chi}$ day of $\sqrt{2009}$ in Seattle, Washington.

DORIAN MCDADE