VIA FAX

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	,	1	Michael T. Carr (CSBN 183085) LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL T. CARR, APC	<i>;</i>			
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		3	Monrovia, CA 91016-5077 Telephone: (626) 254-8901 Facsimile: (626) 254-8921 A 603 90710		FILED)	
			Facsimile: (626) 254-8921 90710	Su フリ	perior Court Of Co County Of Los An	difornia geles	
•		4	Email: mtcarr1@earthlink.net	7	MAR 1821)15	
		5	Roman Otkupman, CSBN 249423 7516 OTKUPMAN LAW FIRM, A LAW CORPOR	ATION Sherri	R. passey warrante		
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		7	Woodland Hills, CA 91367 Telephone: (818) 293-5623	CHEZ-			•
		8	Facsimile (888) 850-1310 Roman@OLFLA.com	80100	1)		
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			Attorneys for Plaintiff, BELINDA BRANCH				
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		11	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF CALI	FORNIA,		
		12	COUNTY OF	COS ANGELES			
		13	BELINDA BRANCH, an individual,	Case No.	BC 5 7 5	850	
		14	Plaintiff,				
		15		PLAINTIFF'S COMP	I AINT FOR	DAMAGI	FS
		16	VS.	AND DEMAND FOR	JURY TRIA	L BASED)
		17	KAISER PERMANENTE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL	UPON:			
		18	GROUP; and DOES 1-100, Inclusive,	1. DISCRIMINATIO	ON BASED (ON AGE IN	1
			Defendant.	VIOLATION OF EMPLOYMENT	THE FAIR		
		19		Calif. Gov. Code	§12940 et sec	q .	
	<u></u>	20		2. WRONGFUL TE VIOLATION OF	RMINATIOI PUBLIC PO	N IN LICY	·
	W W	21		3. VIOLATION OF	LABOR CO	DE §1102.	
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Plaintiff BELINDA BRANCH hereby demands a jury trial and complains and alleges as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

(Against Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, and all DOE Defendants)

At all times herein mentioned, Plaintiff, BELINDA BRANCH ("Plaintiff"), is and was a resident of the County of Los Angeles, State of California. Plaintiff is qualified and entitled to protection under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, ("FEHA"), California Government Code §12940, et seq.

Plaintiff is informed and believes that, at all times herein mentioned, Defendant KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP ("Defendant") was a corporation doing business within the County of Los Angeles, and State of California. Defendant employed Plaintiff at its Parkview Building, location at 1050 W. Pacific Coast Highway, Harbor City, CA 90710. Defendant is a health insurance and medical provider. Defendant is a qualified employer under FEHA, Cal. Gov. Code. §§ 12926(d).

Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, or associate, of those Defendants fictitiously sued as DOES 1 through 100 inclusive and so the Plaintiff sues them by these fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the DOE Defendants reside in the State of California and are in some manner responsible for the conduct alleged herein. Upon discovering the true names and capacities of these fictitiously named Defendants, the Plaintiff will amend this complaint to show the true names and capacities of these fictitiously named Defendants.

Unless otherwise alleged in this complaint, the Plaintiff is informed and believes that at all times herein mentioned, each codefendant was acting within the course, scope, and under their authority of the agency, employment, or representative capacity, with the consent of her or his codefendants.

5. Plaintiff began working for Defendant, in 1978 at Defendant's Parkview Building location. Plaintiff held the position of Medical Assistant for over thirty-two (32) years and was

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transferred to the position of Receptionist on the second floor and medical records department of Defendant's Parkview Building location, during the last year of her employment. Plaintiff was a devoted and loyal employee of thirty-four (34) years, who at all times while employed by Defendant, performed her job in a satisfactory and/or exemplary manner.

- Sometime in or around January of 2014, Plaintiff observed another Receptionist 6. working in her department, (Annabel, whose last name is not known), providing provate medical information of a Kaiser patient to other Kaiser employees, (whose names were only known as Yvette and Shorty), without obtaining the consent from the patient to release said medical information. Annabel, Yvette and Shorty were also substantially younger than Plaintiff. The other Receptionist, Annabel knowingly and wrongfully released a patient's medical information to Yvette and Shorty, whom knowingly and intentionally requested and obtained said private medical information. This medical information released and obtained by the other employees of Defendant contained private and sensitive medical information of a patient, including, inter alia, information contained in the General Surgery file, without the patient's consent. Plaintiff was informed and believed and based on her over thirty (30) years of experience working with Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, knew that the release of such private medical information regarding Kaiser patients, without the consent of such patients, to be in violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act of 1996, 45 USC 1320, §§160.103 et seq., ("HIPAA").
 - 7. Plaintiff immediately reported the above described incident she witnessed, (regarding HIPAA violations), to her immediate supervisor. In response Plaintiff's immediate supervisor essentially told Plaintiff that she would look into it and that she (Plaintiff's immediate supervisor), would take care of it. Plaintiff also immediately warned the patient about the above-mentioned HIPPA violation committed by the Receptionist and the two (2) other Kaiser employees (Yvette and Shorty).

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- Approximately one (1) month later, Plaintiff was called into the Human Resources 8. office and was met with HR manager Hazel Smith, ("Smith"), and two other individuals whom identified themselves as compliance officers from Defendant's Compliance Department. During this meeting Plaintiff informed them about the HIPAA violations committed by the other Receptionist (Annabel) and the two (2) other Kaiser employees, (known as Yvette and Shorty). More specifically, Plaintiff explained the circumstances of how Yvette and Short Comproperly obtained private medical information from the other Receptionist and how the other Receptionist released said private information without having the patient's consent, which was in violation of HIPPA. Plaintiff also explained that she immediately warned the patient about the abovementioned HIPPA violation committed by the other Receptionist Annabel, along with the two (2) other Kaiser employees (Yvette and Shorty). During this same meeting, Plaintiff was told by told Hazel and the compliance officers that Plaintiff was not suspected of any misconduct, and assured Plaintiff that she had done the right thing in reporting the HIPPA violations, and that Plaintiff "had nothing to worry about and could breathe easy." In this same meeting, Plaintiff was informed that Kaiser was investigating the HIPPA violations Plaintiff had reported.
 - On or about April 23, 2014, Plaintiff again was called into another meeting with 9. Smith and two (2) individuals whom identified themselves as compliance officers. During this second meeting, the compliance officers and Smith became hostile and exhibited a threatening demeanor towards Plaintiff, and, in an angry manner questioned Plaintiff about why Plaintiff warned the patient that other Kaiser employees obtained this patient's medical information. Through their hostile interrogating manner and conduct towards Plaintiff, along with the angry tone of their questions, and including the barrage of repetitive questions regarding this incident, Smith and the two (2) compliance officers clearly insinuated, implied and made Plaintiff feel as though Plaintiff was a trouble maker and was causing Kaiser problems as a result of both Plaintiff reporting this incident of HIPAA violations committed by other Kaiser employees, and, for reporting this incident to the patient.

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On or about April 23, 2014, following the above-described meeting, Plaintiff was 10. immediately placed on suspension pending an investigation.

On June 5, 2014, Smith called Plaintiff to a meeting and told Plaintiff that her 11. employment with Kaiser was being terminated, and gave Plaintiff an ultimatum of either resigning and be allowed to receive unemployment benefits, or, being fired and to not be able to obtain unemployment benefits. Smith specifically informed Plaintiff that if Plaintiff and not immediately write and sign a resignation letter according to Smith's instructions, Plaintiff would be fired and not be allowed to receive any unemployment benefits. Smith instructed Plaintiff to immediately, (and in Smith's presence), write and sign a resignation letter and instructed Plaintiff on exactly what words Plaintiff was required to write on the resignation letter. It was only under the threat and coercion and the manipulating conduct committed by Smith under color of authority, in this June 5th meeting, and under the threat that Plaintiff would lose her unemployment benefits if Plaintiff did not immediately write and sign the resignation letter exactly as Smith had instructed, that Plaintiff did so. It was only under the duress Plaintiff felt the threat of Plaintiff losing her unemployment benefits that caused Plaintiff to write and sign the resignation letter as Smith instructed Plaintiff to do. After thirty-four (34) years of loyal and devoted service to Derendant, and someone who had essentially devoted her entire working career to Defendant, and who at all times conscientiously performed her job in an exemplary manner, Plaintiff was shocked to learn she had been terminated. Ironically Plaintiff was being punished for following the law and reporting HIPAA violations and for doing the right thing in looking out for the privacy rights of a Kaiser patient. Plaintiff asked for details of why she was being terminated. Smith refused to provide any specific information in response to Plaintiff's requests, and, in a vague manner Smith described Plaintiff as having "committed egregious acts" and said Plaintiff "was no longer a trusted employee at Kaiser." At the time of Plaintiff's termination, Plaintiff was earning approximately \$24.00 per hour.

- 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes and alleges that no action was taken against the other employees at Kaiser, whom Plaintiff reported as committing HIPAA violations regarding a patient. Plaintiff further alleged that the other employees, (i.e., Annabel, Yvette and Shorty), whom Plaintiff reported as violating HIPAA, were similarly situated individuals substantially younger than Plaintiff and outside Plaintiff's protected class, and, whom were treated more favorably than Plaintiff. In the June 5th 2014 meeting, Defendant offered no reason of explanation as to why the other employees whom Plaintiff reported for violating HIPPA, were believed over Plaintiff, and why no disciplinary action was taken against these other employees.
- 13. All of the aforementioned actions were done against Plaintiff due to and in retaliation for her "whistle-blowing" regarding HIPAA violations and due to Plaintiff's age. But for Plaintiff's age and Plaintiff's "whistle-blowing" regarding HIPAA violations, she would currently be employed. Plaintiff is informed and believes and alleges that Plaintiff was terminated for false and pretextual reasons, in retaliation for Plaintiff's "whistle-blowing" and based on Plaintiff's age.
- 14. The actions toward Plaintiff that are alleged in this complaint were carried out by managerial employees and agents of Defendant, acting in a deliberate, cold, callous, malicious, oppressive, and intentional manner in order to injure and damage Plaintiff

VENUE AND JURISDICTION

- 8. That venue is proper under California Code of Civil Procedure section 395, in that Plaintiff's injuries were incurred within this jurisdiction, and the actions that give rise to Plaintiff's complaint arose within this jurisdiction, and the amount in controversy exceeds the minimum jurisdictional amount of this court.
- 9. On February 27, 2015, Plaintiff exhausted her administrative remedies under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act by filing a charge that Defendant terminated Plaintiff's employment and discriminated against Plaintiff due to her age. On February 27, 2015, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing issued the Notice of Case Closure and Right-to-

Sue Letter in respect to said Defendant, true and correct copies of which have been attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and made a part hereof.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR DISCRIMINATION BASED ON AGE,

IN VIOLATION OF THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT

(Against Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, and all DOE Defendants)

- 10. Plaintiff BELINDA BRANCH incorporates and re-alleges by reference all previous paragraphs of this Complaint, and each and every part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
- 11. California Government Code (12940(a) provides in pertinent part that, "It shall be an unlawful employment practice . . [f]or an employer, because of . . age . . . to discharge . . . or to discriminate against the person (in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment." In the present case, FEHA protects Plaintiff from discrimination by her employer on the basis of her age, because she is over the age of 40.
- younger than Plaintiff. Plaintiff reported to her supervisor said other employees violating HIPAA and the privacy rights of a patient. However, no disciplinary action was taken against the other employees at Kaiser, whom Plaintiff reported as committing HIPAA violations regarding a patient. The other employees, (i.e., Annabel, Yvette and Shorty), whom Plaintiff reported as violating HIPPA, were similarly situated individuals whom were substantially younger than Plaintiff and outside Plaintiff's protected class, and, whom were treated more favorably than Plaintiff. In the June 5th 2014 meeting, Defendant offered no reason or explanation as to why the other employees whom Plaintiff reported for violating HIPAA, were believed over Plaintiff, and why no disciplinary action was taken against these other employees.

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- Plaintiff was terminated for false and pretextual reasons, in retaliation for Plaintiff 15. engaging in a protected activity of reporting HIPAA violations "whistle-blowing" and based on Plaintiff's age.
- As a proximate result of the acts of Defendant, as described above, Plaintiff 16. suffered economic damages, including lost wages and benefits, and other compensatory damages. As a further proximate result of the acts of Defendant, as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered humiliation, mental and physical distress, anxiety, nervousness and severe emotional distress.
- As a direct and proximate result of the above-described acts of Defendant, Plaintiff has necessarily incurred attorney's fees and costs. Pursuant to the provisions of Calif. Gov. Code §12965, Plaintiff is entitled to the reasonable value of such attorney's fees.
- The above-described acts of Defendant were willful, intentional, and malicious 18. and done with the intent to vex, injure and annoy Plaintiff. Said acts were done in willful disregard of Plaintiff's rights and Defendant was aware that their acts were illegal and were done in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Therefore, this case warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish said Defendant and to deter others from engaging in similar conduct.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR WRONGFUL TERMINATION IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY (Against Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP and all DOE Defendants)

- Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges by reference all previous paragraphs of this 19. Complaint, and each and every part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
- Under California law, no employee can be terminated for a reason that is in 20. violation of public policy. The public policy must be fundamental, substantial, and well established at the time of discharge. A fundamental public policy is any articulable constitutional

or statutory provision, or any regulation that is concerned with a matter affecting society at large rather than a purely personal or proprietary interest of the employer or the employee.

- 21. The Defendant named in this cause of action terminated Plaintiff's employment in violation of the FEHA by terminating her on the basis of her age and in retaliation for Plaintiff engaging in a protected activity regarding Plaintiff's "whistle-blowing" for reporting HIPAA violations. This wrongful termination of employment violates the following statutes that effect society at large:
 - a. California Government Code § 12940 et. seq. which prohibits age discrimination;
- b. California Labor Code § 1102.5 which prohibits terminating and retaliating against an employee for reporting something they believe to be a violation of the law;
- c. California Civil Code §56.10(a) which provides that no provider of health care, health care service plan, or contractor shall disclose medical information regarding a patient of the provider of health care or an enrollee or subscriber of a health care service plan without first obtaining an authorization.
- d. Terminating Plaintiff in retaliation for "whistle-blowing" regarding Plaintiff's complaints and reporting of HIPAA violations being committed by other Kaiser employees.
- e. Defendants conduct above described is in violation of public policy in that Plaintiff was entitled to the rights and privileges afforded by, but not limited to, state law, e.g., Green v. Rahlee 19 Cal. 4th 66 (1983); Hentez v. Singer Co. (1982) 138 Cal. App.3d 290, Collier v. Superior Court, (1991) 228 Cal. App.3d, 1117.
 - f. all other state statutes, regulations, administrative orders, and ordinances which affect society at large, and which discovery will reveal were violated by said Defendant by retaliating, harassing, discriminating against the Plaintiff.
- 22. As a proximate result of the acts of Defendant, as described above, Plaintiff suffered economic damages, including lost wages and benefits, and other compensatory damages. As a further proximate result of the acts of Defendant, as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered humiliation, mental and physical distress, anxiety, nervousness and severe emotional distress.

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As a direct and proximate result of the above-described acts of Defendant, 23. KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP Plaintiff has necessarily incurred attorney's fees and costs, and therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to the reasonable value of such attorney's fees.

The above-described acts of Defendant were willful, intentional, and malicious 24. and done with the intent to vex, injure and annoy Plaintiff. Said acts were done in willful disregard of Plaintiff's rights and Defendant was aware that their acts were illegal and were done in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Therefore, this case warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish said Defendant and to deter others from engaging in similar conduct.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §1102.5

(Against Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP and all DOE Defendants)

Plaintiff, BELINDA BRANCH, realleges the information set forth above, and by 25. this reference incorporates said paragraphs herein as though fully set forth at length herein and made a part hereto.

Plaintiff hereby brings this cause of action under California Labor Code §1102.5 which states inter alia: (b) An employer, or any person acting on behalf of the employer, shall not retaliate against an employee for disclosing information, or because the employer believes that the employee disclosed or may disclose information, to a government or law enforcement agency, to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who has the authority to investigate, discover, or correct the violation or noncompliance, or for providing information to, or testifying before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry, if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or

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regulation, regardless of whether disclosing the information is part of the employee's job duties."

- 27. Plaintiff's contends that California Labor Code §1102.5 was violated by

 Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL

 GROUP, terminating Plaintiff's employment, in retaliation for Plaintiff disclosing information about HIPAA violations as described above in Paragraphs 6 thru 11.
- As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of the conduct of Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP, and all Doe Defendants, named in this cause of action, and each of them, Plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer emotional distress, substantial losses in salary, bonuses, job benefits, and other employment benefits which she would have received from said Defendant, plus expenses incurred in obtaining substitute employment and not being regularly employed for months, being without a source of income and medical insurance all to Plaintiff's damage in a sum within the jurisdiction of this court, to be ascertained ascording to proof.
- 29. The grossly reckless, and/or intentional, malicious, and bad faith manner in which said Defendant engaged in those acts as described in this cause of action by willfully violating the statute enumerated in this cause of action and retaliating against the Plaintiff and terminating the Plaintiff for said "whistleolowing" all in violation of the law, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages against said Defendant in an amount within the jurisdiction of this court, to be ascertained by the fact finder, that is sufficiently high to punish said Defendant, deter them from engaging in such conduct again, and to make an example of them to others.
- 30. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and based thereon, alleges that the outrageous conduct of said Defendant, as described above, were done with oppression and malice by Plaintiff's supervisor and managers, and done with a conscious disregard for the Plaintiff's rights and with the intent, design and purpose of injuring the Plaintiff. These unlawful acts were ratified by those other individuals who were managing agents of said Defendant employer. By reason thereof, the Plaintiff is entitled to punitive or exemplary damages against said Defendant, for their acts as described in this cause of action in a sum to be determined at the time of trial.

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THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL T.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

(Against Defendant, KAISER PERMANENTE; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERMANENTE MEDICAL GROUP and all DOE Defendants)

- 30. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges by reference all previous paragraphs of this Complaint, and each and every part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
- accusing Plaintiff of "committed egregious acts." Defendant did not provide Plaintiff with specific details of its false accusations which it referred to and refused to give Plaintiff a chance to respond to this false accusation. Defendant intentionally made false accusations in order to embarrass, sharper and humiliate Plaintiff and in an attempt to conceal its retaliation motives against Plaintiff for engaging in a protected activity.
- As a result of Defendant's termination of Plaintiff's employment due to age discrimination, and in retaliation for Plaintiff's "whistle-blowing" Plaintiff suffered severe stress, loss of sleep, headaches, panic attacks, and other physical and psychological damage that has adversely affected Plaintiff's life. The financial burden of becoming abruptly unemployed, after devoting thirty-four years of employment with Defendant, caused Plaintiff severe economic hardship and severe stress and anguish.
- 33. The above-described acts of Defendant were willful, intentional, and malicious and done with the intent to vex, injure and annoy Plaintiff. Said acts were done in willful disregard of Plaintiff's rights and Defendant was aware that their acts were illegal and were done

in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Therefore, this case warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish said Defendant and to deter others from engaging in similar conduct.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief, to be determined by the finder of fact at the time of trial, as follows:

For All Causes of Action:

- 1. for general damages in an amount according to proof, but it excess of the minimum jurisdiction of this court;
- 2. for special damages in an amount according to proof, but in the excess of the minimum jurisdiction of this court, in order to compensate the Plaintiff for Plaintiff's loss of past and future earnings, and all damages flowing from the Plaintiff's loss of earnings loss of job security, failure to properly advance within Plaintiff's career, damage to Plaintiff's reputation; and for loss of all future earnings and benefits and job promotions and privileges Plaintiff would have had;
- 3. for all costs and disbursements incurred in this suit;
- for all interest as allowed by law;
 - where available and proper, for attorneys fees and costs incurred pursuing this claim against Defendant, pursuant to Calif. Gov. Code §12965; for all emotional distress damages that properly compensate Plaintiff for Plaintiff's pain and suffering as a result of Defendants' actions as fully described in this Complaint for damages;
- 7. for all applicable and appropriate punitive and exemplary damages; and
- 8. for all other relief the Court deems just, proper, and appropriate.

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial.

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THE LAW OFFICE

LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL T. CARR, APC Dated: March 12, 2015 By Michael T. Carr Attorneys for Plaintiff $\langle \chi \rangle$ J. i .28

THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL T. CARR COUNTINO NEW SORWING

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

AMENDED

February 27, 2015

Michael Carr 2670 Myrtle Avenue Suite 106 Monrovia California 91016

RE: Notice to Complainant or Complainant's Attorney

DFEH Matter Number: 164469-148253-R Right to Sue: Branch / Kaiser Permanente

Dear Complainant or Complainant's Attorney:

Attached is a copy of your complaint of discrimination filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Government Code section 12900 et seq. Also attached is a copy of your Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue. Pursuant to Government Code section 12962, DFEH will not serve these documents on the employer. You or your attorney must serve the complaint. If you do not have an attorney, you must serve the complaint yourself. Please refer to the attached Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue for information regarding filing a private lawsuit in the State of California.

Be advised that the DEH does not review or edit the complaint form to ensure that it meets procedural or statutory requirements.

Sincerely

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Department of Fair Employment and Housing

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

AMENDED

February 27, 2015

RE: Notice of Filing of Discrimination Complaint

DFEH Matter Number: 164469-148253-R Right to Sue: Branch / Kaiser Permanente

To All Respondent(s):

Enclosed is a copy of a complaint of discrimination that has been filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) in accordance with Government Code section 12960. This constitutes service of the complaint pursuant to Government Code section 12962. The complainant has requested an authorization to file a lawsuit. This case is not being investigated by DFEH and is being closed immediately. A copy of the Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue is enclosed for your records.

Please refer to the attached complaint for a list of all respondent(s) and their contact information.

No response to DFEH is requested or required.

Sincerely,

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Department of Fair Employment and Housing

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH



AMENDED

February 27, 2015

Belinda Branch 1684 255th Street Apt. #2 Harbor City California 90710

RE: Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue DFEH Matter Number: 164469-148253-R Right to Sue: Branch / Kaiser Permanente

Dear Belinda Branch,

This letter informs you that the above-referenced complaint was filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) has been closed effective February 27, 2015 because an immediate Right to Sue notice was requested. DFEH will are no further action on the complaint.

This letter is also your Right to Sue notice According to Government Code section 12965, subdivision (b), a civil action may be brought under the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act against the person, employer, labor organization or employment agency named in the above-referenced complaint. The civil action must be filed within one year from the date of this letter.

To obtain a federal Right to Sue notice, you must visit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEQC) to tile a complaint within 30 days of receipt of this DFEH Notice of Case Closure or within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act, whichever is earlier.

Sincerely

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Department of Fair Employment and Housing



www.dfeh.ca.gov I email: contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

AMENDED

Enclosures

cc:

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COMPLAINT OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

BEFORE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING

Under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code, § 12900 et seq.)

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DFEH No. 164469-148253-R

1050 West Pacific Coast Highway Harbor City, California 90710

Kaiser Permanente Respondent.

In the Matter of the Complaint of Belinda Branch, Complainant.

1684 255th Street Apt. #2

Harbor City California 90710

Complainant alleges:

- 1. Respondent Kaiser Permanente is a Private Employer subject to suit under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) (Cov. Code, § 12900 et seq.). Complainant believes respondent is subject to the FEHA.
- 2. On or around June 05, 2014, complainant alleges that respondent took the following adverse actions against complainant: Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation Denied a good faith interactive process, Denied a work environment free of discrimination and/or retaliation, Denied employment, Denied reinstatement, Forced to quit, Terminated, . Complainant believes respondent committed these actions because of their: Age 40 and over, Engagement in Protected Activity.
- 3. Complainant Belinda Branch resides in the City of Harbor City, State of California. If complaint includes co-respondents please see below.

Complaint - DFEH No. 164469-148253-R

Date Filed: February 27, 2015

Date Amended: March 02, 2015

Additional Complaint Details:

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During my approximate thirty year employment with Kaiser Permanente, I was subjected to discrimination and retaliation due to my age and because I complained to my supervisor about violations in the work environment. After I complained, my supervisor and human resources representative participated in the illegal conduct. Thereafter, I was terminated from my employment.

Complaint - DFEH No. 164469-148253-R

Date Filed: February 27, 2015

Date Amended: March 02, 2015

H 902-1

VERIFICATION

I, Michael T. Carr, am the Attorney for Complainant in the above-entitled complaint. I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents thereof. The same is true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

On February 27, 2015, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the Monrovia, Micha Mi foregoing is true and correct.

Monrovia, California Michael T. Carr

Complaint - DFEH No. 164469-148253-R

Date Filed: February 27, 2015

Date Amended: March 02, 2015

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		VIA FAX CM-010
Michael T. Carr (CSBN 183085) LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL T. CARR, A 2670 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 106 Monrovia, California 91016 TELEPHONE NO.: (626) 254-8901 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): BELINDA BRANCH SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LO STREET ADDRESS: 111 North Hill Street MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: LOS Angeles 90012	FAX NO.: (626) 254-8921 s Angeles	FILED Superior Court Of California County Of Los Angeles MAR 18 2015 Shorri a
BRANCH NAME: Stanley Most Courthon CASE NAME: Belinda Branch v. Kaiser Permanent		
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET Unlimited Limited (Amount (Amount demanded demanded is	Complex Case Designation Counter Joinder Filed with first appearance by defend	CASE NUMBER: BC 5 7 5 8 5 0 JUDGE:
exceeds \$25,000) \$25,000 or less)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402) ow must be completed (see instructions of the complete of the complete of the court of t	DEPT:
1. Check one box below for the case type that Auto Tort Auto (22) Uninsured motorist (46) Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort Asbestos (04) Product liability (24) Medical malpractice (45) Other PI/PD/WD (23) Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort Business tort/unfair business practice (0' Civil rights (08) Defamation (13) Fraud (16) Intellectual property (19) Professional negligence (25) Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35) Employment Wrongful termination (36)	Contract Breach of contract/warranty (06) Rule 3.740 collections (09) Other collections (09) Insurance coverage (18) Other contract (37) Real Property Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14) Wrongful eviction (33) Other real property (26) Unlawful Detainer Commercial (31) Residential (32) Drugs (38) Judicial Review Asset forfeiture (05) Petition re: arbitration award (11) Writ of mandate (02) Other judicial review (39)	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403) Antitrust/Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28) Environmental/Toxic tort (30) Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41) Enforcement of Judgment Enforcement of judgment (20) Miscellaneous Civil Complaint RICO (27) Other complaint (not specified above) (42) Miscellaneous Civil Petition Partnership and corporate governance (21) Other petition (not specified above) (43)
2. This case is is not confactors requiring exceptional judicial mar a. Large number of separately rep b. Extensive motion practice raisin issues that will be time-consum c. Substantial amount of documer 3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): 4. Number of causes of action (specify): 5. This case is ✓ is not a confidence of the consum is the consumer of causes of action (specify): 6. If there are any known related cases, fill	resented parties g difficult or novel ing to resolve intary evidence a. monetary d. Large numb e. Coordination in other cou f. Substantial nonmonetary b. nonmonetary	Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the er of witnesses in with related actions pending in one or more courts inties, states, or countries, or in a federal court postjudgment judicial supervision; declaratory or injunctive relief c. punitive
Date: March 12, 2015 Miehael T. Carr		(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)
 under the Probate Code, Family Code, in sanctions. File this cover sheet in addition to any of this case is complex under rule 3.400 	NOTICE ne first paper filed in the action or proceed or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Recover sheet required by local court rule. tet seq. of the California Rules of Court, yet seq.	ting (except small claims cases or cases filed tules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all sheet will be used for statistical purposes only. Page 1 of 2

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you must complete and file, along with your first paper, the Civil Case Cover Sheet contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check one box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the primary cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the Civil Case Cover Sheet to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Count this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

Auto Tort

Auto (22)-Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death Uninsured Motorist (46) (if the case involves an uninsured motorist claim subject to arbitration, check this item instead of Auto)

Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/ Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort

Asbestos (04) Asbestos Property Damage Asbestos Personal Injury/ Wrongful Death Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental) (24) Medical Malpractice (45) Medical Malpractice-Physicians & Surgeons Other Professional Health Care

Malpractice Other PI/PD/WD (23) Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)

Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g., assault, vandalism) Intentional Infliction of

Emotional Distress Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress

Other PI/PD/WD Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07)

Clvii Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) (not civil

harassment) (08) Defamation (e.g., slander, libel)

Fraud (16)

Intellectual Property (19)

Professional Negligence (25) J'Legal Malpractice

Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal) Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)

Employment

CM-010 [Rev. July 1, 2007]

Wrongful Termination (36) Other Employment (15)

CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

Contract

Breach of Contract/Warranty (06)

Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not unlawful detainer

or wronaful eviction) Contract/Warranty Breach-Selle

Plaintiff (not fraud or negligence) Negligent Breach of Contract

Warranty

Other Breach of Contract Warranty

Collections (e.g., money owed, open book accounts) (09)

Collection Case-Seller Plaintiff Other Premissory Note/Collections

Insurance Coverage (not provisionally

°сотріву) (18) Auto Subrogation

Other Coverage ther Contract (37)

Contractual Fraud

Other Contract Dispute

Real Property

Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)

Wrongful Eviction (33)

Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)

Writ of Possession of Real Property Mortgage Foreclosure

Quiet Title

Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or

foreclosure)

Unlawful Detainer

Commercial (31)

Residential (32)

Drugs (38) (if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise,

report as Commercial or Residential)

Judicial Review

Asset Forfeiture (05)

Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11)

Writ of Mandate (02)

Writ-Administrative Mandamus Writ-Mandamus on Limited Court

Case Matter

Writ-Other Limited Court Case

Review

Other Judicial Review (39) Review of Health Officer Order

Notice of Appeal-Labor Commissioner Appeals Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal.

Rules of Court Rules 3,400-3,403) Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)

Construction Defect (10) Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)

Securities Litigation (28)

Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)

Insurance Coverage Claims

(arising from provisionally complex

case type listed above) (41)

Enforcement of Judgment

Enforcement of Judgment (20) Abstract of Judgment (Out of

County)

Confession of Judgment (non-

domestic relations)

Sister State Judgment Administrative Agency Award

(not unpaid taxes)

Petition/Certification of Entry of

Judgment on Unpaid Taxes

Other Enforcement of Judgment Case

Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

RICO (27)

Other Complaint (not specified

above) (42)

Declaratory Relief Only Injunctive Relief Only (non-

harassment)

Mechanics Lien

Other Commercial Complaint

Case (non-tort/non-complex)

Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex)

Miscellaneous Civil Petition

Partnership and Corporate

Governance (21)

Other Petition (not specified

above) (43) Civil Harassment

Workplace Violence

Elder/Dependent Adult

Abuse

Election Contest

Petition for Name Change

Petition for Relief From Late

Claim

Other Civil Petition



CASE NUMBER

VIA FAX

BC 5 75 850

CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND STATEMENT OF LOCATION (CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION)

This form is required pursuant to Local Rule 2.0 in all new civil case filings in the Los Angeles Superior Court.
Item I. Check the types of hearing and fill in the estimated length of hearing expected for this case:
JURY TRIAL? YES CLASS ACTION? YES LIMITED CASE? YES TIME ESTIMATED FOR TRIAL 5 HOURS! DAY
Item II. Indicate the correct district and courthouse location (4 steps - If you checked "Limited Case" Skip to Item III, Pg. 4
Step 1: After first completing the Civil Case Cover Sheet form, find the main Civil Case Cover Sheet heading for your
case in the left margin below, and, to the right in Column A, the Civil Case Cover Sheet case type you selected. Step 2: Check one Superior Court type of action in Column B below which best describes the nature of this case.
Step 3: In Column C, circle the reason for the court location choice that applies to the type of action you have checked. For any exception to the court location, see Local Rule 2.0.
Applicable Reasons for Choosing Courthouse Location (see Column C below)
 Class actions must be filed in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, central district. May be filed in central (other county, or no bodily injury/property damage) Location where cause of action arose. Location where bodily injury, death or damage occurred. Location where performance required or defendant resides. Location where one or more of the parties reside. Location of Labor Commissioner Office

Step 4: Fill in the information requested on page 4 in Item III; complete Item IV. Sign the declaration.

Civil Case Cover Sheet			B Lype of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons See Step 3 Above
Auto (22)		A7100	Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1., 2., 4.
Uninsured Motorist (46)		A7110	Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death - Uninsured Motorist	1., 2., 4.
Asbestos (04)	1		Asbestos Property Damage Asbestos - Personal Injury/Wrongful Death	2. 2.
Product Liability (24)	0	A7260	Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)	1., 2., 3., 4., 8.
Medical Malpractice (45)	1		Medical Malpractice - Physicians & Surgeons Other Professional Health Care Malpractice	1., 4. 1., 4.
Other Personal Injury Property Damage Wrongful Death (23)	0	A7230 A7270	Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall) Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault, vandalism, etc.) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1., 4. 1., 4. 1., 3. 1., 4.

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Non-Personal Injury/ Property Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort
Employment
Contract
- Real Property
Unlawful Detainer

A P- Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No 1	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
Business Tort (07)	☐ A6029 Other Commercial/Business Tort (not fraud/breach of contract)	1., 3.
Civil Rights (08)	☐ A6005 Civil Rights/Discrimination	1., 2., 3.
Defamation (13)	☐ A6010 Defamation (slander/libel)	1., 2., 3.
Fraud (16)	☐ A6013 Fraud (no contract)	2., 3.
Professional Negligence (25)	□ A6017 Legal Malpractice □ A6050 Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)) 1., 2., 3. 1., 2., 3.
Other (35)	☐ A6025 Other Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage tort	2.,3.
Wrongful Termination (36)	☑ A6037 Wrongful Termination	1.00
Other Employment (15)	□ A6024 Other Employment Complaint Case □ A6109 Labor Commissioner Appeals	1., 2., 3. 10.
Breach of Contract/ Warranty (06) (not insurance)	□ A6004 Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction) □ A6008 Contract/Warranty Breach -Seller Plaintiff (no fraud/negligence) □ A6019 Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty (no fraud) □ A6028 Other Breach of Contract/Warranty (not fraud or negligence)	2., 5. 2., 5. 1., 2., 5. 1., 2., 5.
Collections (09)	□ A6002 Collections Case-Seller Plaintiff □ A6012 Other Promissory Note/Collections Case	2., 5., 6. 2., 5.
Insurance Coverage (18)	A6015 Insurance Coverage (not complex)	1., 2., 5., 8.
Other Contract (37)	☐ A6009 Contractual Fraud ☐ A6031 Tortious Interference ☐ A6027 Other Contract Dispute(not breach/insurance/fraud/negligence)	1., 2., 3., 5. 1., 2., 3., 5. 1., 2., 3., 8.
Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)	☐ A7300 Eminent Domain/Condemnation Number of parcels	2.
Wrongful Eviction (33)	☐ A6023 Wrongful Eviction Case	2., 6.
Other Real Property (26)	□ A6018 Mortgage Foreclosure □ A6032 Quiet Title □ A6060 Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, foreclosure)	2., 6. 2., 6. 2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (31)	☐ A6021 Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer-Residential (32)	☐ A6020 Unlawful Detainer-Residential (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer- Post-Foreclosure (34)	□ A6020FUnlawful Detainer-Post-Foreclosure	2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer-Drugs (38)	☐ A6022 Unlawful Detainer-Drugs	2., 6.

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CASE NUMBER

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet			B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons See Step 3 Above
	Asset Forfeiture (05)	0	A6108	Asset Forfeiture Case	2., 6.
view	Petition re Arbitration (11)	o	A6115	Petition to Compet/Confirm/Vacate Arbitration	2., 5.
Judicial Review	Writ of Mandate (02)	o o	A6152	Writ - Administrative Mandamus Writ - Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter Writ - Other Limited Court Case Review	2, 8.
	Other Judicial Review (39)	0	A6150	Other Writ /Judicial Review	2., 8.
tion	Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)	o	A6003	Antitrust/Trade Regulation	1., 2., 8.
Litigal	Construction Defect (10)	п	A6007	Construction Defect	1., 2., 3.
Provisionally Complex Litigation	Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)	a	A6006	Claims Involving Mass Tort	1., 2., 8.
ılly Ca	Securities Litigation (28)	0	A6035	Securities Litigation Case	1., 2., 8.
vision	Toxic Tort Environmental (30)	п	A6036	Toxic Tort/Environmental	1., 2., 3., 8.
Pro	Insurance Coverage Claims from Complex Case (41)	۵	A6014	Insurance Coverage/Subrogation (complex case only)	1., 2., 5., 8.
Enforcement of Judgment	Enforcement of Judgment (20)	0 0 0	A6160 A6107 A6140 A6114	Sister State Judgment Abstract of Judgment Concession of Judgment (non-domestic relations) Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes) Petition/Certificate for Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Tax Other Enforcement of Judgment Case	2., 9. 2., 6. 2., 9. 2., 8. 2., 8. 2., 8., 9.
is Str	RICO (27)		A6033	Racketeering (RICO) Case	1., 2., 8.
Miscellaneous S t / Civil Complaints	Other Complaints (Not Specified Above) (42)	0	A6040 A6011	Declaratory Relief Only Injunctive Relief Only (not domestic/harassment) Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex) Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex)	1., 2., 8. 2., 8. 1., 2., 8. 1., 2., 8.
	Partnership Corporation Governance (21)	o.	A6113	Partnership and Corporate Governance Case	2., 8.
Miscellaneous Civil Petilioris	Other Petitions (Not Specified Above) (43)		A6123 A6124 A6190 A6110 A6170	Civil Harassment Workplace Harassment Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case Election Contest Petition for Change of Name Petition for Relief from Late Claim Law Other Civil Petition	2., 3., 9. 2., 3., 9. 2., 3., 9. 2. 2., 7. 2., 3., 4., 8. 2., 9.

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Item III. Statement of Location: Enter the address of the accident, party's residence or place of business, performance, or other circumstance indicated in Item II., Step 3 on Page 1, as the proper reason for filing in the court location you selected.

REASON: Check the all under Column C for the this case.	ppropriate boxes for the nu type of action that you have	mbers shown re selected for	ADDRESS: 1050 West Pacific Coast Highway
□1. ☑2. ☑3. □	34. □5. □6. □7. □8. □	□9. □10.	,
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:	(%)
Harbor City	CA	90710	
Item IV. Declaration of	Assignment: I declare und	er penalty of p	erjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true
	he above-entitled matter		
Central			rnia, County of Los Angeles (Code Civ. Proc., § 392 et seq., and Local
Rule 2.0, subds. (b), (c)) and (d)].		5.50 July 3 Goz Grady, and Edda

Dated: March 12, 2015

(SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY/FILING PARTY)

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS COMPLETED AND READY TO BE FILED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY COMMENCE YOUR NEW COURT CASE:

- 1. Original Complaint or Petition.
- 2. If filing a Complaint, a completed Summons form for issuance by the Clerk.
- 3. Civil Case Cover Sheet, Undicial Council form CM-010.
- Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and Statement of Location form, LACIV 109, LASC Approved 03-04 (Rev. 03/11).
- 5. Payment in full of the filing fee, unless fees have been waived.
- A signed order appointing the Guardian ad Litem, Judicial Council form CIV-010, if the plaintiff or petitioner is a minor under 18 years of age will be required by Court in order to issue a summons.
- Additional copies of documents to be conformed by the Clerk. Copies of the cover sheet and this addendum must be served along with the summons and complaint, or other initiating pleading in the case.

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