

566022+

RECEIVED
COPIEDFR
6/24/02

March 8, 2002

Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

02 JUN -7 AM 10:31

OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED] Oak Park IL [REDACTED]. I am writing on behalf of my mother [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Chgo. IL. [REDACTED] she is a senior citizen. She purchased a used car lemon (1994 Buick LeSabre) from Fred Ellial at Lightning Auto located at 17140 S. Cicero Ave. Country Club Hills, IL 60478 (708) 799-9410. The VIN # is 1G4HP52L9 [REDACTED] The car was purchased Dec. 5, 2001 and we were told the car had 120,100 miles but really the car had 131,000 miles.

Fred was my mother's mechanic, my best friend's mechanic, and my mechanic. The car he sold my mom is defective. My mom purchased the car for \$3,500. She paid him \$2,500 there is a \$1,000 balance. The problem is the car has spent more time in his shop, or parked in my parking space waiting to be fixed. This used Buick LeSabre is a lemon.

I am a graduate student trying to finish my thesis so I can get my Master's Degree. I am a single parent raising a teenage son to be a productive member of our society. My mom purchased the car. She let me use it and I have to pay for all the expenses plus I am inconvenienced each and every time it is not working. I am tired of throwing money and my time away on the car. Will you please help my mother get her money back for this car? I have copies of all the paper work. Please imagine if you were in my shoes, how would you want to be helped?

OF REPAIR ATTEMPTS

1. Purchased a 1994 Buick LeSabre for \$3,500, paid \$2,500 owed \$1,000. He put in a battery. 12-5-01
2. Fred said the car had 120,100 miles (see on vehicle title/registration), later that evening we noticed it had 131,000 miles. 12-5-01
3. He gave one set of keys I purchased a duplicate set \$29.31. 12-6-01
4. Car was broken in \$450.00. 12-13-01
5. Asked him to check my tires, check fluids, wheel alignment, tune up, lights on the lock/unlock switch, left turn signal, antenna, he said everything OK. I also asked him to fix the steering wheel. The top part lifts up.
6. I was told if I purchased an alarm he would have it put in. Then he did not have time to put on an alarm, so he told me take it someplace else (\$250.00). 12-15-01
7. Windshield washer fluid none in car. \$1.50, Antifreeze none in car \$6.51. 12-31-01
8. Bought some gas \$12.31. 1-1-02

Anonim

9. Jan. 3rd car would not start. He was not able to fix that day, Motor Club Tow. Asked them again to check everything in #5 again, said everything OK and put in a starter and topped off the fluids. I drove home about 11:00am. 1-4-02
10. Later that evening filled up the gas tank (\$11.04) before I got on I-88 in Naperville, car would not go over 10 m/h on the highway. Pulled over on the dark highway, waited over an hour for the state police and the Motor Club. Called Fred he told me to call him tomorrow. 1-4-02
11. My mother was furious by now he apologized and towed the car to his shop. Did not see the car again until I went to pick it up Jan. 21, 2002. The car was filthy again, the gas tank was empty, and odometer fraud had been committed. The odometer had been changed from 131,777 miles to almost 75,000 miles. I called Fred and told him my mom wanted her money back we were tired of the defective automobile.
12. I took the car to Chicagoland Auto, paid them to check over the car. He told me the car needed between \$1,895-\$2,095 worth of work on it \$35.00. 1-24-02
13. Flat tire, Motor Club put on donut so I could drive car back to Fred to get the tire repaired. 1-31-02
14. Sent Fred Elial a certified letter telling him [REDACTED] wanted her money back. \$3.94. My mom told me to get the tire repaired (\$15.00). I stopped driving the car. 2-1-02
15. 2-06-02 Fred signed for the letter.
16. My son was sick I drove him to the doctor and ran a short errand the car stopped and the Motor Club towed the car home 2-09-02 and it has been sitting here since.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]