

State of New Jersey

Office of the Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Law 25 Market Street PO Box 116 Trenton, NJ 08625-0116

JOHN J. HOFFMAN Acting Attorney General

MICHELLE MILLER Acting Director

Governor

CHRIS CHRISTIE

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor

August 7, 2015

Via Hand Delivery

Civil and General Equity Parts Mercer County Superior Court 175 South Broad Street; 1st Floor P.O. Box 8068 Trenton, NJ 08625

> Re: Kavadas v. Martinez Docket No. MER-L-1004-15

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and one copy of an Answer and CIS form on behalf of Defendants Raymond P. Martinez, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, John Jay Hoffman, Esq., the State of New Jersey, Natasha Johnson, and the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Office of Child Support Services. <u>PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO FILING FEE AS</u> <u>THIS ANSWER IS BEING FILED ON BEHALF OF A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE</u> **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**.

I have also enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the filed copy of the Answer and CIS form. Thank you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 609-292-8565.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. HOFFMAN ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

Sha na Bellin

Deputy Attorney General

Enclosure

cc: David Perry Davis, Esq., via overnight and electronic mail

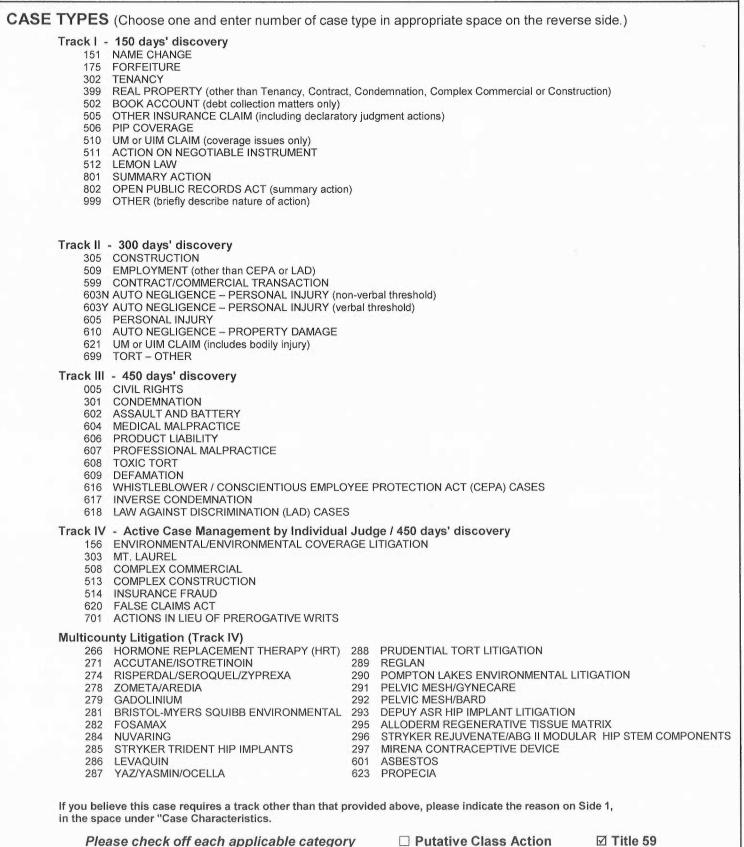
					QTATEM	ENT		BY CLERK'S OF		
A REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT						PAYMENT TYPE: CK CG CA CHG/CK NO.			
	(CIS)									
	Use for initial Law Division Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under <i>Rule</i>					5 1	AMOUNT:			
1438 + 1353510	Pleading will be rejected for filing, under <i>Rule</i> 1: if information above the black bar is not comple attorney's signature is not affixed									
						eted or				
ATTORNEY/PRO SE NAME Shana Bellin, DAG				TELEPHONE NUMBER 609-292-8565		Lange and the second	COUNTY OF VENUE Mercer			
FIRM NAME (if applicable) Office of the Attorney General							KET NUMBER (when available) R-L-1004-15			
OFFICE ADDRESS Division of Law							DOCUMENT TYPE Answer			
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex PO Box 116 Treaton NL 08625 0116							an and an a	Yes		
Trenton, NJ 08625-0116 NAME OF PARTY (e.g., John Doe, Plaintiff)				CAPTION JURY DEMAND						
Martinez, the NJ M	otor Ve Natas	chicle Commission, ha Johnson, the Office		das, et al. v. M	Martinez, et a	ıl.				
CASE TYPE NUMBER (See reverse side for li	or listing) RELATED? IS THIS A PROFESSIONAL MALPRA					RACTICE CAS	E?	S YES	M NO	
005 🗌 🗆 YES 🗹 NO				IF YOU HAVE CHECKED "YES," SEE N.J.S.A. 2A:53 A -27 AND APPLICABLE CASE LAW						
RELATED CASES PENDING?				IF YES, LIST DOCKET NUMBERS						
T YES		M NO								
DO YOU ANTICIPATE ADDING ANY PARTIES (arising out of same transaction or occurrence)?				NAME OF DEFENDANT'S PRIMARY INSURANCE COMPANY (if known) Mone UNKNOWNN						
	FOR								OWNN	
souther state of the		IATION PROVIDED (OR PURPOSES OF DETE						VIDENCE.		
DO PARTIES HAVE A CURRENT, PAST OR				YES, IS THAT RELATIONSHIP:						
RECURRENT RELATIONSHIP?			EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE FRIEND/NEIGH FAMILIAL BUSINESS				HBOR	IBOR OTHER (explain)		
DOES THE STATUTE	GOVER	RNING THIS CASE PROVI	IDE FOF	R PAYMENT O	F FEES BY TH	E LOSING PAI	RTY?	☑ YES		
USE THIS SPACE TO ACCELERATED DISP		THE COURT TO ANY SPI N	ECIAL C	ASE CHARAC	TERISTICS TH	HAT MAY WAF	RANT INDIVI	DUAL MANAGI	EMENT OR	
	ENT NEED ANY DISABILITY AC	ссоммо	IMODATIONS? IF YES, PLEASE IDENTIFY THE REQUESTED ACCOMMODATION					4		
WILL AN INTERPRETER BE NEEDED?				IF YES, FOR WHAT LANGUAG Portuguese (for Plaintiff P						
		personal identifiers h ants submitted in the					ubmitted to t	the court, an	d will be	
ATTORNEY SIGNATURE	R	Li Beli	h	DA	16					



CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

(CIS)

Use for initial pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1



JOHN J. HOFFMAN ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY R.J. Hughes Justice Complex P.O. Box 116 25 Market Street Trenton, New Jersey 08625 Attorney for Defendants, Raymond P. Martinez, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, John Jay Hoffman, Esq., the State of New Jersey, Natasha Johnson, and the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Office of Child Support Services. By: Shana Bellin (907512012) Deputy Attorney General 609-292-8565 Shana.Bellin@lps.state.nj.us ANDREANA KAVADAS, ALISHA SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY GRABOWSKI, LAQUAY DANSBY, PAULO LAW DIVISION - MERCER COUNTY DOCKET NO. MER-L-1004-15 AREDE, individually and on behalf of all persons similarly situated, CIVIL ACTION Plaintiffs, v. ANSWER TO VERIFIED COMPLAINT RAYMOND P. MARTINEZ, NEW JERSEY MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION, JOHN J. HOFFMAN, ESQ., STATE OF NEW JERSEY, NATASHA JOHNSON, and the DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, Defendants.

Raymond P. Martinez, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, John Jay Hoffman, Esq., the State of New Jersey, Natasha Johnson, and the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Office of Child Support Services, hereinafter referred to as "Defendants", through their counsel, John J. Hoffman, Acting Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, Deputy Attorneys General Shana Bellin and Gene Rosenblum appearing, hereby answer Plaintiffs' Complaint as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to address the allegations set forth in this paragraph. Defendants deny the Plaintiffs' allegation that their driver's license suspensions occurred "through procedures which deprive them of rights guaranteed by the Constitutions of the United States...statutes." Defendants also deny that Plaintiffs are representative of a class of persons who are similarly situated.

2. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs' Complaint requests declaratory and injunctive relief. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of this paragraph.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Admitted.

4. Defendants admit that venue is properly laid in Mercer County. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of this paragraph.

III. PARTIES

5. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the allegations are denied.

- 2 -

6. Defendants deny that Plaintiff Andreana Kavadas's ("Kavadas") driver's license was "suspended pursuant to procedures that violate the statutes and constitutions of the State of New Jersey." Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the allegations are denied.

7. Defendants object to the allegations in this paragraph as improper under the New Jersey Court Rules. Defendants rely on their answers set forth in this pleading to respond to any allegations made by Plaintiffs. To the extent that a more specific response is required to the allegations set forth in the separate document, denied as to all allegations.

8. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the allegations are denied.

9. As to the allegation that Plaintiff Alisha Grabowski's ("Grabowski") "driver's license will be suspended without further notice or pursuant to procedures that violate the statutes and constitutions of the State of New Jersey and is at risk of having this occur again", denied. As to the truth of the remainder of the allegations of this paragraph, Defendants have insufficient

- 3 -

information to form a belief. Therefore, the remaining allegations are denied.

10. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the allegations are denied.

11. As to the allegation that Plaintiff LaQuay Dansby ("Dansby") "has had his driver's license suspended pursuant to procedures that violate the statutes and constitutions of the State of New Jersey and is at risk of having this occur again", denied. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the remaining allegations are denied.

12. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the allegations are denied.

13. As to the allegation that Plaintiff Paulo Arede ("Arede") "has had his driver's license suspended pursuant to procedures that violate the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and is at risk of having this occur again", denied. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in this paragraph. Therefore, the remaining allegations are denied.

- 4 -

14. Admitted that Defendant Raymond P. Martinez ("Chief Martinez") is the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission ("MVC") and that he is a "State Actor". Defendants deny the remaining allegations of this paragraph.

15. Admitted that Defendant John Jay Hoffman, Esq., ("AG Hoffman") is the Acting Attorney General for the State of New Jersey and that he is a "State Actor". Admitted that AG Hoffman has a duty to act in accordance with the Constitution of the United States and the State of New Jersey in his role as Acting Attorney General. Defendants deny that these duties are provided for in <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:17A-21, which applies specifically to the Charitable Registration and Investigation Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:17A-18 through 45:17A-40, which makes no mention of the specific duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States and of the State of New Jersey. Defendants admit that AG Hoffman's duties include acting as the State's chief law enforcement officer. The remaining allegations of this paragraph are denied.

16. Admitted that Natasha Johnson ("Director Johnson") is the Director of the Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development, under which the Office of Child Support Services is organized, and that she is a "State Actor". Admitted that Director Johnson has a duty to act in accordance with the Constitution of

- 5 -

the United States and of the State of New Jersey. Denied that 45 <u>C.F.R.</u> § 302.10 delineates Director Johnson's duties, as the regulation pertains specifically to "Statewide Operations". Denied that <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 10:81-11.7 pertains to Director Johnson's duties as Director as no such regulatory citation exists. Denied that <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 110-1.2 delineates Director Johnson's duties to ensure "that the State's Child Support Program is operating constitutionally, properly, efficiently, effectively and that all of it agents are in compliance with all aspects of federal law under the State Plan".

IV. CLASS ACTION

17. Denied.

18. Denied.

V. CAUSE OF ACTION

- 19. Denied.
- 20. Denied.

21. Denied.

22. Denied.

23. Denied.

WHEREFORE, Defendants demand judgment in their favor and against Plaintiffs dismissing Plaintiffs' Complaint with prejudice, and specifically:

- 6 -

1. Declaring that the suspension of Plaintiffs' driver's licenses have not violated Plaintiffs' substantive or procedural due process rights under the State Constitution nor of their statutory rights under the laws of the State;

2. Declaring that the suspension of Plaintiffs' driver's licenses have not violated Plaintiffs' substantive and procedural due process rights under the Constitution of the United States nor of their statutory rights arising under the laws of the United States;

3. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief enjoining Chief Martinez and the MVC from acting on any orders to suspend drivers' licenses;

4. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief enjoining Chief Martinez and the MVC from suspending any driver's licenses in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2A:17-56.44;

5. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief compelling Chief Martinez and the MVC from rescinding suspensions of Plaintiffs' driver's licenses;

6. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief removing all record of driver's license suspensions from all of Plaintiffs' driver's licenses records;

- 7 -

7. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief enjoining AG Hoffman from enforcing laws and regulations of the State of New Jersey;

8. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief enjoining AG Hoffman and the State from prosecuting Plaintiffs for driving with a suspended driver's license;

9. Denying with prejudice any injunctive relief as to Director Johnson and the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Office of Child Support Services;

10. Denying the class certification pursuant to R. 4:32-1;

11. Denying counsel fees and costs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:62(f);

12. Denying counsel fees and costs pursuant to 42 <u>U.S.C.</u> 1988.

SEPARATE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs lack standing to assert the claims contained in the Complaint.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' cause of action is preempted or otherwise precluded by federal law or regulations covering the subject matter of Plaintiffs' claim with which Defendants have fully complied.

- 8 -

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Recovery is barred in this action by the failure of Plaintiffs' Complaint to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants did not violate any duties to Plaintiffs.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants acted in good faith at all times.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The conduct of Defendants was reasonable, proper, and within the scope of their authority.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Recovery is barred in this action as there is no custom, policy or practice that creates liability under 42 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1983 or the New Jersey Civil Rights Act.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants are immune from suit.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Complaint and the proceedings resulting therefrom and any recovery resulting therefrom is barred, limited and/or controlled by all provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 59:1-1 through 59:12-3 inclusive, as if each section, provision,

- 9 -

defense, and immunity were listed herein separately, particularly, and at length.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs have failed to join the appropriate parties.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs have not been deprived of any right, privilege or immunity secured to them by the United States Constitution or any Act of Congress.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs have not been deprived of any right, privilege or immunity secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Jersey.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants herein did not know, and was not reasonably expected to know, that any actions taken by the Defendants with respect to these Plaintiffs, at all relevant times, were in violation of the Plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants herein are public entities of the State of New Jersey and at all times were acting pursuant to the lawful authority invested in them by the State. All acts so performed

- 10 -

were the result of the appropriate exercise of the Defendants' discretion.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Any actions taken by the Defendants were in the nature of discretionary activity within the meaning of $\underline{N.J.S.A}$. 59:3-2 and accordingly no liability may be imposed upon the Defendants.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Plaintiffs' Complaint is barred by the Eleventh Amendment of the United States Constitution.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO RULES 1:5-1(a) AND 4:17-4

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned attorneys do hereby demand, pursuant to the above-cited Rules of Court, that each party herein serving pleadings and interrogatories and receiving answers thereto, serve copies of all such pleadings and answered interrogatories, and all documents, papers and other material referred to therein, received from any party, upon the undersigned attorneys, and TAKE NOTICE that this is a CONTINUING demand.

- 11 -

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Defendants reserve the right, at or before trial, to move to dismiss the Complaint and/or for summary judgment, on the ground that the Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted and/or Defendants are entitled to judgment as a matter of law, based on any or all of the above defenses.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Pursuant to the provisions of <u>R</u>. 4:25-4, the Court is advised that Jacqueline Augustine, Shana Bellin, and Gene Rosenblum, Deputy Attorneys General, are hereby designated as trial counsel.

JOHN J. HOFFMAN

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By:

Shana Bellin Deputy Attorney General

DATE: August 7, 2015

CERTIFICATION REGARDING OTHER PROCEEDINGS AND PARTIES

I certify in accordance with <u>R.</u> 4:5-1 that to the best of my knowledge as of the date herein there are no other proceedings either pending or contemplated with respect to the matter in controversy in this action and no other parties who should be joined in the action.

> JOHN J. HOFFMAN ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: Shana Bellin

Deputy Attorney General

DATE: August 7, 2015

CERTIFICATION REGARDING SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the within pleading was served on the attorney for Plaintiffs within the time period allowed by <u>R.</u> 4:6-1 or within the extended time period pursuant to Consent Order.

JOHN J. HOFFMAN ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By:

Shana Bellin Deputy Attorney General

DATE: August 7, 2015