

**United States District Court  
for the  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Plaintiff*

*(Write your full name. No more than one plaintiff may be named in a pro se complaint)*

**v.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Defendant(s)*

*(Write the full name of each defendant who is being sued. If the names of all defendants cannot fit in the space above or on page 2, please write "see attached" in the space and attach an additional page with the full list of names)*

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Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
(to be filled in by the Clerk's Office)

JURY TRIAL  Yes  No

**COMPLAINT FOR A CIVIL CASE**

**I. The Parties to This Complaint**

**A. The Plaintiff**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and County \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Defendant(s)**

Provide the information below for each defendant named in the complaint, whether the defendant is an individual, a government agency, an organization or a corporation. If you are suing an individual in his/her official capacity, include the person's job or title. Attach additional pages if needed.

Defendant No. 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Job or Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and County \_\_\_\_\_  
State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant No. 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Job or Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and County \_\_\_\_\_  
State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant No. 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Job or Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and County \_\_\_\_\_  
State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant No. 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Job or Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and County \_\_\_\_\_  
State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant No. 5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and County \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Basis for Jurisdiction**

Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction (limited power). Generally, only these types of cases can be heard in federal court: a dispute that involves a right in the United States Constitution or a federal law (as opposed to a state law or local ordinance); a dispute that involves the United States of America (or any of its agencies, officers or employees in their official capacities) as a party; and a dispute between citizens of different states with an amount in controversy that is more than \$75,000.

What is the basis for federal court jurisdiction? (*check all that apply*)

Constitutional or Federal Question    USA Defendant    Diversity of citizenship

Fill out the paragraphs in this section that apply to this case.

**A. If the Basis for Jurisdiction is USA defendant**

The Defendant(s)

Name of Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**B. If the Basis for Jurisdiction is a Constitutional or Federal Question**

List the specific federal statutes, federal treaties, and/or provisions of the United States Constitution that are at issue in this case.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. If the Basis for Jurisdiction is Diversity of Citizenship**

1. The Plaintiff

The plaintiff, *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_, is a citizen of the State of *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The Defendant(s)

a. If the defendant is an individual

The defendant, *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_, is a citizen of the State of *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_. Or is a citizen of *(foreign nation)* \_\_\_\_\_.

b. If the defendant is a corporation

The defendant, *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_, is incorporated under the laws of the State of *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_, and has its principal place of business in the State of *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_.

Or is incorporated under the laws of *(foreign nation)* \_\_\_\_\_, and has its principal place of business in *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_.

*(If more than one defendant is named in the complaint, attach an additional page providing the same information for each additional defendant.)*

3. The Amount in Controversy

The amount in controversy – the amount the plaintiff claims the defendant owes or the amount that is at state – is more than \$75,000, not counting interest and costs of court, because: *(explain)*

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**III. Statement of Claim**



**V. Certification and Closing**

Under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by signing below, I certify to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief that this complaint; (1) is not being presented for an improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation; (2) is supported by existing law or by a non-frivolous argument for extending, modifying or reversing existing law; (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and (4) complies with the requirements of Rule 11.

I agree to provide the Clerk's Office with any changes to my address where case-related papers may be served. I understand that my failure to keep a current address on file with the Clerk's Office may result in dismissal of my case.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*OPTIONAL\*\***

You may request to receive electronic notifications. You may not file documents or communicate with the court electronically. All documents must be submitted in paper and you must serve the defendants.

Type of personal computer and related software/equipment required:

- Personal computer running a standard platform such as Windows or Mac OSX
- Internet access (high speed is recommended)
- A Web browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or 6.0 or Mozilla Firefox 2 or 1.5)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader is needed for viewing e-filed documents
- PACER account – Information and registration at [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov)

- You will receive one “free” look of the document. Documents must be viewed within 14 days. You must only single-click on the hyperlink to view.

**Note: You must promptly notice the Clerk’s Office, in writing, if there is a change in your designated e-mail address. Failure to update your email address does not excuse failures to appear or timely respond.**

E-mail type:

- HTML – Recommended for most e-mail clients
- Plain Text – Recommended for e-mail accounts unable to process HTML e-mail

Conditioned upon the sufficiency of your electronic equipment which the court will test and verify receipt, you will be allowed to receive electronic notifications.

By submitting this request , the undersigned consents to electronic service and waives the right to personal service and service by first class mail pursuant to Rule 5(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, except with regard to service of a summons and complaint.

When a filing is entered on the case docket, a party who is registered for electronic noticing will receive a Notice of Electronic Filing in his/her designated e-mail account. The Notice will allow one free look at the document, and any attached .pdf may be printed or saved.

**IMPORTANT:**

Messages sent to Yahoo or AOL accounts are frequently found in the spam folder until the court is added to your address book.

E-mail address designated for noticing:

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Participant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_