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Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Federal Trade Commission.

Plaintiff.

v.

CV-S-05-0002-PMP-LRL

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FILED

Global Net Solutions, Inc., a Nevada corporation;

Global Net Ventures, Ltd., a United Kingdom company;

Wedlake, Ltd., a corporation;

Open Space Enterprises, Inc., a Nevada corporation;

Southlake Group, Inc., a Nevada corporation;

WTFRC, Inc., a Nevada corporation doing business as Reflected Networks, Inc.;

Dustin Hamilton, individually and as an officer or director of Global Net Solutions, Inc., Global Net Ventures, Ltd., and WTFRC, Inc.;

Tobin Banks, individually and as director of Open Space Enterprises, Inc.;

Gregory Hamilton, individually and as an officer and director of Southlake Group, Inc.;

Philip Doroff, individually and as an officer of Reflected Networks, Inc., now renamed WFTRC, Inc.; and

Paul Rose, individually:

Defendants.

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission"), for its Complaint alleges as follows:

COMPLAINT FOR PERMANENT INJUNCTION AND **OTHER EQUITABLE** RELIEF

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1 1. The Commission brings this action under Sections 13(b) and 19 of the Federal Trade 2 Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, and under Section 7(a) of the 3 Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003 ("CAN-SPAM" or the CAN-SPAM Act), 15 U.S.C. § 7706(a), to obtain temporary, preliminary, and permanent 4 5 injunctive relief, rescission of contracts, restitution, redress, disgorgement, and other equitable 6 relief for Defendants' violations of Sections 5(a) and (d) of CAN-SPAM, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7704(a) and 7 (d), the FTC's Adult Labeling Rule (the "Adult Labeling Rule" or the "Rule"), 16 C.F.R. Part 316.1, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a). 8 9 10 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 11 2. Subject matter jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a), 53(b),

12 [57(b), and 7706(a), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337(a), and 1345.

3. Venue in the United States District Court for Nevada is proper under 15 U.S.C. § 53(b)
and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), (c), and (d).

PLAINTIFF

17 4. Plaintiff, the FTC, is an independent agency of the United States Government created by statute. See 15 U.S.C. § 41 et seq. The Commission enforces Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 18 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), which prohibits deceptive or unfair acts or practices in or affecting commerce. 19 The FTC is also charged with enforcing various provisions of CAN-SPAM as if the violation of 20 CAN-SPAM "were an unfair or deceptive act or practice proscribed under Section 18(a)(1)(B) of 21 22 the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B))." 15 U.S.C. § 7706(a). The 23 Commission is authorized to initiate federal district court proceedings, by its own attorneys, to enjoin violations of the FTC Act and to secure such other equitable relief as may be appropriate in 24 25 each case, including redress and disgorgement. 15 U.S.C. § 53(b).

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DEFENDANTS

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5. Defendant Global Net Solutions, Inc. ("GNS") is a Nevada corporation with its
 registered office located at 3960 Howard Hughes Parkway, Fifth Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89109.
 Since January 1, 2004, GNS has formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts or
 practices set forth in this complaint. GNS resides in the District of Nevada and transacts business
 within the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

6. Defendant Global Net Ventures, Ltd. ("GNV") is a United Kingdom company with its
registered office located at Almeda House, 90-100 Sydney Street, London SW3 6NJ England.
Since January 1, 2004, GNV has formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts or
practices set forth in this complaint. GNV transacts business within the District of Nevada and
throughout the United States.

7. Defendant Wedlake, Ltd. ("Wedlake") purports to be a limited liability company
allegedly located in Riga, Latvia. Since January 1, 2004, Wedlake has formulated, directed,
controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set forth in this complaint. Wedlake transacts
business within the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

8. Defendant Open Space Enterprises, Inc. ("Open Space") is a Nevada corporation with its
 registered office located at 7311 S. Eastern Avenue, #281, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Since June 24,
 2004, Open Space has formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set
 forth in this complaint. Open Space resides in the District of Nevada and transacts business within
 the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

9. Defendant Southlake Group, Inc. ("Southlake") is a Nevada corporation with its
 registered office at 6330 South Pecos Road, Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89120. Since January 1,
 2004, Southlake has formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set
 forth in this complaint. Southlake resides in the District of Nevada and transacts business within
 the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

26 10. Defendant WTFRC, Inc., doing business as Reflected Networks, Inc. ("Reflected
27 Networks"), is a Nevada corporation with its registered office located at 3960 Howard Hughes
28 Parkway, Fifth Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89109, and a business address of 6363 South Pecos Road,

Las Vegas, NV 89120. On November 12, 2004, the corporation Reflected Networks, Inc. changed
 its name to WFTRC, Inc. Since January 1, 2004, Reflected Networks has formulated, directed,
 controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set forth in this complaint. Reflected Networks
 resides in the District of Nevada and transacts business within the District of Nevada and
 throughout the United States.

6 11. Defendant Dustin Hamilton ("D. Hamilton") is an officer of GNS, a director of GNV,
7 and an officer of Reflected Networks. He also uses the name "Donnie Gangsta" and the email
8 address "donnie@signup4cash.com." Since January 1, 2004, he has formulated, directed,
9 controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set forth in this complaint. He resides in the
10 District of Nevada and transacts business within the District of Nevada and throughout the United
11 States.

12 12. Defendant Tobin Banks ("Banks") is a director of Open Space. Since January 1, 2004,
13 he has formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set forth in this
14 complaint. He resides in the District of Nevada and transacts business within the District of
15 Nevada and throughout the United States.

16 13. Defendant Gregory Hamilton ("G. Hamilton) is an officer and director of Southlake.
17 Since January 1, 2004, G. Hamilton has formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts
18 or practices set forth in this complaint. G. Hamilton resides in Tennessee and transacts business
19 within the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

14. Defendant Philip Doroff ("Doroff") was an officer of Reflected Networks, Inc., now
renamed WTFRC, Inc., during 2004. Since January 1, 2004, he has formulated, directed,
controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set forth in this complaint. He resides in
Minnesota and transacts business within the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

15. Defendant Paul Rose ("Rose") is an individual residing in Arizona. He also uses the
name "john baker" and the email address "idbud@epimp.com." Since January 1, 2004, he has
formulated, directed, controlled, or participated in the acts or practices set forth in this complaint.
Rose transacts business within the District of Nevada and throughout the United States.

COMMON ENTERPRISE

2 16. Defendants GNS, GNV, Wedlake, Open Space, Reflected Networks, Southlake, D. Hamilton, Banks, Doroff, G. Hamilton, and other persons not named herein have operated and 4 functioned as a single business enterprise in commission of the violations of the FTC Act, the 5 CAN-SPAM Act, and the Adult Labeling Rule described below. They are referred to jointly in this 6 Complaint as the "GNS Defendants."

7 17. Because each of the GNS Defendants functioned as a single business enterprise with 8 the other Defendants in the commission of the law violations alleged above, they have each 9 violated the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7701 et seq., the Adult Labeling Rule, 16 C.F.R. 10 § 316.1(a)(1), and the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a).

COMMERCE

13 18. At all times relevant to this complaint, Defendants have maintained a substantial course 14 of trade in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44. -15

DEFINITIONS

1719. "Electronic mail message" (or "email") means a message sent to a unique electronic 18 mail address. 15 U.S.C. § 7702(6).

19 20. "Electronic mail address" means a destination, commonly expressed as a string of 20characters, consisting of a unique user name or mailbox (commonly referred to as the "local part") 21 and a reference to an Internet domain (commonly referred to as the "domain part"), whether or not 22 displayed, to which an electronic mail message can be sent or delivered. 15 U.S.C. § 7702(5).

23 21. "Commercial electronic mail message" means any electronic mail message the primary purpose of which is the commercial advertisement or promotion of a commercial product 24 25 or service (including the content on an Internet website operated for commercial purposes). 15 26 U.S.C. § 7702(2).

22. "Affirmative consent" to receipt of a commercial email message means that:

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(A) the recipient expressly consented to receive the message, either in response to a clear and conspicuous request for such consent or at the recipient's own initiative, and (B) if the message is from a party other than the party to which the recipient communicated such consent, the recipient was given clear and conspicuous notice at the time the consent was communicated that the recipient's electronic mail address could be transferred to such other party for the purpose of initiating commercial electronic mail messages. 15 U.S.C. § 7702(1).

8 23. **"Header information"** means the source, destination, and routing information 9 attached to an electronic mail message, including the originating domain name and originating 10 electronic mail address, and any other information that appears in the line identifying, or purporting 11 to identify, a person initiating the message. 15 U.S.C. § 7702(8).

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12 24. "Initiate," when used with respect to a commercial email message, means to originate
13 or transmit such message or to procure the origination or transmission of such message. 15 U.S.C.
14 § 7702(9).

15 25. "Procure," when used with respect to the initiation of a commercial email message,
16 means intentionally to pay or provide other consideration to, or induce, another person to initiate
17 such a message on one's behalf. 15 U.S.C. § 7702(12).

26. "Protected computer" means a computer which is used in interstate or foreign
commerce or communication, including a computer located outside the United States that is used in
a manner that affects interstate or foreign commerce or communication of the United States. 15
U.S.C. § 7702(13); 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(2)(B).

22 27. "Sender" means a person who initiates a commercial electronic mail message and
23 whose product, service, or Internet website is advertised or promoted by the message.
24 15 U.S.C. § 7702(16).

25 28. "Sexually oriented material" means any material that depicts sexually-explicit
26 conduct as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256, unless the depiction constitutes a small and
27 insignificant part of the whole, the remainder of which is not primarily devoted to sexual matters.
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1 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(4). Sexually-explicit conduct is defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2256 to mean actual
2 or simulated:

A. sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex;

B. bestiality;

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C. masturbation;

D. sadistic or masochistic abuse; or

E. lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person.

DEFENDANTS' BUSINESS PRACTICES

29. Since January 1, 2004, and continuing to the present, Defendants have initiated the
transmission of commercial email messages to protected computers. The primary purpose of these
commercial email messages has been the commercial advertisement or promotion of Internet
websites operated for a commercial purpose by the GNS Defendants.

30. Among the Internet websites operated for a commercial purpose by the GNS
Defendants are at least a dozen content websites offering sexually oriented material. The GNS
Defendants collect payment for viewing or access to this sexually oriented material through a
payment site, which they also control: onlinecharges.com.

19 31. The GNS Defendants promote their websites through several methods, including an 20 affiliate program offered on their website signup4cash.com. The GNS Defendants' affiliate 21 program offers payments to third parties who steer consumers to the GNS Defendants' paid-content 22 websites, including the websites, livewebfriends.com and livenetfriends.com. These third-party 23 affiliates sometimes operate their own Internet websites that in turn link to the GNS Defendants' 24 websites. The affiliates' websites most often are identified by hyperlinks in their email messages 25 which also serve the purpose of identifying the affiliate deserving payment when a potential 26 customer clicks through to Defendants' payment or content websites. Defendant Rose is an 27 affiliate of the GNS Defendants, and his emails promoting the GNS Defendants' websites contain 28 hyperlinks to websites registered by Rose, including bjkandy.com, jgjenny.com, fritzwebcam.com,

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heheamber.com, hijenny.com, jnpage.com livejen.com, loljen.com, lolkandy.com, pkjen.com,
 profilejen.com, rrrjen.com, seetheprofile.com, starjen.com, tiffhuh.com, vgjen.com, wowjen.com,
 wtfjen.com, and xowebcam.com.

32. Defendants are "initiators" with respect to an email message when they have
either originated or transmitted a message themselves or have procured the origination or
transmission of a message through payments or other consideration, or inducements, to their
affiliates.

8 33. The GNS Defendants are "senders" with respect to an email message when they have
9 initiated a message and it is the GNS Defendants' websites that are being advertised or promoted by
10 such message.

11 34. In numerous instances, the GNS Defendants have barraged consumers with emails 12 containing sexually-explicit content. Defendants have initiated commercial email messages that 13 include sexually oriented material to consumers who did not give prior affirmative consent to 14 receipt of the messages. In numerous instances, these email messages fail to include the mark 15 'SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT: " in the subject line of the messages, fail to include the mark 16 'SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT: " and all required notices in the initially-viewable content of the 17 messages, or fail to exclude sexually oriented material from the initially-viewable content of the 18 messages.

19 35. In numerous instances, to induce consumers to open and read their commercial emails, 20 Defendants have initiated commercial email messages containing materially false or misleading 21 header information. In many instances, the email contains an originating email address that was 22 not assigned by the email service provider. In other instances, the originating email address either 23 was obtained through false representations to the email service provider that the email address 24 would not be used to disseminate commercial emails or was used without the authorization of the 25 subscriber who obtained the email address from the email service provider.

36. In numerous instances, to induce consumers to open and read their commercial
emails, Defendants have initiated commercial email messages that contain subject headers that
misrepresent the content or subject matter of the message. These emails include subject headers

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1 that falsely represent that the email is a message from an internet service provider or a personal
2 acquaintance of the recipient.

3 37. In numerous instances, consumers have been unable to stop the unwanted receipt of 4 Defendants' commercial email because Defendants have sent the email messages without an "opt-5 out" mechanism; *i.e.*, the commercial emails have failed to contain a clear and conspicuous notice 6 of the recipient's opportunity to decline to receive further email messages from Defendants and a 7 functioning return email address or other Internet-based mechanism to accomplish such 8 declination.

9 38. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated commercial email messages to
10 consumers who did not give prior affirmative consent to receipt of such messages and in those
11 instances, failed to clearly and conspicuously identify the messages as advertisements or
12 solicitations. Rather, Defendants routinely disguise their commercial emails by representing that
13 their services are free.

39. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated commercial email messages that15 failed to include a valid physical postal address of the sender.

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VIOLATIONS OF THE ADULT LABELING RULE AND CAN-SPAM IN THE TRANSMISSION OF EMAIL THAT CONTAINS SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATERIAL

40. The Commission promulgated the Adult Labeling Rule pursuant to Sections 7704(d)(3)
and 7711(a) of the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7704(d)(3) and 7711(a). The Rule became
effective on May 19, 2004, and sets forth marks and notices to be included in commercial email
messages that contain sexually oriented material.

41. The CAN-SPAM Act and the Adult Labeling Rule both prohibit any person from
initiating the transmission, to a protected computer, of any commercial email message that includes
sexually oriented material and fails to include the phrase "SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT: " as the first
nineteen (19) characters at the beginning of the subject line. 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(A); 16 C.F.R.
§ 316.1(a)(1).

42. The CAN-SPAM Act and the Adult Labeling Rule also require that any message that includes sexually oriented material place only the following information within the content of the message that is initially viewable by the recipient, when the message is opened by the recipient and absent any further action by the recipient ("initially viewable content"):

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the phrase "SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT: " in a clear and conspicuous
manner, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(B)(i); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(2)(i);
clear and conspicuous notice that the message is an advertisement or
solicitation, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(B)(ii); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(2)(ii);
clear and conspicuous notice of the opportunity of a recipient to decline
to receive further commercial email messages from the sender,
15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(B)(ii); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(2)(iii);

a functioning return email address or other Internet-based mechanism, clearly and conspicuously displayed, that a recipient may use to submit, in a manner specified in the message, a reply email message or other form of Internet-based communication requesting not to receive future commercial email messages from that sender at the email address where the message was received; and that remains capable of receiving such messages or communications for no less than 30 days after the transmission of the original message, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(B)(ii); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(2)(iv);

clear and conspicuous display of a valid physical postal address of the sender, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(B)(ii); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(2)(v); and any needed instructions on how to access, or activate a mechanism to access, the sexually oriented material, preceded by a clear and conspicuous statement that to avoid viewing the sexually oriented material, a recipient should delete the email message without following such instructions, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(1)(B)(iii); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(2)(vi). 43. The labeling and placement requirements of the CAN-SPAM Act and the Adult
 Labeling Rule do not apply if the recipient has given prior affirmative consent to receipt of the
 message. 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d)(2); 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(b).

4 44. Pursuant to Section 7711(a) of the CAN-SPAM Act, which allows the Commission to
5 issue regulations to "implement the provisions of [CAN-SPAM]," and Section 7706(a), which
6 provides that "[CAN-SPAM] shall be enforced by the [FTC] as if the violation of this Act were an
7 unfair or deceptive act or practice proscribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the [FTC Act] (15
8 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B))," violations of the Adult Labeling Rule and Section 7704(d) of CAN-SPAM
9 shall be enforced as if the violation were an unfair or deceptive act or practice proscribed under
10 Section 18(a)(1)(B) of the FTC Act.

<u>COUNT I</u>

45. In numerous instances, the GNS Defendants have initiated the transmission, to
protected computers, of commercial email messages that include sexually oriented material and
that:

A. fail to include the phrase "SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT: " as the first nineteen (19) characters at the beginning of the subject line;
B. fail to include, within the initially viewable content of the message, a second instance of the phrase "SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT: ";
C. fail to include, within the initially viewable content of the message, clear and conspicuous notice of the opportunity of a recipient to decline to receive further commercial email messages from the GNS Defendants, or a functioning Internet-based mechanism that remains capable of receiving such requests for thirty (30) days;

 fail to include, within the initially viewable content of the message, clear and conspicuous display of a valid physical postal address of the GNS Defendants; or E. include sexually oriented material within the the subject line and/or the initially viewable content of the message.
46. In numerous instances, recipients of commercial email messages initiated by the GNS Defendants that include sexually oriented material have not given prior affirmative consent to receipt of such messages. In many cases, the messages say that they are from a party identified as a nonexistent electronic mail addresses, nonsense strings of characters, or random strings of names.
Few, if any, recipients ever gave consent to receipt of messages from such parties or were given clear and conspicuous notice that any consent they gave to a different party could be transferred to

9 the party identified as the source of the messages.

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47. Therefore, the GNS Defendants' acts or practices violate Section 5(d) of the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(d), and the Adult Labeling Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 316.1(a)(1).

VIOLATIONS OF THE CAN-SPAM ACT

48. The CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7701 <u>et seq</u>., became effective on January 1, 2004, and has since remained in full force and effect.

49. Section 5(a)(1) of CAN-SPAM, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(1), states:

It is unlawful for any person to initiate the transmission, to a protected computer, of a commercial electronic mail message, or a transactional or relationship message, that contains, or is accompanied by, header information that is materially false or materially misleading.

50. Section 5(a)(6) of CAN-SPAM, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(6), states:

For purposes of [section 5(a)(1)], the term "materially," when used with respect to false or misleading header information, includes the alteration or concealment of header information in a manner that would impair the ability of a recipient of the message, an Internet access service processing the message on behalf of a recipient, a person alleging a violation of this section, or a law enforcement agency to identify, locate, or respond to a person who initiated the electronic message or investigate the alleged violation.

51. Section 5(a)(2) of CAN-SPAM, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(2), states:

It is unlawful for any person to initiate the transmission, to a protected computer, of a commercial electronic mail message, if

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| 1 | such person has actual knowledge, or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances, that a subject heading of | |
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| 2 | the message would be likely to mislead a recipient, acting reasonably under the circumstances, about a material fact | |
| 3 | regarding the content or subject matter of the message (consistent with the criteria used in enforcement of section 5 of the Federal | |
| 5 | 52. Section 7(e) of CAN-SPAM, 15 U.S.C. § 7706(e), states that in any action to enforce | |
| 6 | compliance through an injunction with Section 5(a)(2) and other specified sections of CAN-SPAM, | |
| 7 | the FTC need not allege or prove the state of mind required by such sections. | |
| . 8 | | |
| . 9 | 53. Section 5(a)(3) of the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(3), states: | |
| | It is unlawful for any person to initiate the transmission to a protected computer of a commercial electronic mail message that does not contain | |
| 10 | a functioning return electronic mail address or other Internet-based mechanism, clearly and conspicuously displayed, that – | |
| 11 | (i) a recipient may use to submit, in a manner specified in the | |
| 12 | message, a reply electronic mail message or other form of Internet-based communication requesting not to receive | |
| 13 | future commercial electronic mail messages from that sender at the electronic mail address where the message was | |
| 14 | received; and | |
| 15 | (ii) remains capable of receiving such messages or communications for no less than 30 days after the | |
| 16 | transmission of the original message. | |
| 17 | 54. Sections 5(a)(5)(A) and (B) of the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7704(a)(5)(A) and | |
| - 18 | (B), state: | |
| 19 | (A) It is unlawful for any person to initiate the transmission of any | |
| 20 | commercial electronic mail message to a protected computer unless the message provides – | |
| 21 | (i) clear and conspicuous identification that the message is an | |
| 22 | advertisement or solicitation; | |
| 23 | (ii) clear and conspicuous notice of the opportunity under paragraph (3) to decline to receive further commercial | |
| 24 | electronic mail messages from the sender; and | |
| 25 | (iii) a valid physical postal address of the sender. | |
| 26 | (B) Subpart (A)(i) does not apply to the transmission of a commercial electronic mail message if the receptent has | i. |
| 27 | given prior affirmative consent to receipt of the message. | |
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| | Page 13 of 18 | |

| 1 | 55. Section 3(13) of the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7702(13), defines "protected |
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| 2 | computer" by reference to 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(2)(B), which states that a protected computer is: |
| 3 | a computer which is used in interstate or foreign commerce or communication, including a computer located outside the United |
| 4 | communication, including a computer located outside the United States that is used in a manner that affects interstate or foreign commerce or communication of the United States. |
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| 6 | 56. Section 3(16) of the CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7702(16), defines "sender," when |
| 7 | used with respect to a commercial electronic mail message, as: |
| 8 9 | a person who initiates such a message and whose product, service, or Internet website is advertised or promoted by the message. |
| 10 | 57. Section 7(a) of the CAN-SPAM Act states: |
| 11 | [T]his Act shall be enforced by the [FTC] as if the violation of this Act were an unfair or deceptive act or practice proscribed |
| 12 | under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the [FTC Act] (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)). |
| 13 | |
| 14 | <u>COUNT II</u> |
| 15 | 58. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated the transmission, to protected |
| 16 | computers, of commercial email messages that contained, or were accompanied by, materially |
| . 1 | misleading header information, including but not limited to messages that included an originating |
| | electronic mail address, domain name, or Internet Protocol address the access to which for |
| 1 | purposes of initiating the message was obtained by means of false or fraudulent pretenses or |
| | representations; |
| 21 | 59. Therefore, Defendants' acts or practices violate Section 5(a)(1) of CAN-SPAM, |
| 1 | 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(1). |
| 23 | |
| 24 | <u>COUNT III</u> |
| 25 | 60. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated the transmission, to protected |
| 11 | computers, of commercial email messages that contained subject headings that would be likely to |
| - 11 | mislead a recipient, acting reasonably under the circumstances, about a material fact regarding the |
| 28 | contents or subject matter of the message. |
| | Page 14 of 18 |
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| 1 | 61. Therefore, Defendants' acts or practices violate Section 5(a)(2) of CAN-SPAM, | |
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| 4 | <u>COUNT IV</u> | |
| - 5 | 62. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated the transmission, to protected | |
| 6 | computers, of commercial email messages that advertised or promoted Defendants' Internet | |
| 7 | websites and failed to include: | |
| 8 | A. clear and conspicuous notice of the recipient's opportunity to decline to | |
| 9 | receive further commercial electronic mail messages from Defendants at | |
| 10 | the recipient's electronic mail address; or | |
| 11 | B. a functioning return electronic mail address or other Internet-based | |
| 12 | mechanism, clearly and conspicuously displayed, that remains capable | |
| 13 | for 30 days of receiving messages from the recipient requesting not to | |
| 14 | receive future commercial electronic mail messages from Defendants at | |
| 15 | the recipient's electronic mail address. | |
| 16 | 63. Therefore, Defendants' acts or practices violate Section 5(a)(3) or (5)(A)(ii) of the | |
| 17 | CAN-SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(3) or (5)(A)(ii). | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | <u>COUNT V</u> | |
| 20 | 64. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated the transmission, to protected | |
| 21 | computers, of commercial email messages that failed to provide clear and conspicuous | |
| 22 | identification that the message was an advertisement or solicitation. | |
| 23 | 65. In numerous instances, recipients of the commercial electronic email messages set forth | |
| 24 | in paragraph 64 have not given prior affirmative consent to receipt of such messages. In many | |
| 25 | cases, the messages say that they are from a party identified as a nonexistent electronic mail | |
| 26 | addresses, nonsense strings of characters, or random strings of names. Few, if any, recipients ever | |
| 27 | gave consent to receipt of messages from such parties or were given clear and conspicuous notice | |
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1 that any consent they gave to a different party could be transferred to the party identified as the
2 source of the messages set forth in paragraph 64.

3 66. Therefore, Defendants' acts or practices violate Section 5(a)(5)(A)(i) of the CAN4 SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(5)(A)(i).

COUNT VI

67. In numerous instances, Defendants have initiated the transmission, to protected
computers, of commercial email messages that advertised or promoted Defendants' Internet
websites and failed to include Defendants' valid physical postal address.

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10 68. Therefore, Defendants' acts or practices violate Section 5(a)(5)(A)(iii) of the CAN11 SPAM Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7704(a)(5)(A)(iii).

VIOLATION OF THE FTC ACT

69. As set forth below, Defendants, individually and in concert with others, have violated
Section 5(a) of the FTC Act in connection with the marketing, promotion, offer, and sale of
memberships in sexually-explicit Internet websites.

COUNT VII

70. In numerous instances, Defendants have represented, expressly or by implication, that
 20 Defendants will not charge consumers for memberships in their sexually-explicit Internet websites.

71. In truth and in fact, in numerous instances, Defendants charge consumers for
memberships in their sexually-explicit Internet websites.

72. Therefore, Defendants' representation, as alleged in paragraph 70, is false and
deceptive, and violates Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a).

INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS INJURY

73. Individuals and businesses throughout the United States have suffered, and continue to
suffer, substantial injury as a result of Defendants' unlawful acts or practices. In addition,

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Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of their unlawful practices. Absent injunctive
 relief by this Court, Defendants are likely to continue to injure consumers, reap unjust enrichment,
 and harm the public interest.

THIS COURT'S POWER TO GRANT RELIEF

74. Sections 13(b) and 19(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b(b), empowers
this Court to grant injunctive and other relief to prevent and remedy Defendants' violations of the
FTC Act, and in the exercise of its equitable jurisdiction, to award redress to remedy the injury to
individuals and businesses, to order the disgorgement of monies resulting from Defendants'
unlawful acts or practices, and to order other ancillary equitable relief. A violation of CAN-SPAM
and the Adult Labeling Rule may be remedied in the same manner as a violation of the FTC Act.
U.S.C. § 7706.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff FTC, pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C.
\$\$ 53(b) and 57b, Section 7(a) of CAN-SPAM, 15 U.S.C. § 7706(a), and the Court's own equitable
powers, requests that the Court:

Enter an order enjoining Defendants preliminarily and permanently from violating
 Section 5 of the FTC Act, the CAN-SPAM Act, and the Adult Labeling Rule, and freezing
 Defendants' assets;

Award Plaintiff such relief as the Court finds necessary to redress injury to any
 person and remove the benefits to Defendants resulting from Defendants' violations of the FTC
 Act, the CAN-SPAM Act, and the Adult Labeling Rule, including, but not limited to, rescission of
 contracts, restitution, redress, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, and the refund of monies paid; and

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3. Award Plaintiff the costs of bringing this action, as well as such other and additional relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: January 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN D. GRAUBERT Acting General Counsel

Lawrence Hodapp

Stephen L. Cohen Attorneys for Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission

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