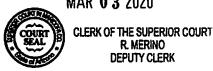
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

STATE OF ARIZONA, ex rel. MARK 14 BRNOVICH, Attorney General, 15 Plaintiff, 16 VS. VALLEY DELIVERY LLC; MY HOME 17 SERVICES LLC; NEXT DAY DELIVERY 18 LLC; NEXT DAY HOLDINGS LLC; MATTHEW WILLES, individually; and 19 MATTHEW AND KRISTINE WILLES, a 20 marital community;

Defendant(s).

CV2020-002880 Case No.

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER RELIEF

(Unclassified Civil; Consumer Fraud)

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Plaintiff, the State of Arizona, ex. rel. Mark Brnovich, Attorney General, alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Valley Delivery, LLC ("Valley Delivery") is a telemarketing company masquerading as a delivery service.
- 2. Valley Delivery collected consumers' personal information by placing fake delivery slips on new homeowners' front doors. The slips stated, "Sorry We Missed You," and directed the homeowners to call a number to reschedule the supposed deliveries.
- 3. In reality, there were no shipped packages to be delivered. Instead, once a homeowner contacted Valley Delivery, a sales representative captured the phone number and combined the homeowner's address and phone number information to create a valuable consumer profile. These profiles then were shared with business ventures owned by Valley Delivery's parent company, My Home Services, LLC ("My Home Services"), and other third-party companies. These companies then contacted the new homeowners to sell their house-related goods and services, such as air conditioners, home security systems, and water heaters.
- 4. Valley Delivery also operated a misleading and deceptive website that made a number of material misrepresentations about the nature of its business practices. Rather than disclosing its function as a telemarketing company, for instance, Valley Delivery presented itself as a company that specializes "in local delivery services" with a fleet of 250 delivery drivers in over a hundred metropolitan locations. In reality, the company only operated in Arizona and employed eight "drivers" to place the fake delivery slips on consumers' doors. These misrepresentations induced homeowners to contact Valley Delivery about the "missed delivery."
- 5. The owner of My Home Services, Defendant Matthew Willes, also operated another business, Next Day Delivery, LLC ("Next Day Delivery"). Next Day Delivery was intended to be a trade name and replacement for Valley Delivery in anticipation of its eventual expansion to other states.
- 6. Similar to Valley Delivery, Next Day Delivery operated a misleading and deceptive website. Notably, the website represented that Next Day Delivery's headquarters was located in

Nevada and featured a large button with the words "Reschedule your Delivery" on the homepage. Next Day Delivery only operated in Arizona, however, and clicking on the "Reschedule your Delivery" button did nothing, which forced consumers to call the listed number. Like Valley Delivery, the purpose of the website was to induce homeowners to call Next Day Delivery and unwittingly surrender their personal information.

- 7. My Home Services, Valley Delivery, and Next Day Delivery generated millions of dollars in revenue as a result of these deceptive business practices.
- 8. The named Defendants knowingly created, perpetuated, condoned, and profited from the fraudulent acts described in this Complaint, as set forth below. Defendants' knowledge is demonstrated by a 2013 consent judgment between the State of Arizona and Matthew Willes' previous business, Metro Delivery, LLC ("Metro Delivery"). Under that judgment, the company was ordered to "not represent to consumers that they are attempting or have attempted to deliver a package to the consumer unless that is the sole purpose of [Metro Delivery, LLC's] contact with the consumer." Instead of running his business in compliance with the court's orders, Willes simply started up new businesses and continued the same conduct.
- 9. The State of Arizona brings this action pursuant to the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act, Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") §§ 44-1521 to 44-1534, to obtain declaratory and injunctive relief, civil penalties, disgorgement, attorneys' fees and costs, investigative expenses, and other relief to prevent the unlawful acts and practices alleged in the Complaint.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. The Superior Court of Maricopa County has subject-matter jurisdiction, and may enter appropriate orders in this action, both prior to and following a determination of liability pursuant to § 44-1528.
 - 11. Venue is proper in Maricopa County pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-401(17).
- 12. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Matthew Willes and the marital community of Matthew Willes and Kristine Willes because they reside within and are citizens of this state. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Valley Delivery, Next Day Delivery, Next Day Holdings, LLC ("Next Day Holdings"), and My Home Services because they are incorporated and

PARTIES

- 13. Plaintiff is the State of Arizona ex rel. Attorney General Mark Brnovich ("the State") who is authorized to bring this action under the Consumer Fraud Act, A.R.S. §§ 44-1521 to 44-1534.
- 14. Defendant Valley Delivery is an Arizona limited liability company with its principal place of business in Maricopa County.
- 15. Defendant Next Day Delivery is an Arizona limited liability company with its principal place of business in Maricopa County.
- 16. Defendant My Home Services, LLC, ("My Home Services") is an Arizona limited liability company with its principal place of business in Maricopa County. It is the sole managing member of Valley Delivery.
- 17. Defendant Next Day Holdings is an Arizona limited liability company with its principal place of business in Maricopa County. It is the sole managing member of Next Day Delivery.
- 18. Defendant Matthew Willes is the trustee of the M and K Revocable Trust, the sole managing member of My Home Services. He is also the chief executive officer of Valley Delivery and Next Day Delivery, and the sole managing member of Next Day Holdings. At all relevant times, Willes was a resident of Arizona.
- 19. Defendant Matthew Willes's actions alleged herein were taken in furtherance of his and Defendant Kristine Willes's marital community. Defendant Kristine Willes is named solely for any interest she may have in her marital community with Defendant Matthew Willes.
- 20. The State is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that, at all relevant times, Matthew Willes controlled, managed, operated; had authority to control, manage and operate; and held ownership interests in Valley Delivery, Next Day Delivery, Next Day Holdings, and My Home Services.
- 21. The State is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that, at all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, were the alter egos of the other Defendants.

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22. The State is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that, at all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, were legally responsible, jointly and severally, for the events and happenings herein alleged; were the agents, employees, servants, and/or representatives of the other Defendants and each of them; and, in doing the things herein alleged, were acting in the course and scope of their authority as such agents, employees and/or representatives, and with the permission and consent of the other Defendants and each of them.

DEFENDANTS' BUSINESS PRACTICES

- 23. Valley Delivery began its business operations in January 2017.
- 24. Valley Delivery compiled a list of new home buyers' information from the County Recorder's Office. Valley Delivery then dispatched "delivery drivers" to post marketing materials on the door of each home.
- 25. The marketing material, a true and correct copy of which is included as Exhibit A, was a fake delivery slip, with the caption "Sorry We Missed You," along with the date it was delivered and the name and address of the unwitting homeowner. The delivery slip also featured a confirmation number and phone number, through which the homeowner seemingly would be able to reschedule his or her delivery.
- 26. On the back side of the fake delivery slip, there was a purported disclaimer in much smaller font than the language on the front. That language read, in relevant part, "[A]ny contact information you provide through calling the number listed on the front of this card may be used by Valley Delivery or any of its partners to contact you for marketing of relevant home services and product offers." See Exhibit A at 2.
- 27. Many homeowners did not see the less conspicuous language on the back of the delivery slip because there is no indication on the front of the slip that there is any information on the back.
- 28. When a homeowner contacted Valley Delivery via the phone number on the front of the delivery slip, a sales representative collected his or her information for telemarketing purposes.
 - 29. Valley Delivery also utilized the confirmation number on the delivery slip to match

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the homeowner's phone number to his or her home address. The sales representative then attempted to offer the homeowner gift cards for goods and services offered by Valley Delivery's affiliates.

- 30. After the call was completed, Valley Delivery provided the homeowner's information to its corporate owner, My Home Services.
- 31. My Home Services circulated the homeowner's information to Matthew Willes' other business ventures, including Protection Source, LLC, Aqua Bright, LLC, Nergy, LLC, Latch Windows, LLC, and Jax Home Service, LLC. It also sold the information to two third-party companies, Rescue One Air, LLC, and Pristene Water Solutions, LLC.
- 32. Using the collected information, the companies contacted the homeowners via telephone in order to sell them goods or services.
- 33. Since January 1, 2017, Defendants used these "Valley Delivery" slips to collect phone numbers from approximately 77,000 new homeowners.
 - 34. Next Day Delivery began business operations in September 2018.
- 35. Though Next Day Delivery was a separate business entity from Valley Delivery, it was intended to be a trade name for Valley Delivery's eventual expansion into other states. As a result, the company did not function outside of its affiliation with Valley Delivery.
- 36. Next Day Delivery's delivery slip, a true and correct copy of which is included as Exhibit B, also included the "Sorry We Missed You" caption, a confirmation number, and a phone number that consumers could contact.
- 37. On the back side of Next Day Delivery's slip, there was also a purported disclaimer in much smaller font. That language read, in relevant part, "Please be advised that, if you agree, any contact information you provide through calling the number listed on the front of this card may be used by Next Day Delivery or any of its partners to contact you for marketing of relevant For home services and product offers. additional details please go to www.nextdaydeliverycompany.com." See Exhibit B at 2.
- 38. Once Next Day Delivery obtained the personal information of the consumer, it circulated the information to the same companies as Valley Delivery, including Rescue One Air,

LLC, Pristene Water Solutions, LLC, and Protection Source, LLC.

39. Since September 2018, Defendants used the "Next Day Delivery" slips to collect phone numbers from approximately 73,000 new homeowners.

DEFENDANTS' WEBSITES

- 40. Valley Delivery owned and maintained a website: http://www.valley-delivery.com. The website contained a number of misrepresentations about the nature of the company's business.
- 41. For instance, Valley Delivery represented that it was "striving to be the first choice in localized, same-day delivery solutions in metropolitan areas across the country."
- 42. The website provided that Valley Delivery "specialize[d] in local delivery services ... inside metropolitan city limits." The website also provided that Valley Delivery's drivers, after delivering the package, would leave "a notice on [the recipient's] door, ensuring [their] intended recipient is aware that they received a package."
- 43. The only reference to Valley Delivery's actual business practices on its website was located in the website's Terms of Use, which provided that consumers, by contacting the company, gave consent to be contacted by My Home Services and its affiliates.
- 44. The website also included a series of images depicting individuals in Valley Delivery uniforms delivering packages, working at the company's "distribution warehouse," and answering phones for the operations and dispatch team.
- 45. The State determined that these images were stock images altered to include the Valley Delivery uniform and logo. These images, and their stock image equivalents, are included as Exhibit C.
- 46. Additionally, Valley Delivery represented that it had a fleet of 250 drivers across the United States.
- 47. In response to the State's Civil Investigative Demand, however, Valley Delivery admitted under oath that it only employed eight drivers.
- 48. Finally, Valley Delivery represented on its website that it served over 100 metropolitan areas across the continental United States, including Phoenix, Arizona; Tacoma,

Washington; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; and Los Angeles, California.

- 49. In response to the State's Civil Investigative Demand, however, Valley Delivery admitted under oath that it only operated in Arizona.
- 50. The website's misrepresentations gave Valley Delivery the veneer of a legitimate delivery service and thus induced homeowners to contact Valley Delivery about the packages that they supposedly received.
- 51. Similarly, Next Day Delivery owned and maintained a website, nextdaydeliverycompany.com, which contained misrepresentations about the nature of the company's business.
- 52. For instance, the homepage of the website contained the business's phone number and a large button with the words "Reschedule your Delivery" on it. When a consumer attempted to click the button, however, the consumer remained on the homepage with no noticeable changes. In other words, the button served no purpose other than to induce consumers to call the number listed on the delivery slip and on the website.
- 53. Additionally, the website represented that the company was headquartered in Nevada and operated in a significant number of states. Like Valley Delivery, however, Next Day Delivery only operated in Arizona.
- 54. Finally, Next Day Delivery's website represented that the company was an "affordable residential delivery service."
- 55. The State alleges that neither Valley Delivery nor Next Day Delivery ever received any payment from customers shipping packages. Rather, both companies only received payments from My Home Services for collecting homeowners' phone numbers.
- 56. The State alleges that neither Valley Delivery nor Next Day Delivery delivered any shipped packages for consumers since their inception.
- 57. The misrepresentations to the contrary on both websites were calculated to convince consumers that the businesses were legitimate and that they needed to call the number on the delivery slip to obtain their "package."
 - 58. As a result of Valley Delivery and Next Day Delivery's misleading and deceptive

practices, My Home Services, LLC generated \$2,265,695 in revenue in 2017.

59. Despite Valley Delivery and Next Day Delivery's respective claims that they were a "local delivery service" and an "affordable residential delivery service," neither company generated any revenue from 2017 to 2019.

MATTHEW WILLES' HISTORY OF DECEPTIVE AND UNFAIR CONDUCT

- 60. This is not Defendant Matthew Willes' first interaction with the Arizona Attorney General's Office. In 2012, the State opened a consumer fraud investigation into Metro Delivery, another company owned by Defendant Matthew Willes.
- 61. The company operated using the same business model as Valley Delivery and Next Day Delivery, providing fake and misleading delivery slips to collect and sell consumer information.
- 62. After an investigation, the State entered into a consent judgment in 2013 with Metro Delivery, requiring, among other things, that the company and certain other defendants "not represent to consumers that they are attempting or have attempted to deliver a package to the consumer unless that is the sole purpose of [Metro Delivery's] contact with the consumer." The consent judgment is attached hereto as Exhibit D.
- 63. Rather than operating Metro Delivery in compliance with the consent judgment, Matthew Willes started Valley Delivery and Next Day Delivery, and continued to engage in the same deceptive and unfair conduct.
- 64. In response to the State's Civil Investigative Demand, Valley Delivery represented that it was aware of the prior Consent Judgment and was in full compliance with it. To demonstrate this, Valley Delivery produced what appears to be delivery slips from 2017 with a purported disclaimer on the front page of the slip, stating, "[T]his is not an attempt to make a delivery." This sample is attached as Exhibit E.
- 65. Additionally, in response to a separate Civil Investigative Demand regarding Next Day Delivery, the company produced copies of delivery slips with the same purported disclaimer on the front page of the slip. These samples are attached as Exhibit F.
 - 66. However, these advertising materials were not actually provided to consumers.

Instead, the actual slips omitted any sort of disclaimer. Photographs of the actual slips delivered to consumers are attached as Exhibit G. This deliberate attempt to deceive the State further demonstrates Defendants' knowledge that their conduct was unlawful.

VIOLATIONS OF THE ARIZONA CONSUMER FRAUD ACT

- 67. The State realleges the prior allegations of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 68. Defendants engaged in deception, deceptive or unfair acts or practices, fraud, false pretenses, false promises, misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression or omission of material facts with intent that others rely on such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale or advertisement of merchandise in violation of A.R.S. §§ 44-1521 to 44-1534, by engaging in what includes but is not limited to the following conduct:
 - a. misrepresenting to consumers that there was a missed delivery in order to obtain the consumers' personal information.
 - b. creating and maintaining deceptive and misleading websites meant to induce consumers to contact the companies about their "missed delivery;" and
 - c. failing to provide sufficient disclosure to consumers concerning their business practices, both on the companies' websites and on the delivery slips themselves.
- 69. While engaging in the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint, Defendants were at all times acting willfully as provided by A.R.S. § 44-1531(B).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the State respectfully requests that the Court:

- 70. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1528(A)(1), issue a permanent injunction, enjoining and restraining Defendants and each of them, their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys and all persons in active concert or participation with them, directly or indirectly, from engaging in the course of conduct alleged herein and violating A.R.S. § 44-1522(A);
- 71. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1528(A)(2), order that Defendants restore to all persons in interest any monies or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by any unlawful act or practice alleged herein;

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- 72. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1528(A)(3), order Defendants to disgorge all profits, gains, gross receipts, or other benefits obtained as a result of their unlawful acts alleged herein, in the amount of at least \$6,797,085;
- 73. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1531, order Defendants to pay to the State of Arizona a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each willful violation of A.R.S. § 44-1522.
- 74. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1534, order Defendants to reimburse the State for its costs and attorneys' fees incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the Defendants' activities alleged in this Complaint;
- 75. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1201, require Defendants to pay pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to the State and all consumers; and
- 75. Award the State such further relief the Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

DATED this 3rd day of MANA 2020.

MARK BRNOVICH Attorney General

By: Wark James Ciat

Assistant Attorney General Attorneys for Plaintiff