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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSE DIVISION**

J. Doe, Individually and on Behalf of All  
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

HEALTH NET OF CALIFORNIA, INC.,  
HEALTH NET, LLC, and ACCELLION,  
INC., a Delaware Corporation,

Defendants.

Case No. 21-cv-2975

**CLASS ACTION**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiff J. Doe (“Plaintiff”), by and through their attorneys<sup>1</sup>, individually and on behalf of  
2 all others similarly situated, brings this Class Action Complaint (“Complaint”) against Defendants  
3 Health Net of California, Inc., Health Net, LLC (collectively “Health Net”) and Accellion, Inc., a  
4 Delaware corporation (“Accellion” and with Health Net, “Defendants”), and makes the following  
5 allegations based upon knowledge as to themselves and their own acts, and upon information and  
6 belief as to all other matters, as follows:

### 7 INTRODUCTION

8 1. Accellion is a software company that provides third-party file transfer software and  
9 services to clients. Accellion touts itself as enabling “millions of executives, employees, customers,  
10 vendors, partners, investors, attorneys, doctors, patients, and professionals from every walk of life to  
11 do their jobs without putting their organizations at risk. When they click the Accellion button, they  
12 know it’s the safe and secure way to share information with the outside world.”<sup>2</sup>

13 2. Health Net is a nationwide healthcare conglomerate that provides insurance through  
14 HMO and PPO plans to patients, including many that are enrolled through government funded  
15 programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans Affairs Programs.

16 3. Accellion makes and sells a file transfer service called File Transfer Appliance  
17 (“FTA”), a product specializing in large file transfers. Accellion’s FTA software is a 20-year-old  
18

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19 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff Doe is proceeding pseudonymously so that their medical information and HIV status is  
20 not further compromised and to reduce the risk of housing, healthcare and employment  
21 discrimination traditionally experienced by those with or at high risk of contracting HIV and/or  
22 AIDS. This is permissible under Ninth Circuit law. *Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.*,  
23 214 F. 3d 1058 (9th Cir. 2000); *see also Doe v. Kaweah Delta Hospital*, No. 1:08-cv-0118-AWI-  
24 GSA (E.D. Cal. Aug. 15, 2016); *Doe v. Megless*, 654 F.3d 404, 408-9 (3d Cir. 2011) (endorsing a  
25 noncomprehensive balancing test, which balances, “whether a litigant has a reasonable fear of severe  
26 harm that outweighs the public’s interest in open litigation,” and including AIDS as an example of  
27 an area where courts have permitted plaintiffs to proceed with pseudonyms); *Smith v. Milton Hershey*  
28 *Sch.*, No. CIV.A. 11-7391 (E.D. Pa. 2011) (allowing mother of HIV-positive minor child to proceed  
under pseudonym); *Doe v. Deer Mountain Day Camp, Inc.*, No. 07-cv- 5495 (S.D.N.Y. Jun. 22,  
2007) (permitting minor and his parent alleging HIV discrimination against camp to proceed under  
pseudonym); *EW v. New York Blood Center*, 213 F.R.D. 108, 110 (E.D.N.Y. 2003) (holding that the  
prejudice of embarrassment and fear of stigmatization because plaintiff had a “sexually and blood-  
transmitted disease” like AIDS “is real.”). Plaintiff Doe is using they/them pronouns to avoid  
disclosure of their gender identity.

<sup>2</sup> *See Secure Risky Third Party Communications While Saving Money*, Accellion,  
<https://www.accellion.com/platform/simple/secure-third-party-communication/> (last visited April  
23, 2021).

1 legacy product that was “nearing end-of life.”<sup>3</sup> Indeed, Accellion had announced that, while it would  
2 continue supporting and honoring its FTA contracts for the duration of its existing License Terms,  
3 the obsolete FTA software End of Life would be effective April 30, 2021.<sup>4</sup> Accellion had  
4 “encouraged all FTA customers to migrate to Kiteworks [Accellion’s current file transfer software]  
5 for the last three years.” *Id.*

6 4. Because Accellion’s FTA software was obsolete and otherwise nearing its end of life,  
7 it was vulnerable to compromise and security incidents. And, that security incident came to fruition  
8 in mid-December 2020, when Accellion was made aware of the FTA’s vulnerabilities as  
9 unauthorized third parties compromised the FTA software and gained access to Accellion’s clients’  
10 files (the “Data Breach”).

11 5. It was not until January 12, 2021 that Accellion announced that an unauthorized  
12 individual gained access to certain files and data of numerous customers of Accellion had stored on  
13 and shared through Accellion’s FTA software.<sup>5</sup> This unauthorized access began in December 2020  
14 and continued into January 2021.

15 6. Companies that were affected by the Data Breach include the Washington State  
16 Auditor’s Office, the University of Colorado, Jones Day, Goodwin Procter, Kroger, and Defendant  
17 Health Net.

18 7. On January 25, 2021, Health Net was notified by Accellion of the Data Breach and  
19 that certain Health Net files were accessed. However, Health Net only began advising customers of  
20 its Data Breach on or about March 24, 2021—*two months later*.

21 8. The compromised Health Net files and data included names, home addresses,  
22 insurance ID numbers, and “health information, such as your medical condition(s) and treatment  
23

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24 <sup>3</sup> See *Accellion Provides Update to Recent FTA Security Incident*, Accellion (Feb. 1, 2021),  
25 <https://www.accellion.com/company/press-releases/accellion-provides-update-to-recent-fta-security-incident/>.

26 <sup>4</sup> See *Graduate from Secure File Transfer to Secure 3rd Party Content Communication: Accellion FTA*, Accellion, <https://www.accellion.com/products/fta/> (last visited April 23, 2021).

27 <sup>5</sup> See *Accellion Responds to Recent FTA Security Incident*, Accellion, (Jan. 12, 2021),  
28 <https://www.accellion.com/company/press-releases/accellion-responds-to-recent-fta-security-incident/>.

1 information.”<sup>6</sup> Other Accellion business partners like Kroger’s pharmacies also had significant  
2 information disclosed, such as Social Security numbers, information used to process insurance  
3 claims, and health information such as prescription information and medical history (collectively  
4 “Personally Identifiable Information” or “PII” and/or “Personally Identifiable Health Information”  
5 or “PHI”).<sup>7</sup>

6 9. Defendants were well aware of the data security shortcomings in the FTA product.  
7 Nevertheless, Accellion continued to use FTA with its clients, putting Accellion’s file transfer  
8 service clients and their clients’ customers and employees at risk of being impacted by a breach.

9 10. Defendants’ failure to ensure that its file transfer services and products were  
10 adequately secure fell far short of its obligations and Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ reasonable  
11 expectations for data privacy, had jeopardized the security of their PII/PHI, and has put them at  
12 serious risk of fraud and identity theft. Indeed, Plaintiff Doe has already been informed that their  
13 information has been made available for sale on the dark web.

14 11. Defendants also failed to ensure that Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ reasonable  
15 expectations for data privacy would be maintained, jeopardizing the security of their PII/PHI and  
16 putting them at serious risk of fraud and identity theft, by failing to adequately maintain the security  
17 of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PII/PHI or upgrading software given Accellion’s notice and Health  
18 Net’s knowledge that the FTA software’s end-of-life would be effective April 30, 2021.

19 12. Plaintiff brings this class action alleging that Defendants’ conduct, as described more  
20 fully herein, caused Plaintiffs’ and others’ PII/PHI to be exposed and stolen because of the failure of  
21 Defendants to safeguard and protect their sensitive information. Plaintiff seeks damages, and  
22 injunctive and other relief, on behalf of themselves and similarly situated consumers.

23  
24 <sup>6</sup> See [https://www.healthnet.com/content/healthnet/en\\_us/news-center/news-releases/cyber-accellion.html](https://www.healthnet.com/content/healthnet/en_us/news-center/news-releases/cyber-accellion.html)

25 <sup>7</sup> See Chris Mayhew, *Kroger advises customers of a data breach affecting pharmacy and Little*  
26 *Clinic*, Cincinnati Enquirer, (Feb. 19, 2021 8:34 p.m.), <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2021/02/19/kroger-warns-customers-medical-prescriptions-data-breach/4514664001/>. See also  
27 *Accellion Security Incident Impacts Kroger Family of Companies Associates and Limited Number*  
28 *of Customers*, (Dec. 19, 2021), <http://ir.kroger.com/CorporateProfile/press-releases/press-release/2021/Accellion-Security-Incident-Impacts-Kroger-Family-of-Companies-Associates-and-Limited-Number-of-Customers/default.aspx>.

**PARTIES**

1  
2 13. Plaintiff J. Doe is a resident of San Francisco, California. They received a notice  
3 letter from Health Net dated March 24, 2021 stating that their PHI/PII, including their medical  
4 condition and treatment, was compromised by the Data Breach.

5 14. Defendant Health Net of California, Inc., is a California corporation with its principal  
6 place of business in Woodland Hills, California.

7 15. Defendant Health Net, LLC, is a Delaware Corporation that is the parent corporation  
8 of Health Net of California, Inc., and maintains its headquarters in Woodland Hills, California, and  
9 St. Louis, Missouri.

10 16. Defendant Accellion, Inc., is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Palo Alto,  
11 California.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12  
13 17. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
14 § 1332, as amended by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, because the matter in controversy  
15 exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is a class action in which some members of  
16 the Class are citizens of different states than Defendants. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). This Court  
17 has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

18 18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Accellion and Health Net of California  
19 because they are headquartered in California, are authorized to do business and do conduct business  
20 in California, have specifically marketed, advertised, and made substantial sales in California, and  
21 have sufficient minimum contacts with this state and/or sufficiently avail themselves of the markets  
22 of this state through its promotion, sales, and marketing within this state to render the exercise of  
23 jurisdiction by this Court permissible.

24 19. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Health Net, LLC because it does conduct  
25 business in California through its subsidiaries such as Health Net of California, has specifically  
26 marketed, advertised, and made substantial sales in California, and has sufficient minimum contacts  
27 with this state and/or sufficiently avails itself of the markets of this state through its promotion, sales,  
28 and marketing within this state to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible.

1           20. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants do  
2 substantial business in this District, have intentionally availed themselves of the laws and markets  
3 within this District through their promotion, marketing, distribution and sales activities in this  
4 District, and a significant portion of the facts and circumstances giving rise to Plaintiff's Complaint  
5 occurred in or emanated from this District.

6           21. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c), an intra-district assignment to the San Jose  
7 Division is appropriate because a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the  
8 claims asserted herein occurred in this Division, including that Accellion is headquartered and  
9 located in Santa Clara County.

### 10                                   **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### 11           **A. Background**

12           22. Health Net is a nationwide healthcare conglomerate that provides insurance through  
13 HMO and PPO plans to patients, including many that are enrolled through government funded  
14 programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans Affairs Administration.

15           23. Health Net has had a prior history of incidents with the loss and exposure of digital  
16 electronic records. In 2009, Health Net's Connecticut affiliate lost a portable hard drive with a  
17 terabyte of data that contained PII/PHI of 1.5 million policy holders. Due to that incident, Health  
18 Net was sued by the states of Vermont and Connecticut for violating the states' security breach  
19 notification laws and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"),  
20 42 U.S.C. § 1302d, *et seq.* Due to the scope of the loss of data, and the deliberate delay of disclosure,  
21 Health Net agreed to pay damages and fines and offered stronger consumer protections moving  
22 forward.

23           24. Two years later, in January 2011, Health Net was informed by its IT vendor, IBM,  
24 that nine servers at a Rancho Cordova, California facility went missing, containing PHI and medical  
25 records for 1.9 million customers. Health Net did not notify customers for over two months,  
26 beginning on March 14, 2011. Health Net was subject to investigations by the California Department  
27 of Managed Care, the California Department of Insurance, the Connecticut Attorney General, and  
28 the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services' Division of Finance and Corporate

1 Securities. Health Net was also sued in a series of class action lawsuits brought by impacted patients  
2 in state and federal court, which resulted in a multi-million dollar settlement for compensation and  
3 credit monitoring services to class members, and operational changes intended to prevent future data  
4 loss incidents. In December 2014, Health Net also entered into a Settlement Agreement with the  
5 State of California Department of Managed Care to pay a \$200,000 fine and take additional measures  
6 to ensure the privacy and security of its patients' medical records.<sup>8</sup>

7 25. Accellion is a company that makes, markets, and sells file transfer platform software  
8 and services.

9 26. Accellion touts that its software "prevents data breaches and compliance violations  
10 from third party cyber risk."<sup>9</sup> Specifically, Accellion touts that its FTA software purportedly "helps  
11 worldwide enterprises ... transfer large and sensitive files securely using a 100% private cloud, on-  
12 premise, or hosted."<sup>10</sup>

13 27. Accellion's FTA software was used by Health Net to store, secure, and transfer  
14 Plaintiff's and Class Members' most sensitive and confidential information, including names, Social  
15 Security numbers and/or health insurance numbers, dates of birth, privileged and confidential  
16 documents, health records, medical treatment information, and other personal identifiable  
17 information.

18 28. Plaintiff and Class Members relied on Defendants to keep their PII/PHI confidential  
19 and securely maintained, to use this information for business purposes only, and to make only  
20 authorized disclosures of this information. Defendants had a duty to adopt reasonable measures to  
21 protect Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI from involuntary disclosures to third parties.

22 29. Accellion acknowledged that its FTA software was a "legacy" product,<sup>11</sup> outdated  
23 and was "nearing end-of-life,"<sup>12</sup> thereby leaving it vulnerable to compromise and security incidents.

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25 <sup>8</sup> See <https://wpso.dnhc.ca.gov/enfactions/docs/2214/1602277464557.pdf>

26 <sup>9</sup> See *About Accellion*, Accellion, <https://www.accellion.com/company/> (last visited April 23, 2021).

27 <sup>10</sup> See *Graduate from Secure File: Transfer to Secure 3rd Party Content Communication*.

28 <sup>11</sup> *Accellion Responds to Recent FTA Security Incident*.

<sup>12</sup> *Accellion Provides Update to Recent FTA Security Incident*.

1           30.     Nonetheless, Health Net continued using Accellion’s FTA software, despite receiving  
2 notice that Accellion’s FTA software was outdated and was “nearing end-of-life,” and further  
3 receiving notification that it should upgrade to other software, including Accellion’s “Kiteworks®”  
4 platform.

5           **B.     The Data Breach**

6           31.     On January 12, 2021, Accellion issued a statement concerning the Data Breach,  
7 indicating that, in mid-December 2020, it “was made aware of a P0 vulnerability in its legacy File  
8 Transfer Appliance (FTA) software.”

9           32.     A “P0 vulnerability” or “zero-day vulnerability” is a newly discovered software  
10 security flaw that is known to the software vendor but does not have a patch in place to fix the flaw.<sup>13</sup>  
11 “Zero-day” refers to the fact that a developer has “zero-days” to fix the problem that was exposed  
12 and may have already been exploited by hackers. *Id.*

13           33.     Accellion indicated in its January 12, 2021 press release that it had “resolved the  
14 vulnerability and released a patch within 72 hours to the less than 50 customers affected.”<sup>14</sup>

15           34.     On February 1, 2021, Accellion issued a press release providing an update concerning  
16 the Data Breach.<sup>15</sup> Accellion represented that it “patched all known FTA vulnerabilities exploited  
17 by the attackers and has added new monitoring and alerting capabilities to flag anomalies associated  
18 with these attack vectors.” *Id.*

19           35.     While Accellion was made aware of the Data Breach in mid-December, Accellion  
20 acknowledged that the “initial incident was the beginning of a concerted cyberattack on the Accellion  
21 FTA product that continued into January 2021.” *Id.* Accellion “rapidly developed and released  
22 patches to close each vulnerability,” and continued to “work closely with FTA customers to mitigate  
23 the impact of the attack and to monitor for anomalies.” *Id.*

24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>13</sup> See Kyle Chivers, *Zero-day vulnerability: What it is, and how it works*, Norton, (Aug. 28, 2019),  
<https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-emerging-threats-how-do-zero-day-vulnerabilities-work-30sectech.html>.

27 <sup>14</sup> *Accellion Responds to Recent FTA Security Incident.*

28 <sup>15</sup> *Accellion Provides Update to Recent FTA Security Incident.*



1           36. As Frank Balonis, Accellion’s Chief Information Security Officer, conceded,  
2 “[f]uture exploits, however, are a constant threat.” *Id.* And Accellion has attempted to deflect  
3 responsibility for the incident, stating that it has encouraged customers to upgrade their platform for  
4 three years. *Id.* Accellion also stated that it contracted with Mandiant, a cybersecurity forensics  
5 firm, to conduct a compromise assessment. *Id.*

6           37. On February 22, 2021, Accellion issued a statement regarding Mandiant’s  
7 preliminary findings.<sup>16</sup> Mandiant identified UNC2546 as the criminal hacker behind the  
8 cyberattacks and data theft involving the FTA software.<sup>17</sup>

9           38. Multiple Accellion FTA customers received extortion emails from UNC2546,  
10 threatening to publish stolen data on the “CLOP^\_-LEAKS”.onion website. *Id.* Further, some of the  
11 published victim data appeared to have been stolen using the DEWMODE web shell. *Id.* Mandiant  
12 is continuing to track the subsequent extortion activity. *Id.*

### 13           **C. Notification of Accellion’s FTA Customers**

14           39. In its February 1, 2021 press release, Accellion indicated that “[a]ll FTA customers  
15 were promptly notified of the attack on December 23, 2020.”<sup>18</sup>

16           40. However, on or around January 25, 2021, the Australian Securities and Investments  
17 Commission announced that it was one of the customers affected by the Data Breach,<sup>19</sup> having  
18 become aware of the Data Breach on January 15, 2021 when its server was accessed on December  
19 28, 2020. This raises doubt as to whether Accellion notified all of its customers of the Data Breach  
20 on December 23, 2020, as Accellion claimed it did.

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22  
23 <sup>16</sup> See *Accellion Provides Update to FTA Security Incident Following Mandiant’s Preliminary Findings*, Accellion, (Feb. 22, 2021), <https://www.accellion.com/company/press-releases/accellion-provides-update-to-fta-security-incident-following-mandiant-preliminary-findings/>.

24 <sup>17</sup> See Moore, et al., *Cyber Criminals Exploit Accellion FTA for Data Theft and Extortion*, FireEye, (Feb. 22, 2021), <https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2021/02/accellion-fta-exploited-for-data-theft-and-extortion.html>.

25 <sup>18</sup> See *Accellion Provides Update to Recent FTA Security Incident*.

26 <sup>19</sup> See *Accellion cyber incident*, Australian Securities & Investments Commission, <https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/news-items/accellion-cyber-incident/> (last visited April 23, 2021)

1           41. On or around February 1, 2021, the Office of the Washington State Auditor  
2 announced that it was one of the customers affected by the Data Breach, having received  
3 confirmation by Accellion “[d]uring the week of January 25, 2021 ... that an unauthorized person  
4 gained access to S[tate] A[uditor] O[ffice] files by exploiting a vulnerability in Accellion’s file  
5 transfer service.”<sup>20</sup> This raises doubt as to whether Accellion notified all of its customers of the Data  
6 Breach on December 23, 2020, as Accellion claimed it did.

7           42. On or around February 9, 2021, the University of Colorado announced that it was  
8 affected by the Data Breach.<sup>21</sup> The University of Colorado indicated that it suspended use of the  
9 FTA software on January 25, 2021, raising doubt as to whether Accellion notified all of its customers  
10 of the Data Breach on December 23, 2020, as Accellion claimed it did.

11           43. On or around February 11, 2021, Singtel was informed by Accellion that the FTA  
12 software “has been illegally attacked by unidentified hackers.”<sup>22</sup> This raises doubt as to whether  
13 Accellion notified all of its customers of the Data Breach on December 23, 2020, as Accellion  
14 claimed it did.

15           44. Other companies domestically and internationally, including QIMR Berghofer  
16 Medical Research Institute,<sup>23</sup> the Reserve Bank of New Zealand,<sup>24</sup> Jones Day,<sup>25</sup> and Goodwin  
17 Procter,<sup>26</sup> were all affected by the Data Breach.

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 <sup>20</sup> See *About the Accellion data security breach*, Office of the Washington State Auditor,  
20 <https://sao.wa.gov/breach2021/> (last visited April 23, 2021)

21 <sup>21</sup> See *About the Accellion Cyberattack*, University of Colorado, (Feb. 12, 2021),  
22 <https://www.cu.edu/accellion-cyberattack>.

23 <sup>22</sup> See *About Accellion FTA Security Incident*, Singtel, [https://www.singtel.com/personal/  
support/about-accellion-security-incident](https://www.singtel.com/personal/support/about-accellion-security-incident) (last visited April 23, 2021)

24 <sup>23</sup> See *QIMR Berghofer investigates suspected Accellion data breach*, QIMR Berghofer Medical  
25 Research Institute, [https://www.qimrberghofer.edu.au/media-releases/qimr-berghofer-investigates-  
suspected-accellion-data-breach/](https://www.qimrberghofer.edu.au/media-releases/qimr-berghofer-investigates-suspected-accellion-data-breach/) (last visited April 23, 2021).

26 <sup>24</sup> See *Our response to Data Breach*, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, [https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/our-  
response-to-data-breach](https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/our-response-to-data-breach) (last visited April 23, 2021).

27 <sup>25</sup> Chris Opfer, *Jones Day Hit by Data Breach as Vendor Accellion Hack Widens*, Bloomberg Law,  
28 (Feb. 16, 2021, 4:30 p.m.), [https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/jones-day-hit-by-  
data-breach-as-vendor-accellion-hacks-widen](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/jones-day-hit-by-data-breach-as-vendor-accellion-hacks-widen).

<sup>26</sup> Meghan Tribe, *Goodwin Procter Says It Was Hit by Data Breach of Vendor (1)*, Bloomberg Law,  
(Feb. 2, 2021, 12:36 p.m.), [https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/goodwin-procter-  
says-it-was-hit-by-data-breach-of-vendor](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/goodwin-procter-says-it-was-hit-by-data-breach-of-vendor).

1           **D. Health Net Announces It was Impacted by the Data Breach**

2           45. On January 25, 2021, Health Net was informed that the PII/PHI of its patients was  
3 part of the Accellion breach. On March 24, 2021, Health Net publicly acknowledged the incident  
4 and confirmed that the breach happened between January 7 and January 25, 2021, and that patients'  
5 names, addresses, dates of birth, insurance ID numbers, and health information, including medical  
6 condition(s) and treatment information were compromised. Health Net began informing patients via  
7 letter, offering one year of credit monitoring through IDX and encouraging patients to take additional  
8 steps to review their credit and account information.

9           **E. Impact of the Data Breach**

10          46. The Data Breach creates a heightened security concern for Health Net patients such  
11 as Plaintiff and Class Members because their PII/PHI, including unique medical records and other  
12 sensitive health and prescription information was included.

13          47. Medical privacy is among the most important tenets of American healthcare. Patients  
14 must be able to trust their physicians, insurers, and pharmacies to protect their medical information  
15 from improper disclosure including, but not limited to, their health conditions and courses of  
16 treatment. Indeed, numerous state and federal laws require this. And, these laws are especially  
17 important when protecting individuals with particular medical conditions such as HIV or AIDS that  
18 can and do subject them to regular discrimination.

19          48. Defendants' conduct is especially egregious in this instance because it impacted  
20 individuals historically subject to discrimination based upon their medical condition. Although  
21 many would like to believe a lot has changed since the U.S. Supreme Court held in 1998 that  
22 HIV/AIDS was subject to protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act<sup>27</sup>, persons living with  
23 HIV and those at high risk of infection continue to battle for equal access to healthcare and rights.  
24

25          49. In a 2009 survey by Lambda Legal, "nearly 63 percent of the respondents who had  
26 HIV reported experiencing one or more of the following types of discrimination in health care:  
27 being refused needed care; being blamed for their healthcare status; and/or a healthcare

28 <sup>27</sup> *Bragdon v. Abbott*, 524 U.S. 624 (1988).

1 professional refusing to touch them or using excessive precautions, using harsh or abusive  
2 language, or being physically rough and abusive.”<sup>28</sup> Of those surveyed, 19% reported being denied  
3 care altogether.

4 50. Persons living with HIV (and their families) are also regularly subjected to  
5 employment and housing discrimination. In the 2000s, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity  
6 Commission received 2,175 complaints of discrimination based on HIV, with complaints peaking  
7 in the last year of the survey, demonstrating a disturbing upward trend. And, a 2009 national  
8 survey conducted by the Kaiser Foundation also showed that only 21% of people were comfortable  
9 living with someone with HIV. There are also numerous reported lawsuits over instances in which  
10 individuals with HIV (including children) have been denied housing and equal access because of  
11 their HIV status.

12 51. It is also well known that HIV and AIDS disproportionately impacts minority  
13 groups such as the LGBT community and African Americans. According to AmFAR, gay and  
14 bisexual men accounted for 82% of the United States’ 1.2 million people living with HIV, with  
15 African-Americans accounting for 45% of HIV diagnoses but only 12% of the general  
16 population.<sup>29</sup>

17 52. The pervasive discrimination suffered by those with HIV or AIDS leads to a social  
18 stigma that results in significant harm, including a direct correlation to higher rates of depression,  
19 loneliness, and social isolation—and results in those suffering from (or at high risk of) the illness to  
20 avoid testing and treatment to avoid the negative consequences of a positive diagnoses.

21 53. In addition to harms associated with the disclosure of a person’s HIV status, the  
22 Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) defines identity theft as “a fraud committed or attempted using  
23 the identifying information of another person without authority.” 17 C.F.R. § 248.201. The FTC  
24 describes “identifying information” as “any name or number that may be used, alone or in  
25 conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific person,” including, among other things,

26 <sup>28</sup> [https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/fs\\_hiv-stigma-and-](https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/fs_hiv-stigma-and-discrimination-in-the-us_1.pdf)  
27 [discrimination-in-the-us\\_1.pdf](https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/fs_hiv-stigma-and-discrimination-in-the-us_1.pdf), last accessed May 8, 2018. All statistics cited herein are taken from  
28 Lambda’s report unless otherwise attributed.

<sup>29</sup> <http://amfar.org/About-HIV-and-AIDS/Facts-and-Stats/Statistics--United-States/>, last accessed  
April 23, 2021.

1 “[n]ame, Social Security number, date of birth, official State or government issued driver’s license  
2 or identification number, alien registration number, government passport number, employer or  
3 taxpayer identification number.” *Id.*

4 54. Theft of Social Security numbers creates a particularly alarming situation for victims  
5 because those numbers cannot easily be replaced. Indeed, the Social Security Administration stresses  
6 that the loss of an individual’s Social Security number can lead to identity theft and extensive fraud:

7 A dishonest person who has your Social Security number can use it to  
8 get other personal information about you. Identity thieves can use your  
9 number and your good credit to apply for more credit in your name.  
10 Then, they use the credit cards and don’t pay the bills, it damages your  
11 credit. You may not find out that someone is using your number until  
you’re turned down for credit, or you begin to get calls from unknown  
creditors demanding payment for items you never bought. Someone  
illegally using your Social Security number and assuming your  
identity can cause a lot of problems.<sup>30</sup>

12 55. It is also difficult to obtain a new Social Security number. A breach victim would  
13 have to demonstrate ongoing harm from misuse of her Social Security number, and a new Social  
14 Security number will not be provided until after the harm has already been suffered by the victim.

15 56. Given the highly sensitive nature of Social Security numbers, theft of these numbers  
16 in combination with other personally identifying information may cause damage to victims for years.

17 57. Defendants had a duty to keep PII/PHI confidential and to protect it from  
18 unauthorized disclosures. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII/WHI to Health Net with  
19 the understanding that Health Net and any business partners to whom Health Net disclosed PII would  
20 comply with their obligations to keep such information confidential and secure from unauthorized  
21 disclosures.

22 58. Defendants’ data security obligations were particularly important given the  
23 substantial increases in data breaches in recent years, which are widely known to the public and to  
24 anyone in Accellion’s industry of data collection and transfer.

25 59. Data breaches are not new. These types of attacks should be anticipated by companies  
26 that store sensitive and personally identifying information, and these companies must ensure that

27 <sup>30</sup> *Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number*, Social Security Administration,  
28 <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf> (last accessed April 23, 2021).

1 data privacy and security is adequate to protect against and prevent known attacks. Indeed, Health  
2 Net has been subject to numerous data security incidents, as have other healthcare conglomerates  
3 such as Anthem and Premera Blue Cross.

4 60. It is well known among companies that store sensitive personally identifying  
5 information that sensitive information is valuable and frequently targeted by criminals.

6 61. Identity theft victims are frequently required to spend many hours and large amounts  
7 of money repairing the impact to their credit. Identity thieves use stolen personal information for a  
8 variety of crimes, including credit card fraud, tax fraud, phone or utilities fraud, and bank/finance  
9 fraud.

10 62. There may be a time lag between when the harm occurs versus when it is discovered,  
11 and also between when PII/WHI is stolen and when it is used. According, to the U.S. Government  
12 Accountability Office, which conducted a study regarding data breaches:

13 [L]aw enforcement officials told us that in some cases, stolen data may  
14 be held for up to a year or more before being used to commit identity  
15 theft. Further, once stolen data have been sold or posted on the Web,  
16 fraudulent use of that information may continue for years. As a result,  
17 studies that attempt to measure the harm resulting from data breaches  
18 cannot necessarily rule out all future harm.<sup>31</sup>

19 63. With access to an individual's PII/PHI, criminals can commit all manners of fraud,  
20 including obtaining a driver's license or official identification card in the victim's name but with the  
21 thief's picture, using the victim's name and Social Security number to obtain government benefits,  
22 or filing a fraudulent tax return using the victim's information.

23 64. PII/PHI is such a valuable commodity to identity thieves that once the information  
24 has been compromised, criminals often trade the information on the dark web and the "cyber black-  
25 market" for years. As a result of recent large-scale data breaches, identity thieves and cyber criminals  
26 have openly posted stolen Social Security numbers and other PII/WHI directly on various illegal  
27 websites making the information publicly available, often for a price.

28 <sup>31</sup> *Report to Congressional Requesters*, U.S. Government Accountability Office, (June 2007),  
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07737.pdf>.

1           65.     Moreover, a study found that the “average total cost” of medical identity theft is  
2 “about \$20,000” per incident, and that a majority of victims of medical identity theft were forced to  
3 pay out-of-pocket costs for healthcare they did not receive in order to restore coverage.<sup>32</sup>

4           66.     Accellion is, and at all relevant times has been, aware that the sensitive PII/PHI it  
5 handles and stores in connection with providing its file transfer services is highly sensitive. As a  
6 company that provides file transfer services involving highly sensitive and identifying information,  
7 Accellion is aware of the importance of safeguarding that information and protecting its systems and  
8 products from security vulnerabilities.

9           67.     Accellion was aware, or should have been aware, of regulatory and industry guidance  
10 regarding data security, and it was alerted to the risk associated with failing to ensure that its file  
11 transfer product FTA was adequately secured, or phasing out the platform altogether.

12           68.     Health Net is, and at all relevant times has been, aware that the sensitive PII/PHI it  
13 handles and stores is highly sensitive. As a company that handles highly sensitive and identifying  
14 medical information, Health Net is aware of the importance of safeguarding that information and  
15 protecting its systems and products from security vulnerabilities.

16           69.     Despite the known risk of data breaches and the widespread publicity and industry  
17 alerts regarding other notable data breaches, Defendants failed to take reasonable steps to adequately  
18 protect its systems from being breached and to properly phase out its unsecure FTA platform, leaving  
19 its clients and all persons who provide sensitive PII/PHI to its clients exposed to risk of fraud and  
20 identity theft.

21           70.     The security flaws inherent to Accellion’s FTA file transfer platform—and continuing  
22 to market and sell a platform with known, unpatched security issues—run afoul of industry best  
23 practices and standards. Had Accellion adequately protected and secured FTA, or stopped  
24 supporting the product when it learned about its vulnerabilities, it could have prevented the Data  
25 Breach.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>32</sup> See Elinor Mills, *Study: Medical identity theft is costly for victims*, CNET, (Mar. 3, 2010, 5:00  
28 a.m.), <https://www.cnet.com/news/study-medical-identity-theft-is-costly-for-victims>; see Annie  
Nova, *Here’s how to avoid medical identity theft*, CNBC, (June 7, 2019 11:15 a.m.),  
<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/06/07/how-to-avoid-medical-identity-theft.html>.

1           71. Accellion had put its customers on notice in that it was encouraging its customers to  
2 upgrade to another of Accellion's platforms. Because Health Net received notice that Accellion was  
3 no longer supporting the FTA software and had been advised to upgrade to new or different software,  
4 Health Net was aware, or should have been aware, that it was at risk of using "legacy" software that  
5 was subject to breach.

6           72. Despite the fact that Defendants were on notice of the possibility of data theft  
7 associated with the FTA platform, it still failed to make necessary changes to the product or to stop  
8 offering and supporting it, and permitted a massive intrusion to occur that resulted in the FTA  
9 platform's disclosure of Plaintiffs' and Class members' PII/PHI to criminals.

10           73. As a result of the events detailed herein, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered harm  
11 and loss of privacy, and will continue to suffer future harm, resulting from the Data Breach, including  
12 but not limited to: invasion of privacy; loss of privacy; loss of control over personal information and  
13 identities; disclosure of their medical conditions and courses of treatment; fraud and identity theft;  
14 unreimbursed losses relating to fraud and identity theft; loss of value and loss of possession and  
15 privacy of PII/PHI; harm resulting from damaged credit scores and information; loss of time and  
16 money preparing for and resolving fraud and identity theft; loss of time and money obtaining  
17 protections against future identity theft; and other harm resulting from the unauthorized use or threat  
18 of unauthorized exposure of PII/PHI.

19           74. Victims of the Data Breach have likely already experienced harms, which is made  
20 clear by news of attempts to exploit this information for money by the hackers responsible for the  
21 breach.<sup>33</sup> Indeed, an UNC-2582 extortion email similar to the following has been received by at  
22 least one victim of the Data Breach:

23           Hello!

24           Your network has been hacked, a lot of valuable data stolen.  
25           <description of stolen data, including the total size of the compressed  
26           files> We are the CLOP ransomware team, you can google news and  
27           articles about us. We have a website where we publish news and  
28           stolen files from companies that have refused to cooperate. Here is his  
            address [http://\[redacted\].onion/](http://[redacted].onion/) - use TOR browser or  
            [http://\[redacted\].onion.dog/](http://[redacted].onion.dog/) - mirror. We are visited by 20-30

<sup>33</sup> See *Cyber Criminals Exploit Accellion FTA for Data Theft and Extortion*.



1 thousand journalists, IT experts, hackers and competitors every day.  
2 We suggest that you contact us via chat within 24 hours to discuss the  
3 current situation. <victim-specific negotiation URL> - use TOR  
4 browser We don't want to hurt, our goal is money. We are also ready  
5 to provide any evidence of the presence of files with us.<sup>34</sup>

6 75. As a result of Accellion's failure to ensure that its FTA product was protected and  
7 secured, or to phase out the platform upon learning of FTA's vulnerabilities, the Data Breach  
8 occurred. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff's and Class Members' privacy has been invaded,  
9 their PII/PHI is now in the hands of criminals, they face a substantially increased risk of identity theft  
10 and fraud, and they must take immediate and time-consuming action to protect themselves from such  
11 identity theft and fraud.

12 76. As a result of Health Net's failure to heed Accellion's warning to upgrade, due in part  
13 to Accellion's FTA product being subject to vulnerabilities and Accellion was phasing out the  
14 platform, the Data Breach occurred. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff and Class Members'  
15 privacy has been invaded, their PII is now in the hands of criminals, they face a substantially  
16 increased risk of identity theft and fraud, and they must take immediate and time-consuming action  
17 to protect themselves from such identity theft and fraud.

### 18 **PLAINTIFF'S EXPERIENCES**

19 77. Plaintiff J. Doe learned of the Data Breach via a notice by Health Net received on or  
20 about April 1, 2021.

21 78. Plaintiff J. Doe has been enrolled in Health Net's insurance coverage services since  
22 approximately 2006, including for treatments associated with their living with HIV for over 20 years.

23 79. As a result of learning of the Data Breach, Plaintiff Doe spent time dealing with the  
24 consequences of the Data Breach, which includes time spent verifying the legitimacy of the news  
25 reports of the Data Breach, exploring credit monitoring and identity theft insurance options, and self-  
26 monitoring their accounts. In fact, on April 3, 2021, Plaintiff Doe was informed by a credit  
27 monitoring service that their information was available on the dark web.

28 

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<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

1 80. Plaintiff Doe suffered actual injury in the form of damages to and diminution of the  
2 value of his/her PII/PHI – a form of intangible property that Plaintiff Doe entrusted to Defendants  
3 for the purpose of obtain medical care, which was compromised in and as a result of the Data Breach.

4 81. Plaintiff Doe suffered lost time, annoyance, interference, and inconvenience as a  
5 result of the Data Breach.

6 82. Plaintiff Doe has suffered imminent and impending injury arising from the disclosure  
7 of their HIV status and treatment and for the substantially increased risk of fraud, identity theft, and  
8 misuse resulting from their PII/PHI, especially their insurance identification number and medical  
9 information, in combination with their other PII/PHI, being placed in the hands of unauthorized third  
10 parties and criminals.

11 83. Plaintiff Doe has a continued interest in ensuring that their PII/PHI, which remains  
12 backed up in Defendants’ possession, is protected and safeguarded from future breaches.

13 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

14 84. Plaintiff brings a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
15 Procedure on behalf of themselves and all members of the following nationwide class (the “Accellion  
16 Class”):

17 All persons in the United States whose PII/PHI was exposed to  
18 unauthorized third parties as a result of the compromise of Accellion  
19 FTA that occurred between December 2020 and January 2021 (the  
“Accellion Class”).

20 Plaintiff reserves the right to modify, change, or expand the Accellion Class definition, including  
21 proposing additional subclasses, based on discovery and further investigation.

22 85. Plaintiff further brings a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
23 Procedure on behalf of themselves and all members of the following nationwide class (the “Health Net  
24 Class”):

25 All persons in the United States who are Health Net subscribers whose  
26 PII/PHI was exposed to unauthorized third parties as a result of the  
27 compromise of Accellion FTA that occurred between December 2020  
28 and January 2021 (the “Health Net Class”).

1 Plaintiff reserves the right to modify, change, or expand the Health Net Class definition, including  
2 proposing additional subclasses, based on discovery and further investigation.

3 86. Excluded from the Classes are: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action  
4 and members of their families; (2) Defendants, Defendants' subsidiaries, parents, successors,  
5 predecessors, and any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest, and its current or former  
6 employees, officers, and directors; (3) counsel for Plaintiffs and Defendants; and (4) legal  
7 representatives, successors, or assigns of any such excluded persons.

8 87. The Classes meet all of the criteria required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a).

9 88. **Numerosity:** The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all members is  
10 impracticable. Though the exact number and identities of Class Members are unknown at this time,  
11 it appears that the membership of the Classes are in the tens of thousands. The identities of Class  
12 members are also ascertainable through Defendants' records.

13 89. **Commonality:** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class Members.  
14 These common questions of law or fact predominate over any questions affecting only individual  
15 members of the Class. Common questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 16 (a) Whether and to what extent Defendants had a duty to protect the PII/PHI of  
17 Plaintiff and Class Members;
- 18 (b) Whether Defendants failed to adequately safeguard the PII/PHI of Plaintiff  
19 and Class Members;
- 20 (c) Whether and when Defendants actually learned of the Data Breach;
- 21 (d) Whether Defendants adequately, promptly, and accurately informed Plaintiff  
22 and Class Members that their PII/PHI had been compromised;
- 23 (e) Whether Defendants failed to implement and maintain reasonable security  
24 procedures and practices appropriate to the nature and scope of the  
25 information compromised in the Data Breach;
- 26 (f) Whether Defendants adequately addressed and fixed the vulnerabilities which  
27 permitted the Data Breach to occur;
- 28 (g) Whether Defendants were negligent or negligent per se;

- 1 (h) Whether Defendants violated the California Consumer Privacy Act,
- 2 California Confidentiality in Medical Information Act and California's Unfair
- 3 Competition Law;
- 4 (i) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to relief from Defendants
- 5 as a result of Defendants' misconduct, and if so, in what amounts; and
- 6 (j) Whether Class members are entitled to injunctive and/or declaratory relief to
- 7 address the imminent and ongoing harm faced as a result of the Data Breach.

8 90. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Classes they seek to  
9 represent, in that the named Plaintiff and all members of the proposed Classes have suffered similar  
10 injuries as a result of the same misconduct alleged herein. Plaintiff has no interests adverse to the  
11 interests of the other members of the Classes.

12 91. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Classes and  
13 has retained attorneys well experienced in class actions and complex litigation as their counsel,  
14 including cases alleging breach of privacy and negligence claims arising from corporate misconduct.

15 92. The Classes also satisfy the criteria for certification under Federal Rule of Civil  
16 Procedure 23(b) and 23(c). Among other things, Plaintiff avers that the prosecution of separate  
17 actions by the individual members of the proposed class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying  
18 adjudication which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants; that the  
19 prosecution of separate actions by individual class members would create a risk of adjudications with  
20 respect to them which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class  
21 Members not parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect  
22 their interests; that Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the  
23 proposed Classes, thereby making final injunctive relief or declaratory relief described herein  
24 appropriate with respect to the proposed Classes as a whole; that questions of law or fact common to  
25 the Classes predominate over any questions affecting only individual members and that class action  
26 treatment is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the  
27 controversy which is the subject of this action. Plaintiff also avers that certification of one or more  
28 subclasses or issues may be appropriate for certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c).

1 Plaintiff further states that the interests of judicial economy will be served by concentrating litigation  
2 concerning these claims in this Court, and that the management of the Classes will not be difficult.

3 93. Plaintiff and other members of the Classes have suffered damages as a result of  
4 Defendants' unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, Defendants' unlawful and  
5 improper conduct shall, in large measure, not go remedied. Absent a class action, the members of  
6 the Classes will not be able to effectively litigate these claims and will suffer further losses.

7 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

8 **COUNT I**  
9 **Negligence**

10 94. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporates by  
11 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

12 95. Accellion negligently sold its FTA product which it has acknowledged is vulnerable  
13 to security breaches, despite representing that the product could be used securely for large file  
14 transfers. Health Net negligently used FTA for the storage and transmission of PII/PHI

15 96. Defendants were entrusted with, stored, and otherwise had access to the PII/PHI of  
16 Plaintiff and Class Members.

17 97. Defendants knew, or should have known, of the risks inherent to storing the PII/PHI  
18 of Plaintiff and Class Members, and to not ensuring that the FTA product was secure. These risks  
19 were reasonably foreseeable to Defendants, because Accellion had previously recognized and  
20 acknowledged the data security concerns with its FTA product.

21 98. Defendants owed duties of care to Plaintiff and Class Members whose PII/PHI had  
22 been entrusted to them.

23 99. Defendants breached their duties to Plaintiff and Class Members by failing to provide  
24 fair, reasonable, or adequate data security in connection with marketing, sale, and use of the FTA  
25 product. Defendants had a duty to safeguard Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII and to ensure that  
26 their systems and products adequately protected PII.

27 100. But for Defendants' wrongful and negligent breach of its duties owed to Plaintiff and  
28 Class Members, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have been injured.

1 101. Defendants acted with wanton disregard for the security of Plaintiff's and Class  
2 Members' PII/PHI.

3 102. The injury and harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members was the reasonably  
4 foreseeable result of Defendants' breach of their duties. Defendants knew or should have known  
5 that they were failing to meet its duties, and that Defendants' breach would cause Plaintiff and Class  
6 Members to experience the foreseeable harms associated with the exposure of their PII/PHI.

7 103. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff and Class  
8 Members have suffered injury, including but not limited to: (i) actual identity theft; (ii) the loss of  
9 the opportunity of how their PII/PHI is used; (iii) the compromise, publication, and/or theft of their  
10 PII/PHI; (iv) out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from  
11 identity theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their PII/PHI; (v) the continued risk to their  
12 PII/PHI, which may remain in Defendants' possession and is subject to further unauthorized  
13 disclosures so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect  
14 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI in their continued possession; and (vi) future costs in terms  
15 of time, effort, and money that will be expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the impact of  
16 the PII/PHI compromised as a result of the Data Breach for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff  
17 and Class Members.

18 104. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff and Class  
19 Members face an increased risk of future harm.

20 105. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff and Class  
21 Members and are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

22 **COUNT II**  
23 **Negligence Per Se**

24 106. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporates by  
25 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

26 107. Pursuant to the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 45,  
27 Defendants had a duty to provide adequate data security practices, including in connection with its  
28 sale of its FTA software, to safeguard Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI.

1 108. Pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996  
2 (“HIPAA”), 42 U.S.C. § 1302d, *et seq.*, Defendants had a duty to implement reasonable safeguards  
3 to protect Plaintiff’s and Class Member’s PII/PHI.

4 109. Pursuant to other state and federal laws requiring the confidentiality of PII/PHI,  
5 including, but not limited to, California Confidentiality in Medical Information Act (“CMIA”), Cal.  
6 Civ. Code. §§ 56, *et seq.*, and California’s HIV Disclosure Laws, Cal. Health & Safety Code §  
7 120980, Defendants had a duty to implement reasonably safeguards to protect Plaintiff’s and Class  
8 Members’ PII/PHI.

9 110. Defendants breached their duties to Plaintiff and Class Members under the FTC Act  
10 HIPAA, the CMIA, among other laws, by failing to provide fair, reasonable, or adequate data security  
11 in connection with the sale and use of the FTA software in order to safeguard Plaintiff’s and Class  
12 Members’ PII/PHI.

13 111. Defendants’ failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations constitutes  
14 negligence *per se*.

15 112. But for Defendants’ wrongful and negligent breach of its duties owed to Plaintiff and  
16 Class Members, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have been injured.

17 113. The injury and harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members was the reasonably  
18 foreseeable result of Defendants’ breach of its duties. Defendants knew or should have known that  
19 it was failing to meet its duties, and that Defendants’ breach would cause Plaintiff and Class  
20 Members to experience the foreseeable harms associated with the exposure of their PII/PHI.

21 114. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ negligent conduct, Plaintiff and Class  
22 Members face an increased risk of future harm.

23 115. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ negligent conduct, Plaintiff and Class  
24 Members have suffered injury and are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

25 **COUNT III**  
26 **Invasion of Privacy**

27 116. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporate by  
28 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

1           117. Plaintiff and Class Members had a reasonable and legitimate expectation of privacy  
2 in the PII/PHI that Defendants disclosed without authorization.

3           118. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to keep their PII/PHI  
4 confidential.

5           119. Defendants failed to protect and release to unknown and unauthorized third parties  
6 the PII/PHI of Plaintiff and Class Members.

7           120. By failing to keep Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI safe, knowingly utilizing  
8 the unsecure FTA software, and disclosing PII/PHI to unauthorized parties for unauthorized use,  
9 Defendants unlawfully invaded Plaintiff's and Class Member's privacy by, among others, (i)  
10 intruding into Plaintiff's and Class Members' private affairs in a manner that would be highly  
11 offensive to a reasonable person; (ii) improperly using their PII/PHI properly obtained for a specific  
12 purpose for another purpose, or disclosing it to a third party; (iii) failing to adequately secure their  
13 PII/PHI from disclosure to unauthorized persons; and (iv) enabling the disclosure of Plaintiff's and  
14 Class Members' PII/PHI without consent.

15           121. Defendants knew, or acted with reckless disregard of the fact that, a reasonable person  
16 in Plaintiff's and Class Members' position would consider their actions highly offensive.

17           122. Defendants knew, or acted with reckless disregard of the fact that, the FTA software  
18 was vulnerable to data breaches prior to the Data Beach.

19           123. As a proximate result of such unauthorized disclosures, Plaintiff's and Class  
20 Members' reasonable expectations of privacy in their PII/PHI was unduly frustrated and thwarted,  
21 and caused damages to Plaintiff and Class Members.

22           124. In failing to protect Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI, and in disclosing  
23 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI, Defendants acted with malice and oppression and in  
24 conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and Class Members' rights to have such information kept  
25 confidential and private.

26           125. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief on behalf of the Classes, restitution, as well as any and  
27 all other relief that may be available at law or equity. Unless and until enjoined, and restrained by  
28 order of this Court, Defendant's wrongful conduct will continue to cause irreparable injury to



1 Plaintiff and Class Members. Plaintiff and Class Members have no adequate remedy at law for the  
2 injuries in that a judgment for monetary damages will not end the invasion of privacy for Plaintiff  
3 and the Classes.

4 **COUNT IV**  
5 **Breach of Confidence**

6 126. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporate by  
7 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff brings this claim  
8 on behalf of the Classes.

9 127. At all times during Plaintiff's and Class Members' interactions with Defendants,  
10 Defendants were fully aware of the confidential and sensitive nature of Plaintiff's and Class  
11 Members' PII that Plaintiff and Class Members provided to Defendants.

12 128. Defendants' relationship with Plaintiff and Class Members was governed by terms  
13 and expectations that Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI would be collected, stored, and  
14 protected in confidence, and would not be disclosed to unauthorized third parties.

15 129. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII/PHI to Defendants with the explicit  
16 and implicit understandings that Defendants would protect and not permit the PII/PHI to be  
17 disseminated to any unauthorized third parties.

18 130. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII/PHI to Defendants with the explicit  
19 and implicit understandings that Defendants would take precautions to protect that PII from  
20 unauthorized disclosure.

21 131. Defendants voluntarily received in confidence Plaintiff's and Class Members'  
22 PII/PHI with the understanding that PII/PHI would not be disclosed or disseminated to unauthorized  
23 third parties or to the public.

24 132. Due to Defendants' failure to prevent and avoid the Data Breach from occurring,  
25 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI was disclosed and misappropriated to unauthorized third  
26 parties beyond Plaintiff's and Class Members' confidence, and without their express permission.

27 133. As a proximate result of such unauthorized disclosures, Plaintiff and Class Members  
28 suffered damages.

1            134. But for Defendants' disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI in violation  
2 of the parties' understanding of confidence, their PII/PHI would not have been compromised, stolen,  
3 viewed, access, and used by unauthorized third parties.

4            135. The injury and harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members was the reasonably  
5 foreseeable result of Defendants' unauthorized disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI.  
6 Defendants knew or should have known that their methods of accepting, storing, transmitting and  
7 using Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI was inadequate.

8            136. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff and Class  
9 Members have suffered injury, including but not limited to: (i) actual identity theft; (ii) the loss of  
10 the opportunity of how their PII/PHI is used; (iii) the compromise, publication, and/or theft of their  
11 PII/PHI; (iv) out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from  
12 identity theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their PII/PHI; (v) the continued risk to their  
13 PII/PHI, which may remain in Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized  
14 disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect  
15 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI in its continued possession; and (vi) future costs in terms of  
16 time, effort, and money that will be expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the impact of the  
17 PII/PHI compromised as a result of the Data Breach for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and  
18 Class Members.

19            137. As a direct proximate result of such unauthorized disclosures, Plaintiff and Class  
20 Members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury and/or harm, including, but  
21 not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, loss of privacy, and other economic and non-economic  
22 losses.

23                                    **COUNT V**  
24                                    **Breach of Contract**

25            138. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporate by  
26 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.  
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1           139. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII/PHI to Defendants with the explicit  
2 and implicit understandings that Defendants would take precautions to protect that PII/PHI from  
3 unauthorized disclosure.

4           140. Plaintiff and the Class Members are parties to contracts with Health Net and/or  
5 intended third party beneficiaries of sub-contracts between Health Net and Accellion. Under the  
6 circumstances, recognition of a right to performance by Plaintiff and the Class Members is  
7 appropriate to effectuate the intentions of the parties to these contracts. One or more of the parties  
8 to these contracts intended to give Plaintiff and the Class Members the benefit of the performance  
9 promised in the contracts.

10           141. Defendants breached these agreements, which directly and/or proximately caused  
11 Plaintiff and the Class Members to suffer substantial damages.

12           142. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to damages, restitution,  
13 disgorgement of profits and other relief in an amount to be proven at trial.

14   **COUNT VI**  
15           **Violation of the California Consumer Privacy Act, Cal. Civil Code §§ 1798.100, *et seq.***

16           143. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporate by  
17 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff brings this claim  
18 on behalf of the Classes.

19           144. At all times during Plaintiff's and Class Members' interactions with Defendants,  
20 Defendants were fully aware of the confidential and sensitive nature of Plaintiff's and Class  
21 Members' PII/PHI that Plaintiff and Class Members provided to Defendants.

22           145. Defendants' relationship with Plaintiff and Class Members was governed by terms  
23 and expectations that Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI would be collected, stored, and  
24 protected in confidence, and would not be disclosed to unauthorized third parties.

25           146. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their PII/PHI to Defendants with the explicit  
26 and implicit understandings that Defendants would take precautions to protect that PII/PHI from  
27 unauthorized disclosure.

28

1 147. Due to Defendants' failure to prevent and avoid the Data Breach from occurring,  
2 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI was disclosed and misappropriated to unauthorized third  
3 parties beyond Plaintiff's and Class Members' confidence, and without their express permission.

4 148. Through the above-detailed conduct, Defendants violated California Civil Code  
5 section 1798.150 by failing to prevent Plaintiff's and Class Members' nonencrypted PII/PHI from  
6 unauthorized access and exfiltration, theft, or disclosure as a result of Defendants' violations of their  
7 duty to implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the  
8 nature of the information.

9 149. As a proximate result of such unauthorized disclosures, Plaintiff's and Class  
10 Members' PII/PHI, including, among others, names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and  
11 medical and insurance information, was subjected to unauthorized access and exfiltration, theft, and  
12 disclosure.

13 150. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief on behalf of the Classes as well as other equitable  
14 relief. Unless and until enjoined, and restrained by order of this Court, Defendant's wrongful conduct  
15 will continue to cause irreparable injury to Plaintiff and Class Members. Plaintiff and Class Members  
16 have no adequate remedy at law for the injuries in that a judgment for monetary damages will not  
17 end the invasion of privacy for Plaintiff and the Classes.

18 151. In accordance with Civil Code section 1798.150(b), Plaintiff will serve Defendants  
19 with notice of violation of Civil Code section 1798.150(a) and a demand for relief. If Defendants  
20 fail to properly respond to Plaintiff's notice letter or agree to timely and adequately rectify the  
21 violations detailed above, Plaintiff will also seek actual, punitive, and statutory damages, as well as  
22 restitution, attorneys' fees and costs, and any other relief the Court deems proper.

23 **COUNT VII**  
24 **Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.***

25 152. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporate by  
26 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff brings this claim  
27 on behalf of the Classes.

28

1           153. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition within the meaning of California  
2 Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*, because Defendants' conduct, as described  
3 herein, violated the California Consumer Privacy Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.100, *et seq.*, California  
4 Confidentiality in Medical Information Act ("CMIA"), Cal. Civ. Code. §§ 56, *et seq.*, and  
5 California's HIV Disclosure Laws, Cal. Health & Safety Code § 120980. Further, Defendants  
6 breached their duties pursuant to the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and HIPAA, 42 U.S.C. § 1302d, *et*  
7 *seq.*, to implement reasonable safeguards to protect Plaintiff's and Class Member's PII/PHI.

8           154. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim because they have been injured by virtue of  
9 the wrongful conduct alleged herein.

10           155. The Unfair Competition Law is, by its express terms, a cumulative remedy, such that  
11 remedies under its provisions can be awarded in addition to those provided under separate statutory  
12 schemes and/or common law remedies, such as those alleged in the other Counts of this Complaint.  
13 *See* Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17205.

14           156. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' conduct, which constitutes unlawful  
15 business practices as alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class Members have been damaged and suffered  
16 ascertainable losses due to: (i) actual identity theft; (ii) the loss of the opportunity of how their  
17 PII/PHI is used; (iii) the compromise, publication, and/or theft of their PII/PHI; (iv) out-of-pocket  
18 expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from identity theft, tax fraud, and/or  
19 unauthorized use of their PII/PHI; (v) the continued risk to their PII/PHI, which may remain in  
20 Defendants' possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants fail  
21 to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI  
22 in its continued possession; and (vi) future costs in terms of time, effort, and money that will be  
23 expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the impact of the PII/PHI compromised as a result of  
24 the Data Breach for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and Class Members.

25           157. Plaintiff and Class Members are thereby entitled to recover restitution and equitable  
26 relief, including disgorgement or ill-gotten gains, refunds of moneys, interest, reasonable attorneys'  
27 fees, filing fees, and the costs of prosecuting this class action, as well as any and all other relief that  
28 may be available at law or equity.

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**COUNT VIII**  
**Violation of the California Confidentiality in Medical Information Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 56, et seq.**

158. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

159. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the California Confidentiality in Medical Information Act (“CMIA”), Cal. Civ. Code. §§ 56, *et seq.* At all times material herein Health Net has been subject to the requirements of the CMIA. The CMIA defines “medical information” as “any individually identifiable information, in electronic or physical form, in possession of or derived from a provider of health care, health care service plan, pharmaceutical company, or contractor regarding a patient’s medical history, mental or physical condition, or treatment.” Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05.

160. The CMIA requires that, except in limited circumstances expressed in the statute, prior to disclosing a patient’s confidential medical information Health Net must obtain each patient’s written authorization. Cal. Civ. Code § 56.11. Health Net did not obtain Plaintiff’s or Class Members’ express written consent in the statutorily mandated form before disclosing their medical information. Health Net’s disclosure also was not permitted under any of the permissive or mandatory exceptions set forth in the CMIA. Cal. Civ. Code § 56.10. Health Net is also liable for any further disclosures of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ medical information. Cal. Civ. Code §§ 56.13-14.

161. The CMIA also prohibits the negligent creation, maintenance, preservation, storage, abandonment, destruction, or disposal of confidential medical information. Cal. Civ. Code § 56.101. Health Net has violated the CMIA by negligently creating, maintaining, preserving, storing, abandoning, destroying, or disposing of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ medical information. Health Net’s negligent acts and omissions caused Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ confidential medical information to be released.

162. As a direct and proximate result of Health Net’s conduct, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to compensatory damages, punitive damages, and nominal damages of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each of Health Net’s violations of the CMIA, as well as attorneys’ fees and costs

1 of suit. Cal. Civ. Code. § 56.35-36. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to all necessary  
2 injunctive and declaratory relief necessary to bring Health Net’s medical privacy practices into  
3 compliance with the CMIA to prevent further unauthorized uses and disclosures of their confidential  
4 medical information.

5 **COUNT IX**

6 **Violation of the California HIV Disclosure Laws, Cal. Health & Safety Code § 120980**

7 163. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporates by  
8 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

9 164. Among other things, California’s Health & Safety Code prohibits the disclosure of  
10 HIV related information, including a patient’s HIV status and test results. Cal. Health & Safety Code  
11 § 120980. Prior to disclosing Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ HIV-related health information,  
12 Defendants did not obtain any express written consent required by the statute. Defendants’  
13 disclosure of its patients’ HIV status, test results, and treatment along with their personal identifying  
14 characteristics, is a negligent, willful, and malicious violation of the Health & Safety Code section  
15 120980.

16 165. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ conduct, Plaintiff and Class Members  
17 have had their HIV related medical information, HIV status, and test results disclosed to third-parties  
18 without their express written authorization and have suffered damages as described in this Complaint.  
19 Accordingly, Health Net is liable for “all actual damages, including damages for economic, bodily,  
20 or psychological harm.” Cal. Health & Safety Code § 120980(d). Additionally, Defendants are  
21 liable for civil penalties, fines, costs and attorneys’ fees as permitted under the statute.

22 **COUNT X**

23 **Violation of the Constitutional Right to Privacy  
California Constitution, Art. 1, § 12**

24 166. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporates by  
25 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

26 167. Plaintiff and Class Members have a constitutionally protected privacy interest in their  
27 confidential medical information.  
28

1 168. Plaintiff and Class Members have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their  
2 confidential medical information.

3 169. Defendants violated that constitutionally protected right to privacy by disclosing  
4 Plaintiff's and Class Members' confidential medical information to third-parties. As a result of  
5 Defendants' unlawful conduct alleged herein, the privacy rights of Plaintiff and Class Members have  
6 been violated, and Plaintiff and Class Members have been harmed as a result thereof. Accordingly,  
7 Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to compensatory and punitive damages, attorneys' fees.

8 **COUNT XI**  
9 **Declaratory Relief**  
10 **28 U.S.C. § 2201**

11 170. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation contained above, and incorporates by  
12 reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

13 171. An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between Plaintiff and the putative  
14 Classes on the one hand, and Defendants on the other, concerning Defendants' failure to protect  
15 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations  
16 and the agreements between the parties. Plaintiff and the Class Members contend that Defendants  
17 failed to maintain adequate and reasonable privacy practices to protect their PII/PHI while on the  
18 other hand, Defendants contend they have complied with applicable state and federal regulations and  
19 its agreements with Plaintiff and Class Members to protect their PII/PHI.

20 172. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members entitled to and seek a judicial  
21 determination of whether Defendants have performed, and are performing, their statutory and  
22 contractual privacy practices and obligations necessary to protect and safeguard Plaintiff's and Class  
23 Members' PII/PHI from further unauthorized, access, use, and disclosure, or insecure disposal.

24 173. A judicial determination of the rights and responsibilities of the parties over  
25 Defendants' privacy practices is necessary and appropriate at this time so that: (1) that the rights of  
26 the Plaintiff and the Classes may be determined with certainty for purposes of resolving this action;  
27 and (2) so that the Parties will have an understanding of Defendants' obligations in the future given  
28 its continuing legal obligations and ongoing relationships with Plaintiff and Class Members.



**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Classes, prays for relief as follows:

- A. For an Order certifying this case as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 against Defendants, appointing Plaintiff as Class Representative of the Classes, and Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP as Class Counsel;
- B. Awarding monetary, punitive and actual damages and/or restitution, as appropriate;
- C. Awarding declaratory and injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity to assure that the Classes have an effective remedy, including enjoining Defendants from continuing the unlawful practices as set forth above;
- D. Prejudgment interest to the extent allowed by the law;
- E. Awarding all costs, experts' fees and attorneys' fees, expenses and costs of prosecuting this action; and
- F. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

**KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP**

DATED: April 23, 2021

By:           /s/ Matthew B. George            
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Laurence D. King  
Matthew B. George  
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**KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP**

Joel B. Strauss (*pro hac vice* to be filed)

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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

J. Doe, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

San Francisco

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Matthew B. George

Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1560, Oakland, CA 94612

DEFENDANTS

HEALTH NET OF CALIFORNIA, INC., HEALTH NET, LLC, and

ACCELLION, INC., a Delaware Corporation

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

2 U.S. Government Defendant X4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and incorporation status. Includes rows for Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, and Incorporated or Principal Place of Business.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, HABEAS CORPUS, OTHER, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

X1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332

Brief description of cause:

data privacy, failure to secure Personally Identifiable Information/Personally Identifiable Health Information (PII/PHI)

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

X CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE Hon. Edward Davila

DOCKET NUMBER 5:21-cv-01155-EJD

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND X SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 04-23-2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Matthew B. George

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

**Authority For Civil Cover Sheet.** The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the “defendant” is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section “(see attachment).”
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an “X” in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
  - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
  - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
  - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an “X” in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an “X” in one of the six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
  - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
  - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
  - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
  - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an “X” in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.