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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CIV-HURLEY

RESPONSIBLE ME, INC., a Florida corporation,

CASE NO.:

06-61736

Plaintiff,

VS.

EVENFLO COMPANY, INC., a Delaware corporation; and JOHN DOES 1-100,

Defendants.

ZUS NOV 16 PY II:

## COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

**COMES NOW** Plaintiff, RESPONSIBLE ME, INC. ("Plaintiff" or "RMI") by and through its undersigned attorneys, and pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a) states as its Complaint for Damages Injunctive Relief, the following:

## **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff RMI is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Florida and maintains its principal place of business at 632 East Amelia Street, Orlando, Florida 32803.
- 2. Defendant EVENFLO, COMPANY, INC. ("EVENFLO") is, upon information and belief, a corporation formed under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business at Northwoods Business Center 2, 707 Crossroads Court, Vandalia, Ohio, 45377. Upon information and belief, EVENFLO does business and makes sales to retailers and other entities in this federal judicial district and throughout the United States.

3. Defendants JOHN DOES 1-100 upon information and belief do business and make sales to consumers in this federal judicial district and throughout the United States.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This action arises under the Patent Laws of the United States, that is, Title 35 U.S. Code §271, *et seq.* and as such, this Court has jurisdiction over this cause pursuant to Title 28 U.S. Code § 1338 in that this case involves an infringement of a patent issued by the United States of America Patent and Trademark Office. Moreover, all Defendants engage in a regular course of business in the Southern District of Florida, thereby giving this Court personal jurisdiction over all Defendants.
  - 5. Venue is proper as to EVENFLO pursuant Title 28, U.S. Code § 1391(d).
- 6. Venue is also proper in this District as to all Defendants pursuant to Title 28, U.S. Code § 1400(b) in that, upon information and belief, all Defendants have manufactured, distributed, sold, caused to be sold, or offered for sale, products which infringe the Patent (as hereinafter defined) and which all parties knew or should have known were to be distributed or sold within this judicial district.

## **COMMON ALLEGATIONS**

7. On November 14, 2006, United States Patent No. 7,134,714 (the "Patent or the '714 Patent"), was duly issued to one Mente Connery, Orlando, Florida by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for highchair helper improvements which can be generally described as a slide away tray device for baby highchair trays. The '714 Patent was filed in November 19, 2002, and is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/653,879 filed Sep. 1, 2000 now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,989,

on Nov. 26, 2002 which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/138,889 filed Aug. 24, 1998 now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,119,996 on Sep. 19, 2000 which claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/090,373 filed Jun. 22, 1998.

- 8. By assignment from said Connery to said RMI dated November 19, 2002, said RMI currently holds all right, title and interest in the Patent.
- 9. At all times subsequent to November 19, 2002, said RMI has been and is currently the owner of the Patent and all rights appertaining thereto.
- 10. EVENFLO currently makes, uses, sells, offers to sell or imports the high chairs with the Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray, which infringe said Patent of RMI.
- 11. JOHN DOES currently use, sell, offer to sell or import the high chairs with the Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray, which infringe said Patent of RMI.
- 12. All conditions precedent to the bringing of this action have been satisfied, have occurred, have been waived, or have been excused.
- 13. As direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions complained of herein, Plaintiff was forced to retain the undersigned law firm and has agreed to pay it a reasonable fee for its services.

## **COUNT I**

#### PATENT INFRINGEMENT

## (AS TO EVENFLO)

- 14. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1-13 of this Complaint as though set forth fully at length herein.
  - 15. EVENFLO and/or its said subsidiaries and/or its said distributors and

agents set forth in ¶3 above, make, use, sell, and import the high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray, as part of its production and sale of various models of highchairs including, but not limited to, the EXPRESSIONS<sup>TM</sup> HIGH CHAIR, EXPRESSIONS<sup>TM</sup> PREMIER HIGH CHAIR, MAJESTIC<sup>TM</sup> HIGH CHAIR, and MAJESTIC<sup>TM</sup> DISCOVERY HIGH CHAIR.

- 16. The sales of high chair models furnished with the slide away tray are facilitated or convoyed thereby.
- 17. EVENFLO and/or its said subsidiaries and/or its said distributors and agents set forth in ¶3 above have also made, sold, offered for sale, imported and continue to so make and sell said models of the high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray.
- 18. EVENFLO and/or its said subsidiaries and/or its said distributors and agents set forth in ¶3 above have, through said acts, infringed Plaintiff's rights of manufacture and sale.
- 19. In the absence of injunctive relief, Defendants will continue to violate the Patent Laws of the United States, and to infringe and violate the claims of the '714 Patent to the detriment and injury of the Plaintiff.
- 20. On information and belief EVENFLO and/or its agents and subsidiaries proceeded with such infringing action subsequent to learning of RMI's patent, therefore, this case is exceptional within the meaning of Title 35, U.S.C. 285, by virtue of Defendants' continuing, willful, and knowing infringement of the Plaintiff's '714 Patent.
- 21. All prerequisites and conditions precedent to suit have been satisfied or have occurred.

- 22. By reason of the above-described acts of Defendants, Plaintiff has suffered great harm, including, but not limited to, loss of royalties and past and prospective profits on said models of high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray
- 23. As one consequence thereof, Plaintiff has retained the undersigned attorneys and has agreed to pay them reasonable fees for their services.

## **COUNT II**

## **PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

### (AS TO JOHN DOES 1-100)

- 24. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1-23 of this Complaint as though set forth fully at length herein.
- 25. On information and belief, JOHN DOES are retailers for EVENFLO and/or one or more of EVENFLO'S said agents/subsidiaries, of said models of high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray.
- 26. JOHN DOES have thereby infringed Plaintiff's exclusive right of sale under the '714 Patent.
- 27. All prerequisites and conditions precedent to suit have been satisfied or have occurred.
- 28. By reason of the above-described acts of Defendants, Plaintiff has suffered great harm, including, but not limited to, loss of royalties, past and prospective profits on said models of high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray.

#### **COUNT III**

## **UNFAIR PRACTICES IN IMPORT TRADE**

## Violation of 19 U.S.C. § 1337

## (AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 29. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1-28 of this Complaint as though set forth fully at length herein.
- 30. On information and belief, the Defendants imported models of high chairs furnished with the Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray into the United States.
- 31. On information and belief, the Defendants offered for sale of models of the high chairs furnished with the Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray after importation.
- 32. On information and belief, Defendants offered for sale after importation models of high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer Tray, which infringes RMI's valid and enforceable '714 Patent.
  - 33. All such trays recited in ¶15 infringed Plaintiff's patent as set forth above.

## **COUNT IV**

# <u>VIOLATION OF FLORIDA DECEPTIVE AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES</u> <u>ACT</u>

## (AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 34. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1-33 of this Complaint as though set forth fully at length herein.
- 35. Defendants have engaged in unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of a trade or commerce in violation of Sections 501.204(1) and 501.203(3)(c), Florida Statutes by selling models of high chair products with a Slide-Away Parent-Organizer

Tray which unfairly competes with Plaintiff's patent thereby deceiving consumers concerning same.

- 36. Defendants' unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce described hereinabove is likely to mislead and deceive the public as to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of the goods at issue or as to Defendants' affiliation, connection, or association with Plaintiffs.
- 37. Plaintiff has been aggrieved by Defendants' unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce as described hereinabove.
- 38. Defendants' actions have been and continue to be intentional, willful, wanton or with reckless disregard for Plaintiff's rights and is detrimental to consumers.

## WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- (a) Awarding the Plaintiff all economic compensatory damages attributable to the infringement including all actual damages suffered by reason of Defendants' wrongful manufacture, importation, sale, and offer of sale of products infringing upon the '714 Patent of Plaintiff and all profits of the Defendants derived therefrom;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff three times the amount of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 284;
- (c) Issuing an injunction permanently enjoining Defendants and their agents from any further infringement or violation of Plaintiff's patent;

- (d) Declaring this case to be an exceptional one and awarding the Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in brining the action, under 35 U.S.C. 285;
- (e) Awarding the Plaintiff pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on all damages at the maximum allowable rate;
- (f) Declare a violation of 19 U.S.C. § 1337 (d) and direct the articles concerned that were imported by the Defendants to be excluded from entry into United States;
- (g) Issue a cease and desist order to Defendants not to violate 19 U.S.C. § 1337 (f);
- (h) Pursuant to Section 501.211(1), <u>Florida Statutes</u>, issue a declaratory judgment that Defendants' acts and practices described hereinabove violate the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act ("FDUTPA") and enjoin by injunction all Defendants who have violated, are violating, or are otherwise likely to violate FDUTPA;
- (i) Pursuant to Section 501.211(2), <u>Florida Statutes</u>, award Plaintiff actual damages, plus attorney's fees and court costs as provided in Section 501.2105, Florida Statutes;
  - (j) Award Plaintiff punitive damages;
  - (k) All taxable costs;
- (l) Award Plaintiff all other relief that this Court may deem just and proper including pre- and post-judgment interest.

## **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

39. Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

Date: 11/16/06

Respectfully submitted,

### **Trial Counsel for Plaintiff:**

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The JS 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 by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM)

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