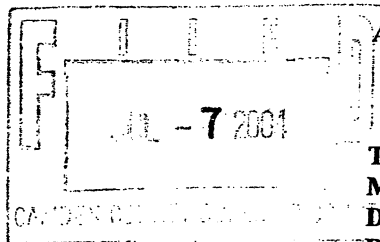


Jacqueline C. Herritt, Esquire
KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.
Executive Quarters
1930 E. Marlton Pike, Suite T11
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
(856) 429-8334



ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

THIS IS AN ARBITRATION
MATTER. ASSESSMENT OF
DAMAGES HEARING IS
REQUESTED.

[REDACTED]
Runnemedede, NJ [REDACTED]

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CAMDEN COUNTY

v.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION
c/o CT Corporation
820 Bear Tavern Road
Suite 305
West Trenton, NJ 08628

CIVIL ACTION

NO.

L 003747 01

COMPLAINT

1. Plaintiff, [REDACTED] is an adult individual citizen and legal resident of the State of New Jersey, [REDACTED] Runnemedede, NJ [REDACTED]
2. Defendant, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, is a corporation qualified to do and regularly conduct business in the State of New Jersey, with its address and principal place of business located at 12000 Chrysler Drive, Highland Park, Michigan 48288-1919, and can be served at c/o CT Corporation, 820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 305, West Trenton, NJ 08628.

BACKGROUND

3. On or about September 30, 2003, Plaintiff purchased a new 2003, Dodge, 2500 Quad, manufactured and warranted by Defendant, bearing the Vehicle Identification Number 3D7KU28D23C [REDACTED]
4. The vehicle was purchased in the State of New Jersey and is registered in the State of New Jersey.
5. The contract price of the vehicle, including registration charges, document fees, sales tax, finance and bank charges, but excluding other collateral charges not specified, yet defined by the

Lemon Law, totaled more than \$35,108.30. A true and correct copy of the contract is attached hereto, made a part hereof, and marked Exhibit "A".

6. In consideration for the purchase of said vehicle, Defendant issued to Plaintiff several warranties, guarantees, affirmations or undertakings with respect to the material or workmanship of the vehicle and/or remedial action in the event the vehicle fails to meet the promised specifications.

7. The above-referenced warranties, guarantees, affirmations or undertakings are/were part of the basis of the bargain between Defendant and Plaintiff.

8. The parties' bargain includes an express 3-year / 36,000 mile warranty, as well as other guarantees, affirmations and undertakings as stated in Defendant's warranty materials and owner's manual.

9. However, as a result of the ineffective repair attempts made by Defendant through its authorized dealer(s), the vehicle is rendered substantially impaired, unable to be utilized for its intended purposes, and is worthless to Plaintiff.

10. Plaintiff has or may have resorted to Defendant's informal dispute settlement procedure, to the extent said procedure complies with 16 CFR 703.

11. Plaintiff avers that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has determined that no automobile manufacturer complies with 16 CFR 703. See, Fed. Reg. 15636, Vol. 62, No. 63 (Apr. 2, 1997).

COUNT I
NEW JERSEY MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTY ACT

12. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations set forth in this Complaint by reference as if fully set forth at length herein.

13. Plaintiff is a "Consumer" as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:12-30.

14. Defendant is a "Manufacturer" as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:12-30.

15. Mt. Ephraim Dodge, is and/or was at the time of sale a "Dealer or Motor Vehicle Dealer" in the business of buying, selling, and/or exchanging vehicles as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:12-30.

16. On or about September 30, 2003, Plaintiff took possession of the above mentioned vehicle and experienced nonconformities as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:12-29 et seq., which substantially impair the use, value and/or safety of the vehicle.

17. Defendant through its authorized dealer failed to provide written notification that the vehicle was covered by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Warranty Act as provided in N.J.S.A. 56:12-34(c). Plaintiff believes and therefore avers said failure is a per se violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., as well as a violation of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Warranty Act.

18. The nonconformities described violate the express written warranties issued to Plaintiff by Defendant.

19. Section 56:12-32 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Warranty Act provides:

- a. If, during the period specified in section 3 of this act, the manufacturer or its dealer is unable to repair or correct a nonconformity within a reasonable time, the manufacturer shall accept return of the motor vehicle from the consumer. The manufacturer shall provide the consumer with a full refund of the purchase price of the original motor vehicle including any stated credit or allowance for the consumer's used motor vehicle, the cost of any options or other modifications arranged, installed, or made by the manufacturer or its dealer within 30 days after the date of original delivery, and any other charges or fees including, but not limited to, sales tax, license and registration fees, finance charges, reimbursement for towing and reimbursement for actual expenses incurred by the consumer for the rental of a motor vehicle equivalent to the consumer's motor vehicle and limited to the period during which the consumer's motor vehicle was out of service due to a nonconformity, less a reasonable allowance for vehicle use.

20. Section 56:12-33 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Warranty Act provides a presumption of a reasonable number of repair attempts:

- a. It is presumed that a manufacturer or its dealer is unable to repair or correct a nonconformity within a reasonable time if, within the first 18,000 miles of operation or during the period of two years following the date of original delivery of the motor vehicle to a consumer, whichever is the earlier date:
 - (1) Substantially the same nonconformity has been subject to repair three or more times by the manufacturer or its dealer and the nonconformity continues to exist; or
 - (2) The motor vehicle is out of service by reason of repair for one or more nonconformities for a cumulative total of 20 or more calendar days since the original delivery of the motor vehicle and a nonconformity continues to exist.
- b. The presumption contained in sub-section a. of this section shall apply against a manufacturer only if the manufacturer has received written notification, by or on behalf of the consumer, by certified mail

return receipt requested, of a potential claim pursuant to the provisions of this act and has had one opportunity to repair or correct the defect or condition within 10 calendar days following receipt of the notification. Notification by the consumer shall take place any time after the motor vehicle has had substantially the same nonconformity subject to repair two or more times or has been out of service by reason of repair for a cumulative total of 20 or more calendar days.

21. Plaintiff has satisfied the above definition as the vehicle has been subject to repair more than three (3) times for the same nonconformity, and the nonconformity remained uncorrected.

22. In addition, the above vehicle has or will be out of service by reason of the nonconformities complained of for a cumulative total of twenty (20) or more calendar days.

23. Plaintiff has delivered the nonconforming vehicle to an authorized service and repair facility of the Defendant on numerous occasions as outlined below.

24. After a reasonable number of attempts, Defendant was unable to repair the nonconformities.

25. During the first 24 months and/or 18,000 miles, Plaintiff complained on at least three (3) occasions about defects and or non-conformities to the following vehicle components: stalls, slips, transmission, transmission leak, speakers, electrical, blinkers, wipers, glove box and computer. True and correct copies of all invoices in Plaintiff possession are attached hereto, made a part hereof, and marked Exhibit "B".

26. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be financially damaged due to Defendant's intentional, reckless, wanton, and negligent failure to comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 56:12-29 et seq.

27. Plaintiff has provided Defendant with a final repair opportunity prior to filing the within Complaint.

28. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 56:12-29 et seq., Plaintiff seeks relief for losses due to the nonconformities and defects in the above-mentioned vehicle in addition to reasonable attorney fees and all court costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment against Defendant in an amount equal to the price of the subject vehicle, plus all collateral charges, attorneys' fees, and court costs.

COUNT II
MAGNUSON-MOSS (FTC) WARRANTY IMPROVEMENT ACT

29. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations set forth in this Complaint by reference as if fully set forth at length herein.

30. Plaintiff is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §2301(3).

31. Defendant is a "supplier", "warrantor", and a "service contractor" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 2301 (4),(5) and (8).

32. The subject vehicle is a "consumer product" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 2301(1).

33. By the terms of its written warranties, affirmations, promises, or service contracts, Defendant agreed to perform effective repairs at no charge for parts and/or labor.

34. The Magnuson-Moss Warranty Improvement Act requires Defendant to be bound by all warranties implied by state law. Said warranties are imposed on all transactions in the state in which the vehicle was delivered.

35. Defendant has made attempts on several occasions to comply with the terms of its express warranties; however, such repair attempts have been ineffective.

36. The Magnuson-Moss Warranty Improvement Act, 15 U.S.C. §2310(d)(2) provides:

If a consumer finally prevails on an action brought under paragraph (1) of this subsection, he may be allowed by the court to recover as part of the judgment a sum equal to the amount of aggregate amount of costs and expenses (including attorney fees based upon actual time expended), determined by the court to have been reasonably incurred by the Plaintiff for, or in connection with the commencement and prosecution of such action, unless the court, in its discretion shall determine that such an award of attorney's fees would be inappropriate.

37. Plaintiff has afforded Defendant a reasonable number of opportunities to conform the vehicle to the aforementioned express warranties, implied warranties and contracts.

38. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's failure to comply with the express written warranties, Plaintiff has suffered damages and, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. §2310(d)(1), Plaintiff is entitled to bring suit for such damages and other legal and equitable relief.

39. Defendant's failure is a breach of Defendant's contractual and statutory obligations constituting a violation of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Improvement Act, including but not limited to: breach of express warranties; breach of implied warranty of merchantability; breach of implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose; breach of contract; and constitutes an Unfair Trade Practice.

40. Plaintiff avers Defendant's Dispute Resolution Program is not in compliance with 16 CFR 703 by the FTC for the period of time this claim was submitted.

41. Plaintiff avers that upon successfully prevailing upon the Magnuson-Moss claim herein, all attorney fees are recoverable and are demanded against Defendant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment against Defendant in an amount equal to the price of the subject vehicle, plus all collateral charges, incidental and consequential damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and all court costs.

COUNT III
UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

42. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations set forth in this Complaint by reference as if fully set forth at length herein.

43. The defects and nonconformities existing within the vehicle constitute a breach of contractual and statutory obligations of Defendant, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Express Warranty;
- b. Implied Warranty Of merchantability; and
- c. Implied Warranty Of Fitness For A Particular Purpose.

44. At the time of obtaining possession of the vehicle and at all times subsequent thereto, Plaintiff has justifiably relied upon Defendant's express warranties and implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose and implied warranties of merchantability.

45. At the time of obtaining possession of the vehicle and at all times subsequent thereto, Defendant was aware Plaintiff was relying upon Defendant's express and implied warranties, obligations, and representations with regard to the subject vehicle.

46. Plaintiff has incurred damages as a direct and proximate result of the breach and failure of Defendant to honor its express and implied warranties.

47. Such damages include, but are not limited to, the contract price of the vehicle plus all collateral charges, including attorney fees and costs, as well as other expenses, the full extent of which are not yet known.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment against Defendant in an amount equal to the contract price of the vehicle, plus all collateral charges and attorneys' fees.

COUNT IV
NEW JERSEY CONSUMER FRAUD ACT

48. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations set forth in this Complaint by reference as if fully set forth at length herein.

49. Plaintiff is a "Person" as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(d).

50. Defendant is a "Person" as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(d).

51. Defendant's actions surrounding the sale and servicing of the subject vehicle were unconscionable. Defendant's agents also acted with a reckless and callous disregard for Plaintiff's rights in negotiating and handling Plaintiff's warranty claims.

52. Defendant's actions surrounding the sale and servicing of said vehicle constitute a unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, and/or misrepresentation. Defendant and its agents acted affirmatively in such a manner as to be an unlawful commercial practice.

53. Defendant acted knowingly with the intent to cause Plaintiff's reliance thereupon.

54. Defendant knowingly concealed, suppressed, or omitted facts material to the transactions at issue, in that Defendant was aware the defect(s)/condition(s) could not be repaired, and that the ineffectual repairs were performed by incompetent or unqualified individuals. Defendant's failure to verify the defect(s) or condition(s) constitutes a refusal to perform the repairs under its statutory or contractual obligations.

55. Defendant through its authorized dealer failed to provide written notification that the vehicle was covered by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Warranty Act N.J.S.A. 56:12-34(c) and Plaintiff believes and therefore avers said failure is a per se violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq. as well as a violation of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Warranty Act.

56. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that the defect(s) or condition(s) outlined previously is/are an inherent design defect and that as such the Defendant must certify the existence of this defect or condition to the Division of Consumer Affairs. Defendant has failed to file this certification and this failure is a violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq.

57. Defendant's failure to supply an itemized legible statement of repair is an unlawful practice pursuant to the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act N.J.S.A. 56:8-2.

58. The Act prohibits the aforementioned action of Defendant in the sale and attempted repair of the subject vehicle.

59. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers the reckless, wanton and willful failure of Defendant to comply with the terms of the written warranties constitutes an unfair method of competition.

60. As a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has and will continue to suffer ascertainable financial loss proximately caused by the Defendant's conduct. Said losses are outlined as follows:

- a. Plaintiff is entitled to a full refund N.J.S.A. 56:8-2.11-12;
- b. Plaintiff's vehicle, given the defect/condition, is worthless;
- c. Plaintiff lost time from work and other money as a result of having to take the vehicle in for the repeated repair attempts;
- d. Plaintiff has been relegated to finding alternative means of transportation while the vehicle was in for repairs and while the vehicle has been in its present condition. As a result, Plaintiff has incurred additional transportation costs; and
- e. Plaintiff has expended sums to maintain, store, insure, register, and other expenses for transportation.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment against Defendant for compensatory damages, treble damages, attorney fees, costs of suit, and any further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

By: 

JACQUELINE C. HERRITT, ESQUIRE

Attorney for Plaintiff

Executive Quarters

1930 E. Marlton Pike, Suite T11

Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

(856) 429-8334

JURY-DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury as to all the issues

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

By: 

JACQUELINE C. HERRITT, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO R.4:15-1

Upon knowledge and belief I hereby certify that there are no other actions or arbitrations related to this suit pending or presently contemplated.

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

By: 

JACQUELINE C. HERRITT, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 56:8-20 Plaintiff is mailing a copy of this Complaint to the Office of the Attorney General, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, 25 West Market Street in the City of Trenton, County of Mercer, in the state of New Jersey on *July 7, 2024*

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

By: 

JACQUELINE C. HERRITT, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Plaintiff