

1 RACHEL E. KAUFMAN (CAL BAR NO. 259353)
2 KAUFMAN P.A.
3 400 NW 26th Street
4 Miami, FL 33127
5 Telephone: (305) 469-5881
6 rachel@kaufmanpa.com

7 *Attorney for Plaintiff and the Putative Class*

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 **MARK AUSSIEKER**, individually and on
11 behalf of all others similarly situated,

12 *Plaintiff,*

13 v.

14 **WORTH UNLIMITED LLC D/B/A**
15 **UNITED FINANCIAL FREEDOM**, a
16 Utah corporation,

17 *Defendant.*

CLASS ACTION

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

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19
20
21 1. As the Supreme Court explained at the end of its term this year, “Americans
22 passionately disagree about many things. But they are largely united in their disdain for
23 robocalls. The Federal Government receives a staggering number of complaints about
24 robocalls—3.7 million complaints in 2019 alone. The States likewise field a constant barrage of
25 complaints. For nearly 30 years, the people’s representatives in Congress have been fighting
26 back. As relevant here, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, known as the TCPA,
27

1 generally prohibits robocalls to cell phones and home phones.” *Barr v. Am. Ass'n of Political*
2 *Consultants*, No. 19-631, 2020 U.S. LEXIS 3544, at *5 (July 6, 2020).

3 2. Plaintiff alleges that Worth Unlimited made prerecorded voice telemarketing calls
4 to the Plaintiff and other putative class members without their consent.

5 3. Because prerecorded voice marketing campaigns generally place calls to hundreds
6 of thousands or even millions of potential customers *en masse*, the Plaintiff brings this action on
7 behalf of a proposed nationwide class of other persons who received illegal robocalls from or on
8 behalf of the Defendant.
9

10 4. A class action is the best means of obtaining redress for the Defendant’s wide-
11 scale illegal telemarketing and is consistent both with the private right of action afforded by the
12 TCPA and the fairness and efficiency goals of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

13 **Parties**

14 5. Plaintiff, Mark Aussieker, resides in California in this District.

15 6. Defendant Worth Unlimited is a Utah limited liability company that makes
16 telemarketing calls into this District, as it did with the Plaintiff.
17

18 **Jurisdiction & Venue**

19 7. The Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction over these TCPA claims.
20

21 8. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because it engaged in
22 telemarketing conduct into this District.

23 9. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events or
24 omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District, as the robocalls were made into this
25 District.
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27
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TCPA Background

1
2 10. The TCPA makes it unlawful “to make any call (other than a call made for
3 emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an
4 automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice ... to any telephone
5 number assigned to a ... cellular telephone service.” *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii). The
6 TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of 47 U.S.C.
7 § 227(b)(1)(A). *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

8
9 11. According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”), the
10 agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, such calls
11 are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a
12 greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls, and such calls can be costly
13 and inconvenient.

14
15 12. The FCC also recognized that “wireless customers are charged for incoming calls
16 whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used.” *In re Rules and Regulations*
17 *Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order,
18 18 F.C.C. Rcd. 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).

19
20 13. While “prior express consent” is required for all automated and prerecorded calls, in
21 2013, the FCC required “prior express written consent” for all such telemarketing calls to
22 wireless numbers and residential lines. Specifically, it ordered that:

23 [A] consumer’s written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls must be signed
24 and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received “clear and conspicuous
25 disclosure” of the consequences of providing the requested consent, i.e., that the
26 consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf
27 of a specific seller; and (2) having received this information, agrees unambiguously
to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates.[] In addition,
the written agreement must be obtained “without requiring, directly or indirectly,
that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service.[]”

1 *In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991,*
2 27 F.C.C. Rcd. 1830, 1844 (2012) (footnotes omitted).

3 14. “Telemarketing” is defined as “the initiation of a telephone call or message for the
4 purpose of encouraging the purchase or rental of, or investment in, property, goods, or services,
5 which is transmitted to any person.” 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(f)(12).

6 15. Encouraging people to hold telemarketers accountable on behalf on their fellow
7 Americans, the TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive such calls. 47
8 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

10 **Factual Allegations**

11 16. Worth Unlimited offers debt relief services.

12 17. In order to sell its products and services, Worth Unlimited relies on telemarketing.

13 18. One of the telemarketing strategies used by Defendant involves the use of
14 prerecorded messages to solicit potential customers to use its services.

15 19. While such automated technology may save time and money for Worth Unlimited’s
16 telemarketing efforts, it violates the privacy rights of the Plaintiff and putative class.

18 Calls to Plaintiff Aussieker

19 20. Plaintiff is a “person” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

20 21. Mr. Aussieker’s telephone number, 916-705-XXXX is registered to a cellular
21 telephone service.

22 22. Worth Unlimited called Mr. Aussieker on his cellular telephone with a pre-recorded
23 message on June 4, 2020.

24 23. The purpose of the calls was to sell Worth Unlimited’s debt relief services to Mr.
25 Aussieker in exchange for a fee.

26 24. Confirming that Worth Unlimited made the call and was offering its services, Mr.
27 Aussieker responded to the prerecorded voice’s questions to be transferred to a live person.
28

1 25. Once transferred, Mr. Aussieker feigned interest in Defendant's products and
2 received a confirmatory e-mail and text message with a recorded video.

3 26. Following the video, a Mr. James Townliand contacted the Plaintiff to further solicit
4 Worth Unlimited's services.

5 27. Defendant's calls invaded Plaintiff's privacy and intruded upon his right to seclusion.
6 The calls frustrated and upset Plaintiff by interrupting his daily life and wasting his time.

7 28. Plaintiff did not provide prior express written consent to receive Defendant's calls
8 prior to the receipt of the calls.
9

10 **Class Action Allegations**

11 29. As authorized by Rule 23(b)(2) and/or (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
12 Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a class of all other persons or entities similarly situated
13 throughout the United States.

14 30. The Class of persons Plaintiff proposes to represent is tentatively defined as:

15 Robocall Class: All persons within the United States to whom: (a)
16 Defendant and/or a third party acting on their behalf, made one or more non-
17 emergency telephone calls; (b) to their cellular or residential landline
18 telephone number; (c) using an artificial or prerecorded voice; and (d) at any
19 time in the period that begins four years before the date of the filing of this
20 Complaint to trial.

21 31. Excluded from the Class are counsel, the Defendant, and any entities in which the
22 Defendant has a controlling interest, the Defendant's agents and employees, any judge to whom
23 this action is assigned, and any member of such judge's staff and immediate family.

24 32. The Class as defined above is identifiable through phone records and phone number
25 databases.

26 33. The potential Class members is likely to number at least in the thousands. Individual
27 joinder of these persons is impracticable.

28 34. The Plaintiff Aussieker is a member of the Robocall Class.

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