IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Electronically Filed Jun 25 2020 10:02 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation

Appellant(s),

v.

STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada Administrative agency,

Respondent(s).

Case No. 80218

First Judicial District Court No. 17 OC 00269 1B

Appeal First Judicial District Court, State of Nevada, County of Carson The Honorable James T. Russell, District Judge

RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX VOLUME III OF V

AARON FORD

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Attorneys for Respondents

RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX <u>CHRONOLOGICAL</u> INDEX

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION	DATE	VOL.	PAGE NOS.
AB647: Exhibits C –D April 5, 1999	04/05/99	V	AA003286- AA003295
Exhibit 8: State of Washington Regulatory Action Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)	01/27/10	II	AA002874- AA002905
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17			
Exhibit 1: California Regulatory Action	07/23/10	I	AA002776- AA002791
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17			
Exhibit H: Oklahoma Fine: Emergency Cease and Desist Order; Conditional Administrative Order dated January 7, 2014	07/29/10	IV	AA003136- AA003180
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Exhibit 41: South Carolina Department of Insurance Licensing Application;	04/05/11	V	AA003252- AA003285
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. IV): Updated Hearing Exhibits and Updated Witness List by Division (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/08/17)			
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Exhibit 3: Oklahoma Regulatory Actions Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	02/07/14	I	AA002792- AA002830
Exhibit 11: Nevada Consumer Complaints #1 and #2 Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	07/16/14	II	AA002930- AA002936
Exhibit 13: New Jersey Attorney General Press Release and Complaint Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	07/28/14	II	AA002937- AA002987
Exhibit F: New Jersey Final Consent Judgment: Hoffman, et al v. CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. III) Hearing Exhibit List by HWAN (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/06/17)	06/09/15	III	AA003079- AA003132
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Exhibit 17: Rip-off Report Filed by Nevada Vendor Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	01/14/16	III	AA002994- AA002996
Exhibit 16: Rip-off Report Filed by Nevada Consumer Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	04/20/16	III	AA002992- AA002993

Exhibit 15: Rip-off Report Filed by Nevada Consumer	07/07/16	III	AA002990-
			AA002991
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)			
Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division			
(Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17 Exhibit 19: Click2Houston News Report: "Warranty	07/11/16	III	AA002999-
Company Notorious for Denying Claims"	07/11/10	111	AA003001
Company Trotorious for Benjing Claims			
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)			
Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division			
(Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	07/10/16	TTT	A A 002060
Exhibit 38: Nevada Consumer Complaint #4	07/12/16	III	AA003069- AA003072
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)			AA003072
Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division			
(Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17			
Exhibit 18: Rip-off Report Review by Nevada Consumer	10/12/16	II	AA002995-
			AA002998
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)			
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Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)			
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(Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	10/21/16	TTT	A A 002000
Exhibit 14: Rip-off Report Filed by Nevada Consumer	10/31/16	III	AA002988- AA002989
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II)			AA002707
Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division			
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Exhibit 10: Civil Action in New Jersey	11/18/16	II	AA002909-
			AA002929
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Exhibit W: Report: DOI Computer Search for HWAN	11/29/16	IV	AA003207-
Consumer Complaints		•	AA003211
Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. III)			
Hearing Exhibit List by HWAN (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/06/17)			
(0)/00/17)			

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(09/06/17) Exhibit 25: Nevada Service Provider Complaint Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	03/28/17	III	AA003011- AA003012
Exhibit 9: Better Business Bureau Report Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	04/07/17	II	AA002906- AA002908
Exhibit 27: CHW Email Advertisements Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	08/21/17	III	AA003016- AA003024
Exhibit 26: CHW Internet Advertisement Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	09/03/17	III	AA003013- AA003015
Exhibit 20: NBC Chicago 5 News Report: Home Warranty Business Accused of Not Paying Up Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	09/05/17	III	AA003002- AA003006
Exhibit 39: Fox 4 Problem Solvers: Overland Park Man Wants to Warn Others About Home Warranty Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. II) Proposed Hearing Exhibits and Witness List By Division (Cause No. 17.0050) 09/06/17	09/05/17	III	AA003073- AA003075

Exhibit HH: HWAN Files for Complainants (Original Exhibit 1666 Pages) (Redacted for Relevance and Brevity) Included Pages: (16-20, 43-47, 86-90,172-176, 359-363, 465-469, 541-545, 831-835) Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. III) Hearing Exhibit List by HWAN (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/06/17)	09/06/17	V	AA003212- AA003251
Exhibit K: Claims Ratio & Analysis 2011-2017 Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. III) Hearing Exhibit List by HWAN (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/06/17)	09/06/17	IV	AA003186
Exhibit M: HWAN Customer Testimonials Included Pgs.: 1-20 (Original Exhibit 867Pgs.) (Redacted for Relevance and Brevity) Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. III) Hearing Exhibit List by HWAN (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/06/17)	09/06/17	IV	AA003187- AA003206

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Continuation from Appellant's Appendix (Vol. III) Hearing Exhibit List by HWAN (Cause No. 17.0050) (09/06/17)			

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the **RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX (VOLUME III OF V)** with the Clerk of the Court for the Nevada Supreme Court by using the appellate CM/ECF system on June 24, 2020.

Participants in the case who are registered CM/ECF users will be served by the appellate CM/ECF system as indicated below:

Constance L. Akridge, Esq. Holland and Hart CLAkridge@hollandhart.com

/s/ Marilyn Millam
an employee of the Office of the Attorney General

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing allegations, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter judgment:

- (a) Finding that the acts and omissions of Defendants constitute multiple violations of the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq. and the Advertising Regulations, N.J.A.C. 13:45A-9.1 et seq.;
- (b) Permanently enjoining Defendants and their owners, officers, directors, shareholders, founders, managers, agents, servants, employees, representatives, independent contractors, corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, assigns and all other persons or entities directly under its control, from engaging in, continuing to engage in or doing any acts or practices in violation of the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., and the Advertising Regulations, N.J.A.C. 13:45A-9.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint;
- (c) Ordering Defendants to disgorge all funds and property (real and personal) acquired and/or retained as a result of any acts or practices in violation of the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., and the Advertising Regulations, N.J.A.C. 13:45A-9.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, the acts and practices alleged in this Complaint;
- (d) Declaring that any RSCs entered into between Defendants and consumers that are currently in effect are null and void, thus entitling consumers to recovery of any monies paid thereunder;
- (e) Permanently enjoining Mandalawi, Hakim, and Seruya from managing or owning any business organization within this State and from serving as an officer, director, trustee, member of an executive board or similar governing body, principal, manager or stockholder owning 10% or more of the aggregate outstanding capital stock of all classes of any corporation doing business in this State, as authorized by the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-8;
- (f) Permanently vacating and/or annulling the corporate charter in the State of CHW, as authorized by the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-8;
- (g) Directing Defendants, jointly and severally, to restore to any affected person, whether or not named in this Complaint, any money or real or personal property acquired by means of any practice alleged herein to be unlawful and found to be unlawful, as authorized by the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-8;
- (h) Assessing the maximum statutory civil penalties against Defendants,

jointly and severally, for each and every violation of the CFA in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:8-13;

- (i) Directing the assessment of costs and fees, including attorneys' fees, against the Defendants, jointly and severally, for the use of the State of New Jersey, as authorized by the CFA, N.J.S.A. 56:8-11 and N.J.S.A. 56:8-19; and
- (j) Granting such other relief as the interests of justice may require.

JOHN J. HOFFMAN ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Attorney for Plaintiffs

Bv:

David M. Reap

Deputy Attorney General

Dated: July 21, 2014

Newark, New Jersey

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Complaint Review: Choice Home Warranty

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Members choice Vehicle Service contract Suncoast Teachers CU \$290 Throttle Sensor built into throttle body not covered in PLATINUM Extended Warranty!

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Faul J Sulla, Jr. The Law Office of Paul J. Sulla, ir Beware this Attorney Stole Our Home and Land via Forged Documents Hilo Hawaii

EDitorial Comments

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Submitted: Mon, October 31, 2016 ... Updated: Mon, October 31, 2016 Reported By: Mike - Henderson Nevada USA

Choice Home Warranty Edison, New Jersey

Phone: 888-531-5403

Web: www.choicehomewarranty.com Category: US Postal Service

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I signed a contract with Choice Home Warranty in May of 2014 for my vacation home in Henderson, Nevada. According to what the contract says it is for a period of 356 days. We gave them permission to deduct the monthly payment out of our checking account for that period. A few weeks ago I started getting calls from Choice saying that they can no longer take payments out of my checking because something is wrong. I checked it out and when we were issued a new card from the bank with a chip installed about 4 months ago they no longer allowed anymore monthly deductions. Then it dawned on me they were taking money out of the account passed the time on the contract. I told them this and the lady on the phone representing the company said the contract was for 3 years.....which is a total fabrication......then directed me to customer service.....and some lousy elevator music while they ignored me. I'm filing a complaint with the BBB and probably the Attorney Generals Office in Nevada. I've read that they have over 2000 complaints

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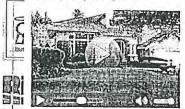
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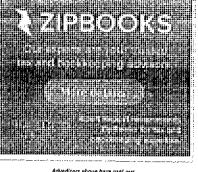
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Report: #1315610

Complaint Review: CHOICE HOME WARRANTY

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Submitted: Thu, July 07, 2016 Updated: Thu, July 07, 2016 Reported By: Stardust - Henderson Nevada USA

CHOICE HOME WARRANTY Nationwide

Phone: 702 929 5540 Web:

Category: Unusual Rip-Off

CHOICE HOME WARRANTY Refused to replace pool pump that went thru a rain/wind storm-saying it was not covered

cause it was not installed correctly Henderson, Nevada Nationwide

*Author of original report: Choice Home Warranty Scam! Beware!

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Pool Company, sends Tech who does nothing to really diagnose the problem. Took nothing apart or left note for me or never even called me. He just took the Service check of \$40 and left, I knew something was wrong when they didnt call me to tell me what was wrong. The next day, the Supervisor at CHOICE HOME WARRANTY told me he would not refund the check and that my pool pump was not covered because it was not correctly installed

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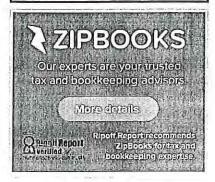
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onto the intake housing. He said it should have been installed where the vent holes were on top instead of on the sides. I wish I could post a picture of this cause this is absolutely a beyond ridiculous statement,

So, I am stuck with a pool full of water turning greener by the day cause the Warranty Company will not fix the problem that is covered under the warranty. They have done this before with previous problems as follows: Would

pool that was in a mega storm in Las Vegas that stopped working because of it. They claim the motor was installed wrong and the vent hole should be on top in stead of the sides...this is absurd cause there is only one way to install motor that bolts into the pump housing; The capacitor sits on the top of motor... Pool Tech that they had me call took my check and didnt even leave a work repair invoice. Looks like the Warranty Company and the Pool Service are in Cohoots,

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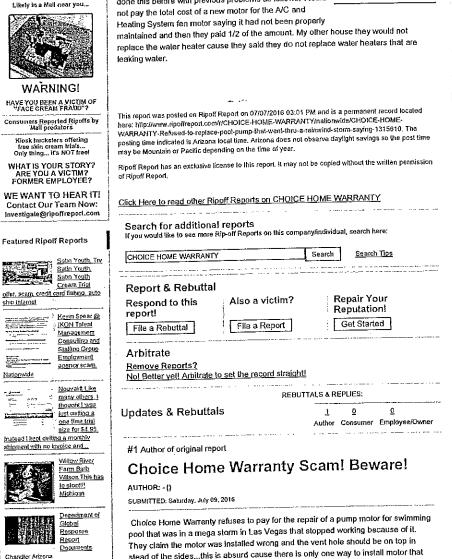
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Report: #1300931

Complaint Review: choice home warranty

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Submitted: Wed, April 20, 2016 Updatêd: Wed, April 20, 2016 Reported By: Ira B. - Las Vegas Nevada USA

choice home warranty Nationwide USA

Phone:

Web: www.choicehomewarranty.com Category: Heating, Cooling & Ventilation

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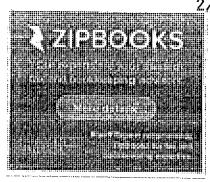
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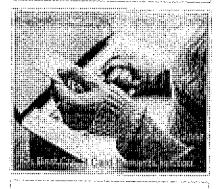
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Submitted: Thu, January 14, 2016 Updated: Tue, January 19, 2016 Reported By: laappliance - Las Vegas Nevada USA

Choice Home Warranty 1090 King Georges Post Rd Edison, New Jersey

Phone: 888-531-5403 Web: http://www.choicehomewarranty.com/ Category: Home Warranty Companies



Choice Home Warranty contractors BEWARE please read before Edison New Jersey

*REBUTTAL Owner of company: you said 365 day

*Author of original report: they are a scam

*Consumer Comment: Me Too.

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Choice Home Warranty is a huge scam among their contractors. They owe my company over eleven thousand dollars. We have been working for them for three months. We have completed 200 jobs for the company and not a dime has been seen from the company. They claim our

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check is in the maif and we should see it by the end of the week. When they day comes and there is no payment they insist it will be the following week. When asked to speak to an agent the phone is transfered and then hung up, clearly trying to avoid the contractors.

This company is a huge scam! We are not their first victims. I have seen plenty of angry customers and contractors on this website. This is a warning to any contractors who wish to join their team. Please beware you are in to get robbed.

Deryl Alessi, our assigned contractor relations manager is an even bigger scam. He comes up with excuses each phone call to buy time as to why payment has not been

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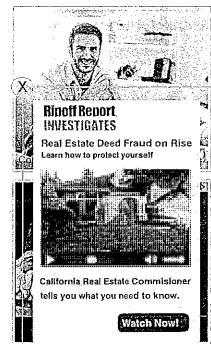
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1 Author Consumer Employee/Owner

#1 REBUTTAL Owner of company

you said 365 day

AUTHOR: Mike - (USA)

SUBMITTED: Sunday, April 10, 2016

I know the contractor work with this scams and they never paid them even after year

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#2 Author of original report

they are a scam

AUTHOR: - ()

SUBMITTEO: Thursday, April 07, 2016

i did over 120 jobs in las vegas and never got a dime deryl is a crook that needs to be behind the bars, go take more jobs collect the servicew fee and never show that's the only way

you'll not see you money

Respond to this report! | File a Rebuttal

#3 Consumer Comment



Me Too. AUTHOR: All Types Plumbing - (USA) SUBMITTED: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 They have transfer me to people then to darrel. I got a claim and went to the job, and said until you guys pay up on past invoices Im not laying out any more monet since you under paid me that didnt cover marterila spent. They blacklisted me and now ! have to wai 365 day for payment as its written in the contract. So be careful not to refuse work. Look for way to tranfer the claims or do as little as possible on the jobs. Respond to this report! File a Rebuttal

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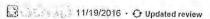
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Case in point: I was utilizing their website to get an online quote. The moment I hit send and was provided with a price quote, my phone rang and one of their representatives was on the line (calling from their NJ main office: 732-379-5309). I quickly informed the individual that I simply wanted an online quote. He stated that he was calling to offer his assistance, which I neither requested nor wanted. I let him know that I didn't need assistance and would appreciate not being called again. He responded by stating "Well why would you type in your phone number if you didn't want to be called?" He then hung up on me.

Yes, ladies and gents, this is customer service professionalism at its finest. I mean, c'mon, how silly of me to provide my phone number when it is required by an online form to get an online quote. (read: sarcasm, and KEYWORD: ONLINE). I was actually going to book a home warranty with this company prior to being treated so poorly. Now I have no interest in wasting either my time or my money on this company.

BOTTOM LINE: Even if my review doesn't warn you off of this company, surely the other reviews here will? I can't speak to their provided warranty service because their abysmal customer "service" stopped me from wasting further time or money.

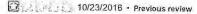




This company does not stand behind the sales pitch from the enrollment department. The sales people will tell you that if they cannot fix the appliance they will replace it. I called 5 times spoke with 5 different reps and got the same answer.

I filed a claim on my oven. The part is according to them not available so the best they will do is give me 200\$ period for a 3100\$ oven. This company is I believe practicing fraudulent marketing practices....sales people promises one thing the claims dept denies the claims.

I have given up waiting for this company to do the right thing. They will be sending me 350 as full payment on this claim. I am ver dissatisfied but at this point it's the only option. The BBB of NJ was notified.



This company does not stand behind the sales pitch from the enrollment department, The sales people... Read more



10/12/2016

am not sure how this is not considered a scam?

My first issue was my AC. On a hot day in Vegas it cut out. They sent me a tech who almost immediately told me that I was going to be denied any coverage or repair since I had not "maintained my AC unit". Ok, lesson learned, read the fine print.

Several months later and after 15 timely payments I called again when my built-in microwave popped and started to smoke.

They sent me a tech from a company that has almost almost no footprint in Las Vegas. Their only online presence is a one page private Facebook listing.

The "appliance tech" tells me that a transformer went out and that I most likely need a new built-in microwave. He even writes down on my receipt the parts I will need with a

small note about the replacement. He takes pics of my microwave

First let me tell you that I grew up in the Army. To this day I mop my floors almost every day, make my bed with hospital corners and can eat off nearly every surface. Did I mention I am still single too? This is all part of the OCD experience I have with my environment. Know that my microwave was/is spotless and cleaned after every use. Its also prob more than 10 years old but still looks good. I purchased my current home from an older couple that visited only a few months a year and even less regularly in the years before selling.

Today I got a call from Choice Home Warranty that denied my claim because my Microwave as they put it "was covered in grease and oil" and was not properly maintained. This statement belies the truth of my existence. It also contradicts what the tech told me and the pictures he took. I asked the Choice Home Warranty rep (Latasha I think) if they had seen the pictures and she told me they had not, and were issuing their denial based on the techs report. I asked if she would please call the tech and followup for me with those pics. She put me on hold for 5 minutes and afterwards claimed to have talked with a female receptionist who repeated the claim that my mic was not properly maintained. The thing is they do not have a female rep.

This company, DNG Appliance is operated by 2 guys out of an apartment who have no county license to work out of the Mail Box office that is in the county.

The facts are simple. Someone is not telling the truth. It appears that Choice Home Warranty uses the "proper maintenance" clause to pretty much summarily deny every claim they can. The AC rep who visited me told me that they had never approved a claim that he was aware of. Make sure to read the fine print. When I signed up I was told it was a pay as you go contract. When I got my contract it clearly states that its a year long commitment with penalties for early termination.

It always seemed too good to be true. My next door neighbor has a home warranty and she pays over \$1000 a year and has never been denied a claim. I pay \$480 and clearly there is no benefit, and no peace of mind.

Save yourself time, money and anguish. In my opinion, Choice Home Warranty is not worth the paper its printed on.

If you are wondering how so many sites offer positive reviews of Choice Home Warranty, I copied and pasted the content of a recent email from them for your consideration;

At Choice Home Warranty, we take customer feedback very seriously.

Please take a few minutes to write a review about your experience with Choice Home Warranty. Your feedback will allow us to improve our business and promote the quality of our business to potential customers.

CHW strives to be rated #1 in the home warranty industry. Help us succeed with your positive feedback and you will receive 1 FREE month of coverage.

To write a review click here:,..

Once your review is posted at the link above, please reply to this e-mail with a copy of your positive review. Your FREE month of coverage will be added upon receipt of your e-mail.

Ken F.

Dagaa

EX 19

INVESTIGATES [HTTPS://WWW.CLICK2HOUSTON.COM/NEWS/INVESTIGATES]

Warranty company notorious for denying claims

Choice Home Warranty has highest number of BBB complaints from Houston residents

By Lauren Sweeney [https://www.click2houston.com/author/Isweeney]

Posted: 10:05 PM, July 11, 2016 Updated: 10:42 PM, July 11, 2016



MEADOWSPLACE, Texas - Matt Walker was anxious about the age of the air conditioning units before purchasing his home last summer.

The sellers offered to throw in a home warranty protection plan that was supposed to cover the air conditioning system and other major repairs.

In April, when one of the units stopped functioning, Walker soon realized that he should have done his own homework instead of allowing his realtor to select a warranty plan.

New Jersey-based Choice Home Warranty sent out a preferred vendor who told Walker the repairs would cost around \$5,000.

The company denied the claim though, stating the issue was due to a lack of maintainence and pointing to a very vague clause in the plan's paperwork.

"I was pretty angry with them, because everything I had been told it was not due to lack of maintenance," said Walker, who filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau shortly after having his claim denied.

The Better Business Bureau has collected more than 1,800 complaints on Choice Home Warranty over the past three years. No other warranty company has received more complaints from the Greater Houston area, according to data obtained from the Better Business Bureau [http://www.bbb.org/houston] for Greater Houston and South Texas [http://www.bbb.org/houston].

2/3

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 $[https://public.tableau.com/profile/lauren.sweeney \verb|#!/vizhome/WarrantyCompanyCompl| to view the graphic.$

"It's really imperative to research the history of the company," said Leah Napoliello, the senior investigator for Houston's Better Business Bureau.

Napoliello said before selecting a warranty company, consumers should look to see if the Better Business Bureau has received a high volume of complaints from the company and then read through the compaints to see the nature of the issues.

Consumer complaints got the attention of the New Jersey attorney general last summer.

In June 2015, Choice Home Warranty was ordered [http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases15/pr20150615b.html] to pay the state of New Jersey \$780,000, including customer restitution for deceptive business practices.

The "lack of maintainence" explanation for claims denials was specifically mentioned in the attorney general's lawsuit against the company.

The settlement agreement also forced the company to have a compliance monitor to make sure the company is fulfilling the terms of the judgement and following all applicable New Jersey consumer protection laws.

A representative for Choice Home Warranty did not respond to questions about the compliance monitor.

The representative initially said the company would revisit Walker's claim and try to work out a reimbursement but later did not respond to calls or emails about the status of that reimbursement.

Consumers thinking of using a home warranty company should make sure to read the exclusion clauses in the plan to look for vague language. Also, plans may have a section that caps the total amount the company will cover in repairs at a certain dollar amount.

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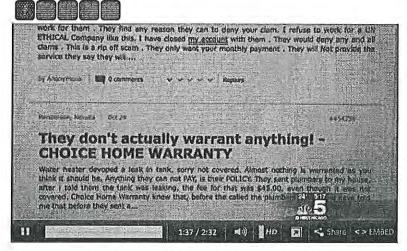


CHICAGO'S BIGGEST, MOST EXPERIENCED INVESTIGATIVE TEAM

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Home Warranty Business Accused of Not Paying Up

By Lisa Parker



A suburban woman says Choice Home Warranty didn't come through on its promise to replace or repair her furnace. (Published Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013)



New 'Smart' Message Boards to Alert Drivers on I-90



CPS Students Return to Classroom for 1st Day of School



Fans Rally Around Chicago Band After Tour Van Stolen



Chicagoans React Strongly to President Trump's DACA

As the housing market bounces back, business is also on the rise for the home warranty business. U.S. homeowners will spend almost \$2 billion on them this year. But do they come through when help is needed? Judy Osiecki is not a believer.

"It gives you a false sense of security that you are covered if something happens."

The Arlington Heights woman paid Choice Home Warranty \$375 for a one year plan that promised to replace or repair appliances and home systems if they broke.



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- VIDEO Trump Admin. Is Winding Down **DACA Immigration Program**
- Retail Workers, Shoppers Scramble as 'Dead Malls' Close
- VIDEO Hurricane Irma Grows to 'Extremely Dangerous' Category 5
- Markle Professes Love for Prince Harry in New Interview
- VIDEO New 'Smart' Message Boards to Alert Drivers on I-90

WEATHER FORECAST

Chicago, IL



"They told me they would send a repair person out and they would-either repair or replace it," Osiecki said.

So, when her furnace went out, Osiecki called Choice Home Warranty. A repairman -- who had never seen her furnace before -- came out to take a look and reported his findings back to the company.

"He said I'm not covering it. I said why? He said it was a pre-existing condition," Osiecki recalled.

Osiecki was stunned at the words. Like many home warranty companies, she said Choice Home Warranty never asked for inspection reports or repair bills documenting the condition of her appliances before she signed up. It was a denial made based on her word against theirs.

"It made me furious. Furious! Because everything you own has a pre-existing condition on it," Osiecki said.

A loophole in the contract gives Choice Home Warranty a green light to deny claims.

Osiecki isn't the only one complaining. Scores of other Choice Home Warranty customers blast the company online calling it unethical, a scam, and a business that gives any excuse not to pay a claim. The company also has a "C-" rating with the Better Business Bureau based on its volume of complaints, amongst other things. With winter on the way and no help in sight, Osiecki had no choice but to shell out \$1,700 for a new furnace.

"They're basically selling these policies to hundreds of people a day and recouping who knows how much money, and they're outlaying nothing."

Choice Home Warranty told NBC 5 Investigates that it takes customer feedback seriously, and handles complaints in a fair manner. But after giving us that statement, the company then sent another message to Osiecki, telling her she could only be paid if she promised not to speak to the news media. She said the company promised her a check for about \$1,700 next week.

Published at 5:36 PM CST on Dec 5, 2013 | Updated at 6:19 PM CST on Dec 5, 2013

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 Video: There Needs to Be Accountability

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Paul Callow

Choice shafted me too- inside ac unit had rusty coil-refused to cover even tho the policy says all componenets and parts- they wriggleed out of it with some of the fine small print ... I made a BBB report but I doubt anything will happen they (choice) dont care, but they did pay out 6-700,000 in 2016 class action ...

Like - Reply - Jul 14, 2017 7:33am



Manoj Rad - Texas City, Texas

1 among 2697 reviews regarding CHOICE HOME WARRANTY

"Filed a claim for my a/c unit. I was contacted within 24 hrs and given the name of the service contractor. Set up a time for them to do the work. They showed up exactly when they said they would and immediately diagnosed the problem and made the necessary repairs. I was absolutely satisfied with my 1st claim with Choice and the contractor that made the repairs."

Read more reviews here: https://www.homewarrantyreviews.com/.../choice-home-warranty Like · Reply · Apr 6, 2017 5:16am



Chubba Valdas · Phoenix, Arizona

If you're planning to have a home warranty policy be very careful and shop around, I choose chores home warranty company and that was nothing but a huge disappointment this company just taking your money sending you never heard professionals with unmarked car, and later I find out everybody has a horrible customer report online. Finally a company declared my AC compressor has to be changed my unit was always maintenance well maintenanced, but of course they denied the coverage due to the lack of maintenance. I am assume all the positive feedback from customer are fake. Do not hire this company. If you're calling them about your claim take 30-40 minutes to get through to them. After you talk to them they most of the time will decline your claim and when you canceling them they will charge a cancellation fee for each months you still have The coverage with them. I made a big mistake because I didn't search deep enough into their history.

Like · Reply · Jul 25, 2016 7:49am



Sunnie Pearson · Works at Retired

At this point in time, and contracting with a couple of highly rated warrenty companies I hear the same stories over and over again. Personally, I am beginning to believe ALL of them are 'rip offs'. They are happy to take your annual/monthy payments but when it comes time to get a household item fixed, forget it. Their usual excuse is "if it ain't broke why fix it?" They are not in the business of preventative maintenance and instead will replace something ONLY it's not working. My microwave was sparking, not heating even a cup of coffee and when the warranty company sent 'their' tech out ... See More

Like - Reply - Feb 10, 2016 2:11pm



Ann Smith · Milton, Florida

same thing happen to be they are a rip off company

Like · Reply · Jan 21, 2016 8:25am



Minal Patel

Choice Home warranty is a COMPLETE SCAM.. Please, please do NOT sign up with this company or else you will regret it, i promise you, live had 3 different companies over the pat 10 years and this company is a complete waste. Morally and ethically deceptive. I had a dryer break down > called to file a claim> technician came out > said it was wear and tear > would file it accordingly and wait for approval > my cliam was denied > after talking to many different claims rep > i was basically told being a new customer and early on my contract > they could not afford to pay for it > thus they stated... See More

Like · Repty · Oct 16, 2015 8:13am

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5/5

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Problem Report Information Inquiry

Problem Report ID: 39803

Status: Closed

03-28-2017

Problem Report Type: Complaint Opened Date: 10-04-2016

Closed Date: 11-30-2016

Responsible Section: Consumer Services

Closure Reason:

Iffled a service request on 08/08/2016 with Choice Home Warranty. They sent USAIR their technician, Gus Marin, to repair my A/C. He said it was too old and needed to be replaced. They sent 7 more technicians from 4 more Nevada A/C companies. All agreed that the A/C compressor and coil needed to be replaced. CHW said they had a picture on 8/17/2016 that showed no maintenance on my unit, thus they denied my claim after 10 weeks in Vegas sweltering heat and \$900.00 power bills. I asked them to see the picture they said they couldn't send it to me and I should call Vegas Appliance repairs. I faxed my maintenance records to CHW. They said they couldn't read them. My contract says if it cannot be repaired, we'll replace it. COMPLAINT RE: HOME WARRANTY CLAIM DISPUTE PARTIAL CLAIM DENIAL OTHER PROBLEM TYPE DESCRIPTION CONSUMER DETAIL OF COMPLAINT PROBLEM REPORT DETAILS TYPE OF PROBLEM Claim Denial/Delay DESCRIPTION

CONSUMER DESIRED RESOLUTION

Replacement of A/C Compressor AND COIL, reimbursement of \$900.00 for excessive power usage due to malfunctioning compressor. The estimates for replacement range from \$4500 to \$5000. A cash settlement is fine also. I cannot go any longer without A/C. I am a senior victim of Choice Home Warranty. THE COMPANIES, USAR, VEGAS APPLIANCE REPAIR, COMFORT ZONE AIR CONTIONING AND HEATING THAT CHW SENT to "fix" the compressor said it lasted 17 years well past the average lifespan of a compressor in Las Vegas. Obviously, it was well-maintained. HOW DID THE CONSUMER KNOW ABOUT US? CONSUMER IS REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY? CONSUMER IS COMPLAINING AGAINST

S

My Insurance Company

Other

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HAS THE CONSUMER PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THIS PROBLEM TO OUR OFFICE OR ANY OTHER AGENCY?	NY OTHER AGENCY?	PURCHASED INSURANCE ON THE HEAL THICARE EXCHANGES
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HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME 90 WASHINGTON VALLEY RD WARRANTY REDMINISTERN I 07931-3149	90 WASHINGTON VALLEY RD REDMINSTERN I 07021-2119	90-0594950
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LOCATION DATE

LOCATION

PRIORITY

RECEIVED DATE 10-04-2016

INCIDENT DATE 08-19-2016

COMPLAINT TYPE

General

Consumer SOURCE

consumer	General	08-19-2016	10-04-2016	ra.C.	Carson City	
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FINDING LIFE	INCIDENT GROUP	SUBJECT	SUBJECT ADDITIONAL DETAILS		STATE ID	SYSTEM SOURCE
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INSURER	AGENT/AGENCY	TYPE OF INSURANCE	SELF-FUNDED HEALTH PLAN	COVERAGE TYPE	COVERAGE LEVEL	COVERAGE SIIBLEVELS
CHOICE HOME WARRANTY		Homeowners	No	Miscellaneous	Extd Warranty & Serv	
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NAME	ADDRESS	NGN	ORGANIZATION	ROLE	REPRESENTATIVE	AGE GROUP	MEDICAL INFO.
GREENLEE, MARY JO	4923 Sawyer Avenue Las Vegas,, NV 89108		The state of the s	Insured			No
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Kar man. Kim.	2		09-09-2016	11-10-2016	Yes	The state of the s	Annual Medicine and Annual

EX 24 1/4

Inquiry
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Report In
Problem

Problem Report Type: Complaint

Problem Report ID: 39803

03-28-2017

Page 2 of 3

Problem Report ID: 39803	Problem Report Type: Complaint	int	Responsible Section: Consumer Services
Status: Closed	Opened Date: 10-04-2016	Closed Date: 11-30-2016	Closure Reason:
REASONS			
CATEGORY	TNEUNCANER	The second secon	

	RESPONDENT	CHOICE HOME WARRANTY	HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY		LETTER DESCRIPTION DIFFRATE INVOLVED DATE INVOLVED DATE	BATCH ATY COMMENT	31	Updated Respondent to Home Warranty Admin. DBA Choice Home Warranty		Company responded upholding position. I requested the company provide the Division with an explanation and reach out to the vendors to determine what type of service work was completed. Company changed their position and is position and is position.	position, and a paying craim by to minits of policy.	0 Rcvd, faxed documentation from Ms. Greenlee. Contacted company providing them with copies of documentation requesting them to re-review this documentation.		0 Spoke with Mary Jo she advised she has maintenance records that she will be sending to me.		C
	JES .			The fact of the second of the second of the		TIME		0		0		0		0		0
REASONS	CATEGORY REASON TYPES	CH Delay	CH Delay	ACTIONS	ACTION DATE ACTION	STAFF MEMBER	03-08-2017 Other	Linda Stratton	11-30-2016 Phone	Kim Kuhlman	11-20-2018 Other	Kim Kuhlman	11-18-2016 Phone	Kim Kuhiman	11-10-2016 Satisfaction Ballot	Kim Kuhlman

Problem Report Information Inquiry

Problem Report Type: Complaint Opened Date: 01-27-2012

Problem Report ID: 26609 Status: Closed

03-28-2017

Responsible Section: Consumer Services

Status: Closed PROBLEM REPORT DETAILS	sed ETAILS	Opened Date: 01-27-2012		Closed Date: 04-26-2012	Closur	Closure Reason:
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Consumer	General	01-26-2012	01-26-2012		Carson City	01-26-2012
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Problem Report Type: Complaint Opened Date: 01-27-2012

Closed Date; 04-25-2012

REQUESTED AMOUNT

Claim Settled Recovery

04-26-2012 04-26-2012

DATE

COMMENT

04-02-2012 02-07-2012

DATE

COMMENTS

TYPE

DISPOSITIONS

DISPOSITION AMOUNT

Closure Reason:

PAID AMOUNT

\$ 0.00 \$ 3,100,00

\$ 0.00 \$ 0.00

\$ 3,100.00 \$ 0.00

VISIBLE ON PORTAL

2 ş

3/22/11 emailed complaint to Victor at Sensible. I have not received a response to date, I phoned Troy McDermott and emailed another copy of complaint, kmk

Rovd. Initial contact letter returned. Forwarded to 510 St. Ste 370 Edison NJ 08337. kmk

Services
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Responsible Section: Cor

Inquiry

03-28-2017

Problem Report ID; 26609 Status: Closed

Problem Report Information Inquiry

Problem Report Type: Complaint Opened Date: 01-04-2014

Problem Report ID: 31403 Status: Closed

Closed Date: 03-06-2014

Responsible Section: Consumer Services

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SOURCE	COMPLAINT TYPE	INCIDENT DATE	RECEIVED DATE P	PRIORITY	LOCATION	TEACH NOTATE
Consumer	General	01-01-2010	01-04-2013	- Address -	Las Vegas	01-04-2013
FINDING TYPE	INCIDENT GROUP	SUBJECT	SUBJECT ADDIT	SUBJECT ADDITIONAL DETAILS	STATEID	SYSTEM SOURCE
					TB	
INSURER	AGENT/AGENCY	TYPE OF INSURANCE	SELF-FUNDED HEALTH PLAN	COVERAGE TYPE	COVERAGE LEVEL	SL GOVERAGE SURLEVELS
		Homeowners	No	Miscellaneous	Extd Warranty & Serv Contracts	
NAME OF INSURED	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY PERIOD BEGIN DATE	POLICY PERIOD END DATE	TE POLICY ISSUED STATE	1	CABD ID CLAIM MANUAL
Home Warranty, Choice	a)					
TYPE OF POLICY	LOCATION OF LOSS	IS THE INSURED MEDICARE.	MEDICARE SUPP. PLAN		OTHER PARTY'S POLICY OR CLAIM NUMBER	
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NAME	ADDRESS	NAN	ORGANIZATION	ROLE	REDRESENTATIVE	MEDICAL INFO.
Opp, Clint	1930 Western Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89102			Third Party		
STAFF MEMBERS	A William A Supplemental Control			11. 不好的 對於國際監督		· \$ 11500 11500 1150 1150 1150 1150 1150
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	Dolov	0.1000	VEINAGG NAT EMOLE EOLOHO			

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Problem Report Information Inquiry

03-28-2017

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Problem Report ID: 31403	Problem	roblem Report Type: Complaint	Responsible Section: Consumer Services
Status: Closed	Opened Date: 01-04-2014	014 Closed Date: 03-06-2014	
ACTION DATE ACTION	HELLER	LETTER DESCRIPTION DUE I	DUE DATE RECEIVED DATE INVOLVED PARTY NAME
STAFF MEMBER	TIME B	BATCH QTY COMMENT	
03-06-2014 Letter	CLRSLV		02-18-2014 03-06-2014
Tanishia ZBrown	0.2	Sending close letter,	
		Dear Mr. Opp:	
		Based on the reply from Choice Home Wreleased payment for \$7,295.77. The detenciosed for your review. If there is furthe you would need to take this up in a court	Based on the reply from Choice Home Warranty, it appears that the matter has been resolved. They have released payment for \$7,295.77. The details of those payments are included with the response which is enclosed for your review, if there is further dispute regarding the late charges and/or other invoices not paid, you would need to take this up in a court of proper jurisdiction.
		If you have any additional information or file will remain closed.	If you have any additional information or questions, please respond to this letter within 30 days; otherwise the file will remain closed.
		Thank you for the opportunity to have been of service.	en of service.
02-07-2014 Phone	and the state of t	- Additional and the second and the	Kristin
Tanishia ZBrown	0	TT Kristin calling on behalf of Clint. Asike who was supposed to be putting work ore said she wasn't really sure who I talked to within the hour.	TT Kristin calling on behalf of Clint. Asiked what status of complaint was, Adv I talked to someone last week who was supposed to be putting work orders and amounts together for me to submit to the company. She said she wasn't really sure who I talked to but she would go ahead and forward that information to me via fax within the hour.
.01-28-2014 Phone			Reception at home number
Tanishia ZBrown	0	Rec'd response from Victor asking for the Called home number. Clirit was not there knows all about this complaint. I adv wha rec the information, I will forward it to CH	Rec'd response from Victor asking for the work order numbers and amounts owed so they can verify claims. Called home number. Clint was not there, but the reception advishe could get that information started as she knows all about this complaint. I advish what we need and she will email me the spreadsheet asap. I advionce I rec the information, I will forward it to CHW.
01-08-2014 Letter	COLV	The second secon	might beide
Tanishia ZBrown	0		
01-08-2014 Letter	ACKLV	And the state of t	TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT
Tanishia ZBrown	0		
INVOLVED PARTIES			
INVOLVED PARTY	INVOLVED PARTY TYPE	ORGANIZATION	COMMENT
CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, CHW GROUP	Portal - Other		And the state of t
Home Warranty, Choice	Portal - Insured	Choice Home Warranty aka CHW Group	
SNOILISC	養養器はおはずることによる。		
		REQUESTED AMOUNT DISPOSITION AMOUNT	INT PAJD AMOUNT
03-06-2014 Compromised Settlement/Resol	lemenVResol.	\$ 0.00	.00 \$ 7,296.00

EK 26 1/3



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"I've had Choice Home Warranty for several years. This is the first time I've had to use it. The agent that took my call was courteous and prompt. She gave me the service company's name & contact number and e-mailed me the information required. The technician arrived the next morning (my call was placed on Sunday evening). He fixed the problem right away. I could not be more pleased with the service I received from Choice and the technician. Thanks Choice!"

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------- Forwarded message -----From: CHOICE Warranty <<u>enews@choicehomewarranty.com</u>>
Date: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 6:32 AM
Subject: VIP Offer: \$50 Off & 1 Month Free
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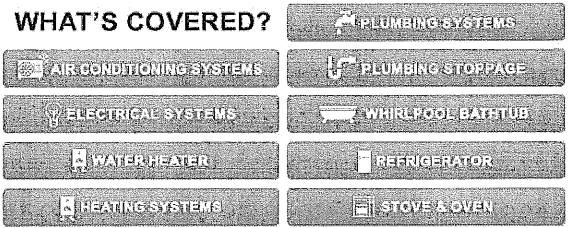
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Customer Reviews

"Was very pleased with the quick service afforded me when I called Choice. They followed up and were

on top of the problem I was experiencing and it was taken care of very efficiently and professionally."

—John Marselis

"The technician arrived as scheduled...was very friendly, knowledge, and professional...he quickly diagnosed the problem with my refrigerator and arranged to do the repairs."

—Perry Bearden

"The service provided by CHW representatives was excellent. The claim was handeled in a very timely manner and the service tech knew exactly what he was doing."

—James Roberts

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Felecia Casci Sent from Gmail Mobile

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From: CHOICE Warranty < enews@choicehomewarranty.com > Date: Wed, Aug 16, 2017 at 8:47 AM

Subject: We Appreciate You Felecia

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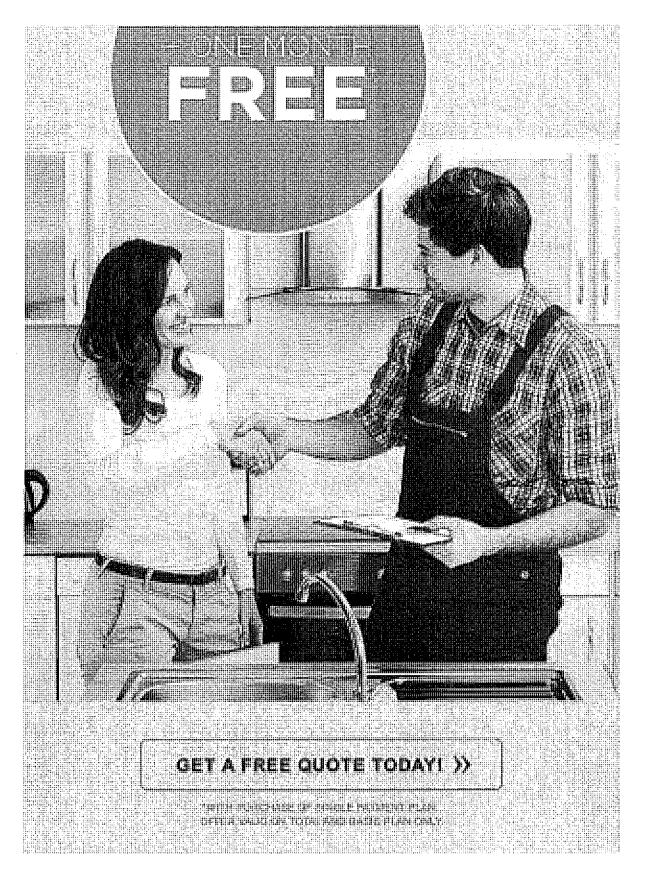
HOME WARRANTY CHOICE

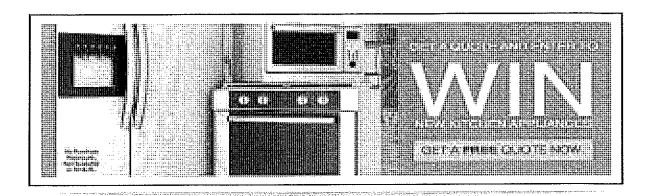
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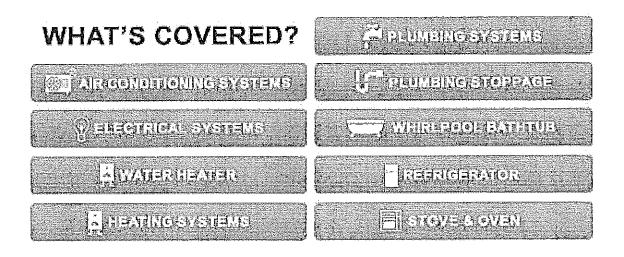
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Customer Reviews

"Choice Home Warranty is very friendly. They are compassionate about their customers needs and always willing to help in any way."
Valerie Clark
"Choice Home Warranty took my claim late on a Monday night (hot water heater) and had a service technician assigned the next morning. The actual appointment took one additional day to schedule but overall I am satisfied with the response. This was my first claim." –Kevin Hone
"I was very impressed with the service they war here with in 3 hours to fix my air conditioner everybody was nice and courteous I'm very impressed with the service." —Cecelia Brda -

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Felecia Casci Sent from Gmail Mobile

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the **RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX (VOLUME I OF III)** with the Clerk of the Court for the Nevada Supreme Court by using the appellate CM/ECF system on June 25, 2020.

Participants in the case who are registered CM/ECF users will be served by the appellate CM/ECF system as indicated below:

Constance L. Akridge, Esq. Holland and Hart CLAkridge@hollandhart.com

/s/ Marilyn Millam
an employee of the Office of the Attorney General

03-08-2017		Problem Reports by Respondent Inquiry	Page 1 of 2
Summary			
25 From En reports	Nado Lucaria de Caracia de Caraci	International Control of Control	
PROBLEM REPORTS OPENED BETWEEN: RESPONDENT: RESPONDENT MAIC ID: RESPONSIBLE SECTION: COMPLAINT CONFRAMED: Report Properties	01-01-2000 and 03-08-2017 CHOICE HOME WARRANTY Consumer Services Not Specified		
SORT 1: SORT 2: PERFORMED ON:	Data Opened, Descending Problem Report ID, Descending Wed Mar 08 13:52:46 CST 2017		

Control Colorador (ACASON) Colorador (Colorador)	Ĭ	DATE :: PROBLES	TYPE STAT	22.					DISPOSITION	Colsposition Type	DISPOSITION :
Companie	ı	12-05-2016 Complain	in cope	- [WILLS, NORMA BAKER	المردرون المستحدد الم	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim			- Anna Control
		01-16-2015 Complain	1	-	113 Anderson, Jeff	N	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim Denial of Claim	08-04-2015 08-04-2015	Insufficient information No Further Action	\$0.00
Companient Colorest Octobal Colorest Colorest <td>}</td> <td>09-24-2014 Complain</td> <td></td> <td>İ</td> <td>M4 OLEBRICE, BERVENS</td> <td>N</td> <td>Claim Handling</td> <td>Danial of Claim</td> <td>10-23-2014</td> <td>Company Position</td> <td>\$0.00</td>	}	09-24-2014 Complain		İ	M4 OLEBRICE, BERVENS	N	Claim Handling	Danial of Claim	10-23-2014	Company Position	\$0.00
Compatin Colored of SCR2001 Long of Colored C	, ,	07-31-2014 Complair			И4 CADET, ELLYAETTE	N	Claim Handling	Delay Denial of Claim	09-04-2014	Company Position	00:0\$
		07-15-2014 Complair			H4 Levy, David Wolf	7	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	09-04-2014	Company Position	\$600.00
Complete Complete Callen Handling					114 Sisolak, Lorl Garland	N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	07-09-2014	Company Position	\$0.00
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Compaint Classed G4-22-2012 SOUTHWEST POOL.	ł			- 1	112 SLOAN, RODNEY	,	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	04-23-2012	Reterred for Disciplinary Act.	\$0.00
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	f		ĺ	1		<u>-</u>	Markeling & Sales	Unauthorized Entity	07-07-2009	Referred for Disciplinary	\$0.00

SORT 2

SORT 1:

Summary

50-00-0777

Inquiry
Respondent
orts by
Problem Rep

	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$103.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$6.00	\$1,500.00	\$250,00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$830.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,179.00
AN PROPERTY OF A PARTY IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	Company Position	No Further Action	Contract Provision	No Further Action Reg/Rad	Compromised Settlement/Resol	No Further Action	Compromised	Company Position	Contract Provision	Company Position Upheld	Contract Provision	Compromised Settlement/Resol.	Company Position Upheld	State Specific	State Specific Compromised Settlement/Resol.	Compromised Settlement/Resol.	Compromised Settlement/Resol.	No Further Action Reg/Red	No Further Action Rea/Rod	Compromised Settlement/Resol.	No Further Action Reo'Red	Company Position Upheld	Contract Provision	Company Position Upheld	Contract Provision Company Position Inhald	Contract Provision	No Further Action Reg/Rgd	Compromised Settlement/Resol.	Company Position Upheld	Contract Provision	Company Position	Company Position	Contract Provision	Company Position Uoheld	Contract Provision	No Further Action Rea/Rad	Claim Settled	Company Position Upheld	Compromised Sortlement/Resol.
	12-29-2016	12-29-2016	ł	ĺ	11-30-2016	11-10-2016	12-12-2016	10-26-2016			03-17-2016	07-12-2016	09-06-2016		06-27-2016 08-09-2016	06-30-2016	į	07-01-2016	08-06-2016	07-26-2016	05-49-2016	07-06-2018	07-06-2016	04-01-2018	04-01-2015 01-26-2015	01-26-2016	01-25-2016	01-28-2016	01-26-2016	01-26-2016	12-15-2015	02-17-2016	9	11-05-2015	02-29-2016	02-29-2016		09-25-2015	09-25-2015
Decision Clarin	Unsalistaciony Settle Offer	Unsalistaciony Settle Offer	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Delay	Delay	Premlum Refund	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	State Specific Unsatisfactory Settle Offer	Denial of Claim	Delay	Delay	Delay Delay	Premlum Refund	Premium Refund	Denial of Claim	Delay	Delay	Denial of Claim Unsalisfactory Settle Offer	Denial of Claim	Denlal of Claim	Danial of Claim	Denial of Claim Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	State Specific	Denial of Claim	Dalay Denial of Claim	Delay Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Denial of Claim	Denial of Cialm	Premium Refund	Adjuster Handling Delay	Delay
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40503 Miscellaneous 12-08-2015 Complaint Open	11-07-2016 Complaint C	11-07-2016 Complaint C		Complaint		10-04-2018 Complaint C	09-20-2016 Camplaint C	09-09-2016 Complaint C		Complaint	Complaint	Complaint	i	H	Complaint	Complaint	Complaint		Complaint		Complaint	Complaint	04-05-2016 Complaint C	Complement	Complaint		Complaint	Complaint	Complaint	Complaint	11-06-2015 Complaint C	10-27-2015 Complaint C	10-27-2015 Complaint C	Complaint	09-28-2015 Complaint C	Complaint	Complaint		08-18-2016 ComplainI C
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40603	40551	40351	40048	40049	39803	39803	39984		39738		39487	38302	39209			39063	39053	39050	39008			38490	38490	-		37701	37651	37489	37482	37482	37177	37091	37091	36927				36485	36481

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PROBLEM REPORT ID	7	DATE OPENED !	OPENED 14 REPORT TYPE STATUS	STATUS	DATE	ENAME BESS	FINDING COMPLAINT		FEASON TYPES (EVEN) (FEE)	DISPOSITION	Sept Not I see	NOCHE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P
00400	MISCHIGNEOUS	418-2413	Complaint	Closed	09-28-2015	09-28-2015 ADAMS, D.J.	٨	Claim Handling	Delay Denial of Claim	09-28-2015	Compromised Settlement/Resol	\$760.00
30369	Miscellaneous	08-06-2015	Complaint	Closed	12-09-2015	12-09-2015 Nievera, Gerald	N	Claim Handling	Danial of Claim	08-25-2015	Company Position	\$0.00
36305	Miscellaneous	07-29-2015	Complaint	i	09-28-2015	09-28-2015 COPPOLA, RALPHS		Cialm Handling	Denial of Claim	09-28-2015	Company Position	20,00
36139	Miscellanoous	07-14-2015 Complaint	Сотріалі	1 :	07-15-2015	07-15-2016 MOSER, PATRICIA	N	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	07-15-2015	Contract Provision	\$0.00
60100	Miscellanecus	U/~14~2035	Complaint		07-15-2016	MOSER, PATRICIA	z	Claim Handiing	Denial of Claim	07-15-2015	No Further Action Ren/Rod	\$0.00
35049	Miscellaneous	07-06-2015	Complaint	Closed	11-18-2015	BENWAY, DANIEL	λ	Claim Handing	De(ay	11-18-2015	Claim Settled	\$1.500.00
100	MISCERAREQUS	35-19-2015	Complaint	Closed	09-25-2015	HEIDI, RICHARD	z	Cleim Handling	Denial of Claim	09-25-2015	Company Position	\$0.00
35643	Miscellaneous	05-19-2015 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	09-25-2015	09-28-2015 HEIDI, RICHARD	N	Claim Handiing	Denial of Claim	09:25:2015	No Further Action	\$6,05
35469	Miscellaneous	05-01-2015 Complaint	Complaint		08-17-2015 Rub, Kelvin	Kuo, Kelvin	N	Calm Handling	Delay	08-17-2015	Cam Settled	365.00
edece.	Miscellenacus	05-01-2015	Complaint		08-17-2016 Kuo, Kelvin	Kuo, Kelvin	z	Claim Handling	D9/By	08-04-2015	No Further Action Reg/Red	\$0.00
4833	Miscellanbous	02-29-2015 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	04-06-2015	04-06-2015 Padnani, Koshi	Z	Cialm Handling	Osnial of Claim	04-06-2015	No Further Action Reg/Rad	00.0\$
77845	MISCBIIARBOUS	02-25-2015 Complaint	Complaint		03-24-2015	03-24-2015 BELU, DAHIELA	z	Cizim Kanding	Delay State Speolfic	03-24-2015	Company Position Unheid	\$0.00
24/48	Miscellaneous	02-05-2015 Complaint	Complaint		03-20-2015	03-20-2015 Anderson, Jeff	z	Cirim Handling	Denial of Claim	03-20-2015	No Further Action Reg/Rad	\$0.00
343/5	Miscellansous	01-15-2015 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	08-04-2016	08-04-2016 Anderson, Jeff	Z	Cialm Handing	Denial of Claim	08-04-2015	Insufficient Information	\$0.00
343/5	Macellaneous	01-15-2015 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	08-04-2015	08-04-2015 Anderson, Jeff	z	Claim Handling	Denisi of Cisim	08-04-2015	No Further Action Rea/Rad	\$0.00
G I	Miscellaneous	01-01-2015 Compleint	Complaint	Closed	03-11-2015	03-11-2015 Warnington, Gary	Z	Claim Handling	Denial of Clam	03-11-2018	No Further Action Reg/Red	\$0.00
34153	Miscellanecus	11-19-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	03-18-2015	03-18-2015 NAUGHTEN, LARRY S		Claim Handling	Denist of Claim	03-16-2015	Compromised Settlement/Resol	\$500.00
34062	Miscellangous	11-10-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	12-19-2014	12:19-2014 COLD CITY APPLIANCES	z	Claim Handling	Delay State Specific	12-19-2014	Company Position	\$0,00
33583	Miscellaneous	09-24-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	10-23-2014	16-23-2014 OLEBRICE, BERVENS	N	Claim Handling	Denial of Clam	10-23-2014	Company Position Upheld	\$0.00
33558	Нопесмяеть	09-10-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	10-07-2014	wagner, psul	No. of the last of	Claim Handling	Delay Denial of Claim	10-07-2014	Company Position Unheld	\$0.00
33558	Homeowners		Complaint		10-07-2014	10-07-2014 wagner, paul	Z	Marketing & Sales	Dupilication of Coverage	10-07-2014	Company Position Upheld	\$0.00
33222	Miscellaneous	07-31-2014	Complaint		09-04-2014	09-04-2014 CADET, ELIZAETTE	Z	Claim Handling	Denial of Cleim	09-04-2014	Company Position Upheld	\$0.00
18050	Miscellaneous	07-16-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	09-04-2014	09-04-2014 Levy, David Wolf	Z	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	09-04-2014	Company Position Overtuned	2800.00
32380	Miscellariscus	07-03-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	07-09-2014	07-09-2014 Sisolak, Lori Garland	Z	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	07-08-2014	Company Position Upheld	\$0.00
51400	Miscellaneous	U1-10-2014 Complaint	Complaint	Clased	04-03-2014	04-03-2014 Madruga, Ronald	z	Marketing & Sales	State Specific	04-03-2014	Compromised Settlement/Resol.	\$4,846.00
23026	Miscellaneous	02-07-2013 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	03-04-2013	03-04-2013 MEREDITH, DONALD	Z	Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	03-04-2013	Company Position Upheld	\$50,00
28724	Miscellaneous	12-21-2012 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	01-22-2013	01-22-2013 SOKOLOSKI, DAVID	Z	Claim Handling	Adverse Benefit Determination Denial of Claim	01-22-2013	information Furnished/Expanded	\$0,00
27518	Miscellaneous	06-14-2012 Complaint	Complaint	Closed	07-02-2012	CZEĽUSNIAK, EDITH K		Claim Handling	Denial of Claim	07-02-20-12	Contract Provision	\$0.00
26984	Mispelladeous	08-28-2012	Compani	200	07-02-2012	07-02-2012 CZELUSNIAK, EDITH M	X	Claim Handing	Denial of Claim	07-02-2012	Keiund	\$136.00
26984	Miscellaneous	03-28-2012 Complaint	Complaint	1	04-19-2012	04-19-2012 MILLER, WOLLDE	N	Claim Handling	Delay	04-19-2012	Advised Complainant Contract Provision	\$0.00
26948	Miscellaneous	03-20-2012	Compleint	Closed	04-19-20-12	D4-19-2012 ZABETI, PEYMAN	A Company of the Comp	Pollgyholder Service	Coverage Question	04-19-2012	Compromised	\$200.00
26767	Miscellaneous	102-21-2012 Complaint	Complaint		03-01-2012	03-01-2012 PORRINO, STEPHEN F	z	Cialm Handling	Denial of Claim	03-01-2012	Contract Provision	\$0.00
25506	Miscellaneous	10-27-201	Compaint	Cosed	12-12-201	SMITH, CHRISTINA	>>	Claim Handling	Delay	12-12-2011	Recovery	\$240,00
25442	Miscellaneous	06-23-2011	Complaint	Cesta		VI, HYUN	- 5-	Marketing & Sales	Delay Misteading Advertising	07-27-2011 07-27-2011	Claim Settled	\$134.00
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLENA	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON	
Mark Federspiel, Z) U 10	Case No.: 2016-CP-32-
Plaintiff,	- C: = 201
v.)	SUMMONS ST.
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home)	995 R E
Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor)	20 m 19
Hakim,)	12
Defendants.	-10 <u> </u>

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at Post Office Box 944, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, within thirty (30) days of the date of service, exclusive of such day. In the event you fail to answer within the stated time, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Charles H. McDonald [SC Bar # 11580] ROBINSON, McFADDEN & MOORE, P.C.

Post Office Box 944 Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 779-8900

Email: cmcdonald@robinsonlaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

October 17, 2016



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF LEXINGTON Mark Federspiel,) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS) Pase No.: 2016-EP 22-03552
Plaintiff,)
v. CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim, Defendants.	COMPLAINT (JURY TRIAL DEMANDED) (Complaint) (Complaint

Now comes the Plaintiff, Mark Federspiel, who does state for his Complaint against the above named Defendants the following:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Plaintiff is a resident of Lexington County, South Carolina.
- 2. Defendant CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty ("CHW") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of New Jersey.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant Victor Mandalawi ("Mandalawi") is a citizen and resident of the state of New York.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant Victor Hakim ("Hakim") is a citizen and resident of the state of New Jersey.
- 5. At all times relevant to the matters set forth herein Mandalawi and Hakim were owners, principals, and control persons for the operation and conduct of CHW.
- 6. CHW transacts business in South Carolina through the sale of certain "home warranties" to citizens and residents of this State. Therefore, CHW is subject to jurisdiction in this State.

7. Mandalawi and Hakim either personally participated in or personally directed the actions and conduct complained of by Plaintiff. Therefore, Mandalawi and Hakim are subject to jurisdiction in this State.

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- 8. As the Defendants are all residents of a state other than South Carolina, venue is proper in the county of residence of the Plaintiff which is Lexington County.
- 9. This Court has general jurisdiction over the subject matter and the claims alleged by the Plaintiff.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 10. CHW advertises, offers for sale, and sells "home warranties" to residential home owners in South Carolina and many other states.
- 11. CHW advertises through the internet and through other means that it provides home owners with a quality home warranty to protect home owners from unexpected and costly repairs to home systems and appliances. However, buried in the fine print of its "Service Agreement" is the disclaimer that CHW is not extending a warranty at all. Without any clear disclosure, what CHW is actually selling is a residential service agreement. This is despite the fact that the name of the company is Choice Home Warranty and further despite the prominent statements on the cover sheet of the "Service Agreement" which include "America's Choice in Home Warranty Protection" and the customers are purchasing a "CHW Warranty."
- 12. Among the representations that CHW makes to its customers and potential customers to induce them to purchase a home warranty are the following:
 - a. Customers will never have to pay for "covered" home repairs again;
 - b. The "Home Warranty" covers older systems and appliances;

c. CHW's service technicians are "pre-screened, licensed, and independently insured";

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- d. "Trusted, professionally licensed and insured technicians are dispatched to your home immediately after you file a claim to solve your problems and get your home back on track"; and
- e. "In addition to saving your money, a home warranty is convenient. Choice Home Warranty's network of local technicians are professional, screened, and trusted. They're also licensed and insured, so you can feel comfortable knowing you'll have experts repairing your home. Many home owners find that home repairs with technicians in our network are far easier than finding and choosing their own contractors. With Choice Home Warranty's technicians, you never have to wonder if you made the right choice."
- 13. These representations are intentionally misleading and most, if not all, are false and were known to be false when made by CHW. As evidence of this, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim have previously entered consent judgments with the Attorney Generals of New York and New Jersey based upon allegations of engaging in deceptive, fraudulent and illegal trade practices.
- 14. In the New Jersey consent judgment, CHW, Mandalawi, and Hakim agree to the following conditions among many others:
- a. To conspicuously disclose that CHW offers only residential service contracts which are NOT warranties;
- b. To clearly and conspicuously disclose any limitations of liability and exclusions from coverage;
- c. To prohibit sales representatives from making false or misleading statements regarding the residential service contracts or its terms and conditions;

d. To use only licensed and insured service technicians;

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- e. To not include any references to arbitration before the American Arbitration Association unless CHW cured its "bad standing" with the AAA; and
- f. To provide, upon customer request, a written denial of a customer's claim including the basis for such denial.
- 15. Upon information and belief, the Defendants have failed to comply with these terms and conditions particularly as it relates to dealings with customers in states other than New Jersey.
- Based on representations by CHW through internet advertising and by its sales representatives over the telephone, Plaintiff purchased a "Home Warranty" for his home located at 119 Wood Creek Drive, Augusta, Georgia. The warranty was assigned CHW Contract Number 410168457 and is for the period from 2/27/2016 through 2/27/2017. The cost of the warranty is \$500 per year at the current rate of \$41.67 per month. Plaintiff has made all monthly payments as of the filing of this Complaint.
- 17. After Plaintiff agreed to purchase the CHW Home Warranty and sent payment to CHW, Plaintiff received the Choice Home Warranty "Home Service Agreement." This Agreement contained numerous terms and conditions which were contrary to the representations made to Plaintiff by CHW and further contained terms and conditions which were not disclosed to Plaintiff and to which no reasonable consumer would agree had they been adequately disclosed.
- 18. Among these terms and conditions are the following:
- a. Plaintiff was not receiving a contract of insurance, residential service or a warranty;
- b. The contract does not cover "unknown pre-existing conditions" whatever that means;

 c. CHW's definition of "routine maintenance" of home appliances and systems far exceeds what any normal and reasonable homeowner would undertake;

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- d. CHW is not responsible for the negligence of its Service Provider (a/k/a technicians);
 - e. CHW limits its liability to \$1,500.00 in the aggregate for any claim; and
- f. CHW requires customers to submit to arbitration in the State of New Jersey on any dispute with no chance of recovering attorney's fees or any damages above \$1,500.00.
- 19. Had such unconscionable terms and conditions been adequately disclosed to Plaintiff at the time of sale, Plaintiff would not have purchased the CHW Home Warranty.
- 20. By May of 2016, Plaintiff and has family had moved to West Columbia, South Carolina in Lexington County. Plaintiff rented the home in Augusta, Georgia.
- 21. In late May of 2016, Plaintiff's tenants notified Plaintiff that there was no hot water in the home and there was a problem with the hot water heater as it appeared to have leaked water from the tank.
- 22. On May 29, 2016, Plaintiff made a claim with CHW under his Home Warranty for emergency service on the hot water heater at the Augusta, Georgia home. CHW assigned the claim to one of its selected technicians who CHW described as Wynns Electrical, Plumbing & Appliance. Plaintiff had no role or choice in the selection of this technician as it is CHW's responsibility under the Home Warranty to assign the claim to a qualified, licensed, and insured technician.
- 23. On this same day, CHW responded to Plaintiff and informed him that Paul Wynn would be coming to Plaintiff's home to assess the issues with the hot water heater. Plaintiff then travelled to his home in Augusta that same day to meet Mr. Wynn at the property.

- 24. Paul Wynn was unknown to Plaintiff and Plaintiff asked Mr. Wynn if he was properly qualified and licensed to perform any necessary work on the water heater and plumbing system.

 Mr. Wynn assured Plaintiff that he was properly licensed and was qualified to perform any necessary work.
- 25. When Mr. Wynn came to service the warranty claim, he was paid the \$45 service call fee that is part of CHW's "Home Service Agreement." While the disclosure of a \$45 fee for every service call under a warranty claim was not adequately disclosed to Plaintiff prior to purchasing the Home Warranty, Plaintiff did not question the charge at that time and paid it upon request.
- 26. To the extent that the service call fee is a legitimate charge, it is the extent of Plaintiff's liability for a service call under the CHW Home Warranty. If the claim is not covered, then Plaintiff is responsible for repairs or replacement of the appliance or system. If the claim is covered, then CHW is responsible for paying its service technician for repair or replacement of the appliance of system.
- 27. Plaintiff understood that its claim was covered under CHW's Home Warranty. Plaintiff was never advised otherwise by CHW or its service technician Mr. Wynn.
- Despite Plaintiff's claim being covered, Mr. Wynn soon demanded additional money from Plaintiff for materials. Plaintiff paid Mr. Wynn \$500.00 purportedly for materials. Mr. Wynn soon demanded additional money and Plaintiff paid Mr. Wynn another \$500.00. These payments were made under duress as Plaintiff's tenants could no longer occupy the home while Mr. Wynn was working on the water heater issue because Mr. Wynn shut off the water supply to the home. Plaintiff had to house his tenants in a local motel during this time and Plaintiff was in jeopardy of losing his tenant over this issue. The tenants were extremely distraught over this move as it was a significant inconvenience for them.

29. During the time Mr. Wynn was performing work on Plaintiff's home, Plaintiff understood that Mr. Wynn was properly qualified and licensed to perform plumbing work not only because Mr. Wynn told the Plaintiff that he was licensed and qualified, but also because CHW assured Plaintiff that it used only qualified, licensed and insured technicians.

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- 30. Only after Mr. Wynn made a complete mess in Plaintiff's home while attempting to repair the hot water heater and related plumbing issues over the next several days, including substantial water damage to the interior of the home, did Plaintiff discover that Mr. Wynn was not a licensed plumber as he was required to be to perform such work on Plaintiff's home.
- 31. Plaintiff then had to travel back to Augusta to hire a new qualified and licensed plumber at great expense to repair the mess made by Mr. Wynn. This plumber informed Plaintiff that Mr. Wynn's work was a "hack job" and done by someone who obviously did not know what they were doing.
- 32. While Plaintiff's out of pocket expense related to his warranty claim should have been limited to \$45.00, Plaintiff has now had to spend approximately \$14,000 of his own money to make repairs to the hot water heater and related plumbing as well as other expenses including his tenants' motel stay and repairs to the water damaged areas of the home's interior. Plaintiff is informed and believes that additional repairs will be needed to fix interior water damage which will be done at the expiration of the current lease term in order to avoid further disruption to Plaintiff's tenants.
- 33. As a continuing part of his warranty claim, Plaintiff made demand on CHW to pay his out of pocket costs caused by the botched job of CHW's unqualified and unlicensed service technician. CHW's representatives have made several unsatisfactory proposals to Plaintiff over the telephone, but despite Plaintiff's request CHW has not responded to his claim for out of

pocket expenses in writing. In fact, CHW has now appeared to have ceased communicating entirely with Plaintiff having failed to respond to repeated letters and e-mails regarding the matter.

34. Upon information and belief, Defendants Mandalawi and Hakim are responsible for CHW's selection of unqualified and unlicensed service technicians and are further responsible for the improper handling of Plaintiff's warranty claim.

FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (BREACH OF CONTRACT)

- 35. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 34 above are re-alleged and incorporated herein.
- 36. Under the terms of the Home Service Agreement, Defendant CHW was required to send only qualified and licensed service technicians to respond to a warranty claim.
- 37. CHW breached its contract with Plaintiff by, among other things, failing to assign a qualified and licensed service technician to respond to Plaintiff's warranty claim and failing to pay its service technician for all costs above the \$45 service call fee.
- 38. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant CHW's breach of contract, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount exceeding \$14,000 and is entitled to judgment against CHW in an amount to be proven at trial together with interest thereon at the prevailing legal rate.

FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (NEGLIGENCE/GROSS NEGLIGENCE)

- 39. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 34 above are re-alleged and incorporated herein.
- 40. Defendants CHW, Mandalawi, and Hakim owed a duty to its customers, including Plaintiff, to "pre-screen" its selected service technicians and to use only qualified, licensed and insured technicians to respond to warranty claims.

- 41. The Defendants breached this duty of care in the following particulars among others:
- a. By failing to pre-screen Wynns Electrical Plumbing and Appliance and Paul Wynn; and
- b. By failing to insure that Paul Wynn held the proper licenses to perform work on the plumbing system of Plaintiff's home;
- 42. Because the warranty claim by Plaintiff was made almost one year after the Defendants had entered into a Final Consent Judgement with the State of New Jersey in which they each agreed to "ensure, to the best of their knowledge based upon their diligent and good faith inquiries, that any technician they assign to service a Consumer's claim possesses all requisite licenses, registrations and insurance," the Defendants failure to so act in this instance was willful, wanton, and reckless.
- 43. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount exceeding \$14,000.00 and Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against the Defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be proven at trial together with punitive damages as determined by the trier of fact for the Defendants' willful, wanton, and reckless conduct.

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FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (VIOLATION OF SCUTPA S.C. CODE ANN. § 39- 5-20 et seq.)

- 44. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 34 above are re-alleged and incorporated herein.
- 45. The actions and conduct of the Defendants in inducing Plaintiff to purchase a CHW "Home Warranty" and in subsequently utilizing unqualified and unlicensed service technicians constitute an actionable unfair and deceptive trade practice under S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-20 et seq.

- 46. These actions and conduct are clearly deceptive and unfair trade practices as evidenced by the Defendants' consent to refrain from such actions and conduct in the New Jersey Final Consent Judgment. Unfortunately for the Plaintiff and other consumers, the Defendants continue to engage in such actions and conduct, all of which have an adverse impact on the public.
- Plaintiff has suffered actual damages as a result of the Defendants' deceptive and unfair trade practices in an amount exceeding \$14,000.00. Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against the Defendants, jointly and severally, in such amount as shall be proven at trial, together with Plaintiff's costs and attorney's fees as permitted by S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-140. Furthermore, because the conduct of the Defendants in this instance was willful, intentional, and reckless, any damage award against the Defendants should be trebled as permitted by S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-140.

FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Fraud)

- 48. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 34 above are re-alleged and incorporated herein.
- 49. CHW has made material representations to the Plaintiff regarding the "Home Warranty" that it sold to Plaintiff which include, but are not limited to, the qualifications, trustworthiness, and license status of CHW's service technicians. Were it not for these representations, Plaintiff would not have purchased a Home Warranty from CHW.
- 50. Certain of these representations were known to CHW and its principals to be false when made which include, but are not limited to, the representations regarding the qualifications, trustworthiness, and license status of CHW's service technicians.
- 51. Defendant CHW and its principals made these representations with the intent to induce customers like the Plaintiff to purchase a Home Warranty.

- 52. Plaintiff relied on the representations made by CHW, including those in paragraphs 49 and 50 above, in deciding to purchase a Home Warranty from CHW. Plaintiff believed the representations and particularly believed that any service technician coming to his home on a claim would be qualified and properly licensed.
- 53. As a potential customer of CHW, Plaintiff had every right to rely upon the representations made by CHW and to believe that these representations were true.
- As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiff's reliance on the false, misleading, and deceptive statements and representations by CHW, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages in an amount exceeding \$14,000.00. Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against the Defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be proven at trial together with punitive damages against the Defendants for their conscious and intentional misrepresentations to Plaintiff.

FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Piercing the Corporate Veil)

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- 55. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 34 above are re-alleged and incorporated herein.
- 56. To the extent that the individual Defendants, Mandalawi and Hakim, are not personally liable for any of the causes of action set forth above, individual liability against these Defendants is warranted to defeat the conduct of these Defendants which is fraudulent, deceptive and against the public policy of this State.
- 57. Upon information and belief, Mandalawi and Hakim are the sole or majority shareholders of CHW.
- 58. Upon information and belief, Mandalawi and Hakim have failed to properly observe the corporate formalities in the following particulars among others:
- a. CHW is undercapitalized based on the number of outstanding home warranties it has issued and the reasonable and expected costs of paying legitimate warranty claims;

- b. CHW has failed to observe corporate formalities as it relates to meetings, votes, and other corporate actions;
- c. Mandalawi and Hakim have siphoned off corporate funds by paying themselves large salaries, dividends, bonuses and/or distributions; and
- d. Use the corporate form as a mere façade for their fraudulent and deceptive conduct.
- 59. Plaintiff would further show that it would be fundamentally unfair and unjust to allow Mandalawi and Hakim to hide behind the corporate structure when they have a pattern of doing so in previous home warranty companies which they have simply shut down and walked away from.

WHEREFORE, having stated its Complaint against these Defendants, Plaintiff prays for judgment against each of them, jointly and severally, for actual damages in an amount to be proven at trial, trebling of said actual damages under S. C. Code Ann. § 39-5-140, punitive damages, attorney's fees under S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-140, the costs of this action and such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Charles H. McDonald [SC Bar # 11580] ROBINSON, McFADDEN & MOORE, P.C.

Post Office Box 944 Columbia, SC 29202

(803) 779-8900

Email: cmcdonald@robinsonlaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

October 17, 2016

STATE OF SOUT	H CA	ROLINA)			
COUNTY OF LEX	KING	HON	1	IN THE COURT (COMMON PLEAS まちり
Mark Federspiel	The same			CIVIL ACTIO		
		Plaintiff(s))			—
	ν.)	2016	5-CP	H32 I I JP
	.,)			
CHW Group, In		l/b/a Choice Home)			975 71 -
<u>Warranty, Victor</u> Hakim	IVIA	ndalawi and Victor				
		Defendant(s))			86 à N
Submitted By: Char	les H.	McDonald ·	SC Ba	ur#; 11580		
Address: Robin	ison, N	IcFadden & Moore, P.C.	Telep	hone #: (803) 779-8900		
Colur	nbia. S	C 29202	Fax #: E-mai	l: cmodonold@yabi-	sonl:	aw.com
				nor supplements the filing and ser	vice o	of pleadings or other papers
signed, and dated. A copy of	of this co	prevament mast be selved off the	oetana:	ani(s) along with the Summons and	d Con	re inject out completely, iplaint,
		*If Action is Juden	KIYLA Ient/Se	TION (Check all that apply) ittlement do not complete		
JURY TRIAL den	nanded	in complaint.	ITIN(RV TRIAL demanded in some	plaint	t .
This case is subject	to AR	BUTRATION DURSUANT to the	· Cour	t Annexed Alternative Dispute nnexed Alternative Dispute Re	Daan	1
This case is exempt	from A	ADK. (Proof of ADR/Exemple	tion A	tached)	SOILL	ion Rules.
		NATURE OF ACT	MOL	(Check One Box Below)		
Contracts		Torts - Professional Maipractice		Torts - Personal Injury		Real Property
Constructions (100) Debt Collection (110)				(- ,-,		Claim & Delivery (400)
General (130)		Medical Malpractice (220)		Motor Vehicle Accident (320) Premises Liability (330)		Condemnation (410) Foreclosure (420)
Breach of Contract (140) Fraud/Bad Faith (150)	Pre	vious Nutice of Intent Case #		Products Liability (340)		Mechanie's Lien (430)
☐ Failure to Deliver/		Notice/ File Med Mal (230)		Personal Injury (350) Wrongfol Death (360)		Partition (440) Possession (450)
Warranty (160) Employment Discrim (170)) [_			, ,
Employment (180)	, _			Assault/Battery (370) Slander/Libel (380)		Building Code Violation (460) Other (499)
Other (199)	_			Other (399)	_	
Inmate Petitions PCR (500)		Administrative Law/Relief	_	Judgments/Settlements		Appeals
☐ Mandamus (520)		Reinstate Driver's License (800) Judicial Review (810)		Death Settlement (700) Foreign Judgment (710)		Arbitration (900)
Habeas Corpus (530)		Relief (820)		Magistrate's Judgment (720)		Mngistrate-Civil (910) Magistrate-Criminal (920)
Other (599)		Permanent Injunction (830) Forfeiture-Petition (840)		Minor Settlement (730)		Municipal (930)
		Forfeiture—Consent Order (850)		Transcript Judgment (740) Lis Pendens (750)		Probate Court (940) SCDOT (950)
		Other (899)		Transfer of Structured Settlement		Worker's Comp (960)
Specia	l/Compl	ex /Other		Payment Rights Application (760) Confession of Judgment (770)		Zoning Board (970) Public Service Comm, (990)
Environmental (600) Automobile Arb. (610)		Pharmaceuticals (630)		Petition for Workers Compensation	Ö	Employment Security Comm (991)
☐ Medical (620)	1 20	Unfair Trade Practices (640) Out-of State Depositions (650)		Settlement Approval (780) Other (799)		Other (999)
Other (699)		Motion to Quash Subprena in an Out-of-County Action (660)	_			
Sexual Predator (510)		Pre-Suit Discovery (670)	ıΛ	. / 1		
Pennanent Restraining Orde			$/\!\!/\!\!/$	1.1 /′		
Submitting Party Signa	iture:	-/ X-1/-	M	U/_ Date:	<u>O</u>	ctober 17, 2016
SCCA / 234 (03/2	016)		* *			AA003043

Note: Frivolous civil proceedings may be subject to sanctions pursuant to SCRCP, Rule 11, and the South Carolina Frivolous Civil Proceedings Sanctions Act, S.C. Code Ann. §15-36-10 et. seq.

Effective January 1, 2016, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is mandatory in all counties, pursuant to Supreme Court Order dated November 12, 2015.

SUPREME COURT RULES REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF ALL CIVIL CASES TO AN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXEMPT.

Pursuant to the ADR Rules, you are required to take the following action(s):

- 1. The parties shall select a neutral and file a "Proof of ADR" form on or by the 210th day of the filing of this action. If the parties have not selected a neutral within 210 days, the Clerk of Court shall then appoint a primary and secondary mediator from the current roster on a rotating basis from among those mediators agreeing to accept cases in the county in which the action has been filed.
- 2. The initial ADR conference must be held within 300 days after the filing of the action.
- 3. Pre-suit medical malpractice mediations required by S.C. Code §15-79-125 shall be held not later than 120 days after all defendants are served with the "Notice of Intent to File Suit" or as the court directs.
- 4. Cases are exempt from ADR only upon the following grounds:
 - a. Special proceeding, or actions seeking extraordinary relief such as mandamus, habeas corpus, or prohibition;
 - b. Requests for temporary relief;
 - c. Appeals

(

- d. Post Conviction relief matters;
- e. Contempt of Court proceedings;
- f. Forfeiture proceedings brought by governmental entities;
- g. Mortgage forcelosures; and
- h. Cases that have been previously subjected to an ADR conference, unless otherwise required by Rule 3 or by statute.
- 5. In cases not subject to ADR, the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, upon the motion of the court or of any party, may order a case to mediation.
- 6. Motion of a party to be exempt from payment of neutral fees due to indigency should be filed with the Court within ten (10) days after the ADR conference has been concluded.

Please Note: You must comply with the Supreme Court Rules regarding ADR. Failure to do so may affect your case or may result in sanctions.

Clerk: Beth A. Carrigg Lexington County Judicial Center Lexington, SC 29072

Phone: (803) 785-8212 Fax: (803) 785-8603

Received From:

McDonald, Charles Harry

PO Box 944

Columbia, SC 29202

Paying for:

Total Paid:

Federspiel, Mark

Transaction Type: Payment Payment Type:

Check

\$150.00

\$150.00

Date: 10/17/2016

Receipt #: 196930

Clerk: jparker

Reference #: 37183

Comment: Non-Refundable

Total Received:

Change Due:

\$150,00

\$0,00

You may check the status of your Lexington case at:

http://www.sccourts.org/caseSearch/

Case # 2016CP3203552

Mark Federspiel VS CHW Group Inc

Caption

Previous Balance \$150.00

Amount Paid \$150.00

Balance Due

\$0.00

Total Cases:

1

\$150.00

\$150.00

\$0.00



IN THE COURT OF COMMON Plaintiff **PLEAS** MARK FEDERSPIEL DOCKET NO. 2016-CP-3203552 CHW GROUP, INC. D/B/A CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, ET AL AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE (for use by Private Service) 786 NOV - U 12 1: 42 Person to be served: VICTOR HAKIM Cost of Service pursuant to R4:4-30 Address: 1090 KING GEORGES POST RD **EDISON NJ 08837** Attorney: ROBINSON MCFADDEN 1901 MAIN ST. SUITE 1200 COLUMBIA SC 29202 Papers Served: SUMMONS & COMPLAINT CIVIL COVER SHEET Service Data: Not Served Date: 10-21-16 Time: 1:15 Ph Attempts: Delivered a copy to him/her personally Name of Person Served and relationship/title ___ Left a copy with a competent household member over 14 years of age residing therein at place of abode. Left a copy with a person authorized to accept service, e.g. managing agent, registered agent, etc. Description of Person Accepting Service: Height: CX Weight: 170 Non-Served: () Defendant is unknown at the address furnished by the attorney () All reasonable inquiries suggest defendant moved to an undetermined address () No such street in municipality () No response on: _____ Date ____ _____ Date ____ _____ Date ____ Time Comments or Remarks () Other: I, LEONARD DE PIANO Subscribed and Sworn to me this time of service a competent adult not having a direct day of OCT 2016 interest in the litigation. I declare under penalty

MARCELLA A. COLLINS NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY My Commission Expires 8/31/2021

> DGR - THE SOURCE FOR LEGAL SUPPORT 1359 Littleton Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950-3000 (973) 403-4700 Fax (973) 403-9222

of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature of Process Server

Work Order No. 279014
File No A 46003047

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 18/39

COUNTY OF LEXINGTON



IN THE COURT OF COMMON **PLEAS** Plaintiff MARK FEDERSPIEL DOCKET NO. 2016-CP-3203652 Defendant CHW GROUP, INC. D/B/A CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, ET AL. AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE (for use by Private Service) 别时间 一年 包 生期2 Person to be served: VICTOR MANDALAWI Cost of Service pursuant to R4:4-30 Address: 1090 KING GEORGES POST RD **EDISON NJ 08837** Aftorney: ROBINSON MCFADDEN 1901 MAIN ST. SUITE 1200 COLUMBIA SC 29202 Papers Served: SUMMONS & COMPLAINT CIVIL COVER SHEET Service Data: Date: 10-21-16 Time: 1:15 Ph Attempts: Served Successfully Delivered a copy to him/her personally Name of Person Served and relationship/title Left a copy with a competent household member over 14 years of age residing therein at place of abode. Left a copy with a person authorized to accept service, e.g. managing agent, registered agent, etc. Description of Person Accepting Service: Sex: Race: Non-Served: () Defendant is unknown at the address furnished by the attorney () All reasonable inquiries suggest defendant moved to an undetermined address () No such street in municipality () No response on: _____ Date ____ Date _____ Time Date _____ Time Comments or Remarks { } Other: I, LEONARD DE PIANO time of service a competent adult not having a direct Subscribed and Sworn to me this day of OCT JOLG interest in the litigation. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

MARCELLA A: COLUNS
NOTARY FURLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires 8/31/2021

DGR - THE SOURCE FOR LEGAL SUPPORT 1359 Littleton Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950-3000 (973) 403-1700 Fax (973) 403-9222

Signature of Process Server

Work Order No. 279010 File No. As A 2003 048

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 19/39

COUNTY OF LEXINGTON



Plaintiff MARK FEDERSPIEL	2 7 9 0 0 1
Defendant vs CHW GROUP, INC. D/B/A CHOICE HOME WARI	RANTY, ET AL.
Person to be served: CHW GROUP, INC. D/B/A CHOICE HOME WARRANTY Address:	SOLP 1103 - 11 15 1: 115
1090 KING GEORGES POST RD EDISON NJ 08837	PETER STATE OF THE
Attorney:	FYGRA
ROBINSON MCFADDEN	
1901 MAIN ST. SUITE 1200	
COLUMBIA SC 29202	
Papers Served:	
SUMMONS & COMPLAINT CIVIL COVER SHEET	

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 20/39 COUNTY OF LEXINGTON IN THE COURT OF COMMON **PLEAS**

DOCKET NO. 2016-CP-3203552

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE (for use by Private Service)

Cost of Service pursuant to R4:4-30

ORIGINA

	e Data;	Pater 1	०-भ-१७	IUS PM	A
Served	1 20ccessinily 4 Not 281/80	Date: •		Ilme: Itio	Attempts:
	Delivered a copy to him/her persona	lly	Name of Pers	on Served and relati	onship/title
<u></u>	Left a copy with a competent housef member over 14 years of age residing		abode, \\	launeet	Sondhar
*—	Left a copy with a person authorized service, e.g. managing agent, registe			MANAGING AGE	INT
Descrip	ption of Person Accepting Service:				
Age: (Noп-Se	36 Height: 581° Welght:	160 Hair: A	ock Sex:	M R	ace; ME
11011-06	() Defendant is unknown at the add	iress furnished by th	e altorney		
	() All reasonable Inquiries suggest () No such street in municipality	defendant moved to	an undetermined add	iress	
	() No response on:	Date	Time		
		~ .			
		Date	Time		
	() Other:		Comments or Remark	(5	
Subscri	ibed and Sworn to me this day of		Interest in the	E PIANO e a competent adult : litigation. I declare t the foregoing is true	under penalty
W	- Ale	<u>-</u>			10-21-16
•	Notary Signature		Signat	ure of Process Server	Date

MARCELLA A. COLLINS NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY My Commission Expiges 8/31/2021

DGR - THE SOURCE FOR LEGAL SUPPORT 1359 Littleton Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950-3000 (973) 403-1700 Fax (973) 403-9222

Work Order No. 279001 File No A 4.003049

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) COUNTY OF LEXINGTON)	THE EXTENSION
Mark Federspiel,	Case No.: 2016-CP-32-03552
Plaintiff,	
v. ,	AFFIDAVIT OF DEFAULT
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim,)))
Defendants.	

PERSONALLY appears before me, Charles H. McDonald, who, being duly sworn, states that he is the Attorney for the Plaintiff in this action; that more than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the service of the Summons and Complaint upon Defendant Victor Mandalawi; that no Answer or Notice of Appearance has been served upon him as required by the Summons in this action; that Defendant Victor Mandalawi is not a member of the military service; and that Defendant, Victor Mandalawi is in default.

ROBINSON, MCFADDEN & MOORE, P

Charles H. McDbn Post Office Box 944 Columbia, SC 29202

(803) 779-8900

Attorneys for the Plaintiff

SWORN TO and subscribed before me this 23 day of NOVEMBER, 2016. Print Name: <u>Keneral H. Schwind</u>
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires <u>April 4</u>, 2018

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark Federspiel,

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(

CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim,

Defendants.

IN THE COL

Case No.: 2016-CP-32-03552

AFFIDAVIT OF DEFAULT

PERSONALLY appears before me, Charles H. McDonald, who, being duly sworn, states that he is the Attorney for the Plaintiff in this action; that more than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the service of the Summons and Complaint upon Defendant CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty; that no Answer or Notice of Appearance has been served upon him as required by the Summons in this action; that Defendant CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty is not a member of the military service; and that Defendant CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty is in default.

ROBINSON, MCFADDEN & MOORE, P.C.

Charles H. McDonald Post Office Box 944 Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 779-8900

Attorneys for the Plaintiff

SWORN TO and subscribed before me this 23rd day of November , 2016.

Print Name: Rehercra H. Schwind

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires April 4, 2018.

	ORIGINAL
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON) CASE NO.: 2016-CP-32-03552
Mark Federspiel,)
Plaintiff,	
v.) NOTICE OF APPEARANCE)
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim,	
Defendants.	
TO: CHARLES H. MCDONALD, COUN	
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE N	OTICE that the undersigned respectfully enters his

appearance as counsel for the Defendants in the above-captioned matter.

Respectfully submitterly

Peter G. McGrath

McGrath Law Firm, P.A.

802 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464 Phone: (843) 606-2755

Fax: (843) 388-7263

pmcgrath@mcgrathlawfirm.com

December 7, 2016

ORIGIN	
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON	115 (EC)-8 ACASS NO.: 2016-CP-32-03552
Mark Federspiel,	DETH Å. CANTIGG CLEEKOOF COURT
Plaintiff,	LEXINGTON, SC ANSWER ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANTS
γ.)
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Hor Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and V Hakim,	ome) Victor)
Defendants.	.))

TO: CHARLES H. MCDONALD, ESQUIRE, COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

The Defendants are initially filing this Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint solely to contest the propriety of service. However, in the interest of judicial efficiency, Defendants are providing the following complete answer to the Complaint herein in the event Defendants' Motion is denied. Defendants specifically reserve the right to amend Answer after the resolution of the service issue. The Defendants deny cach and every allegation of the Plaintiff's Complaint not specifically addressed herein. The Defendants allege and say as follows:

ANSWER

- 1) Answering Paragraph 1: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
- 2) Answering Paragraph 2: The Delendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint.
- 3) Answering Paragraph 3: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

4) Answering Paragraph 4: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint.

- 5) Answering Paragraph 5: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 5 of the Complaint.
- 6) Answering Paragraph 6: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.
- 7) Answering Paragraph 7: The Defendants dony the allegations contained in Paragraph 7. Defendants Mandalawi and Hakim did not personally direct any such alleged actions or conduct.
- 8) Answering Paragraph 8: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint.
- 9) Answering Paragraph 9: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint
- 10) Answering Paragraph 10: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.
- 11) Answering Paragraph 11: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 11 of the Complaint.
- 12) Answering Paragraph 12: The Defendants dony the allegations contained in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.
- 13) Answering Paragraph 13: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.
- 14) Answering Paragraph 14: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15) Answering Paragraph 15: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

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- 16) Answering Paragraph 16: The Defendants deny the allogations contained in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint.
- 17) Answering Paragraph 17: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.
- 18) Answering Paragraph 18: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint.
- 19) Answering Paragraph 19: The Defendants dony the allegations contained in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.
- 20) Answering Paragraph 20: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.
- 21) Answering Paragraph 21: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.
- 22) Answering Paragraph 22: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint.
- 23) Answering Paragraph 23: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint.
- 24) Answering Paragraph 24: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint.
- 25) Answering Paragraph 25: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

- 26) Answering Paragraph 26: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint.
- 27) Answering Paragraph 27: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.
- 28) Answering Paragraph 28: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.
- 29) Answering Paragraph 29: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.
- 30) Answering Paragraph 30: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint.
- 31) Answering Paragraph 31: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

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- 32) Answering Paragraph 32: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint.
- 33) Answering Paragraph 33: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 33 of the Complaint.
- 34) Answering Paragraph 34: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint.

ANSWER: BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 35) Answering Paragraph 35: Paragraph 35 does not require an answer.
- 36) Answering Paragraph 36: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint. Defendants state that the relevant provision of the contract states as follows, "A. COVERAGE During the coverage period, Our sole responsibility will be to

arrange for a qualified service contractor ("Service Provider") to repair or replace, at Our expense (up to the limits set forth below), the systems and components mentioned as "Included" in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract."

- 37) Answering Paragraph 37: The Defendants dony the allegations contained in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint.
- 38) Answering Paragraph 38: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

ANSWER: NEGLIGENCE/GROSS NEGLIGENCE

- 39) Answering Paragraph 39: Paragraph 39 does not require an answer.
- Answering Paragraph 40: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 40 of the Complaint. Defendants state that the relevant provision of the contract states as follows, "A. COVERAGE During the coverage period, Our sole responsibility will be to arrange for a qualified service contractor ("Service Provider") to repair or replace, at Our expense (up to the limits set forth below), the systems and components mentioned as "Included" in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract.
- 41) Answering Paragraph 41: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint.
- 42) Answering Paragraph 42: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 42 of the Complaint.
- 43) Answering Paragraph 43: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of the Complaint.

ANSWER: VIOLATION OF SCUPTA S.C. CODE ANN. § 39-5-20 et seq.

44) Answering Paragraph 44: Paragraph 44 does not require an answer.

45) Answering Paragraph 45: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of the Complaint.

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- 46) Answering Paragraph 46: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 46 of the Complaint.
- 47) Answering Paragraph 47: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 47 of the Complaint.

ANSWER: FRAUD

- 48) Answering Paragraph 48: Paragraph 48 does not require an answer.
- 49) Answering Paragraph 49: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 49 of the Complaint.
- 50) Answering Paragraph 50: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 50 of the Complaint.
- 51) Answering Paragraph 51: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 51 of the Complaint.
- 52) Answering Paragraph 52: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 52 of the Complaint.
- 53) Answering Paragraph 53: The Defendants are without sufficient knowledge and information to confirm or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 53 of the Complaint.
- 54) Answering Paragraph 54: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 54 of the Complaint.

ANSWER: PIERCING THE CORPORATE VEIL

55) Answering Paragraph 55: Paragraph 55 does not require an answer.

56) Answering Paragraph 56: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 56 of the Complaint.

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- 57) Answering Paragraph 57: The Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 57 of the Complaint.
- 58) Answering Paragraph 58: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 58 of the Complaint.
- 59) Answering Paragraph 59: The Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 59 of the Complaint.

FOR A FIRST DEFENSE: FAILURE TO STATE FACTS SUFFICIENT TO CONSTITUTE A CAUSE OF ACTION

60) The Complaint herein fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against the Defendants.

FOR A SECOND DEFENSE: FAILURE TO PROPERLY SERVE

61) The Defendants allege that Plaintiff's service was not carried out according to the rules of Court.

FOR A THIRD DEFENSE: NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION PROVIDED

62) The Plaintiff's claims are barred to the extent that any statutes or regulations under which they purport to assert claims provide no private right of action.

FOR A FOURTH DEFENSE: FAILURE TO EXHAUST REMEDIES

63) The Defendants allege that plaintiffs are barred from any relief or remedy for failure to exhaust remedies

FOR A FIFTH DEFENSE: NO BREACH OF DUTY

64) The Defendants did not breach any duty owed to the Plaintiffs and therefore the Plaintiffs may not recover from the Defendants in any sum whatsoever.

FOR A SIXTH DEFENSE: STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

65) The Defendants plead all applicable statutes of limitation in bar of this action.

FOR A SEVENTH DEFENSE: ELECTION OF REMEDIES

66) The Defendants plead the doctrine of election of remedies in bar or limitation of the Plaintiff's claims to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law.

FOR AN EIGHTH DEFENSE: PUNITIVE DAMAGES VIOLATE THE DEFENDANTS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 67) The Defendants allege that an award of punitive damages in this case would violate the 5th, 6th, and 14th amendments to the United States Constitution and Article One, Section 3 of the South Carolina Constitution in that:
 - a) The unfettered power to award punitive damages in any manner is wholly devoid of a meaningful standard and is inconsistent with due process guaranteed; and
 - b) Even if it could be argued that the standard governing the imposition of punitive damages exists, the standard is void for vagueness.

FOR A NINTH DEFENSE: FAILURE TO MITIGATE DAMAGES

68) The Defendants allege that Plaintiff failed to mitigate his damages as to all causes of action alleged in the complaint.

FOR A TENTH DEFENSE: COMPARATIVE FAULT

69) The Defendants allege that damages suffered, if any, are a result of comparative fault of Plaintiff such that any disbursements from Defendant is barred and/or must be adjusted and/or eliminated.

FOR AN ELEVENTH DEFENSE: WAIVER

70) The Defendants allege that by reason of the acts and omissions of the Plaintiff, Plaintiff has waived any entitlement to any recovery, for any breach of any contract or any duty, or for any other cause.

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FOR A TWELTH DEFENSE: ESTOPPEL

71) The Defendants allege that by reason of the acts and omissions of the Plaintiff, Plaintiff is estopped from entitlement to any recovery, if any.

FOR A THIRTEENTH DEFENSE: LACHES

72) The Defendants allege that defendants allege that Plaintiff is barred from any recovery by the doctrine of laches.

FOR A FOURTEENTH DEFENSE:

73) The Defendants allege that plaintiffs have failed to state a claim upon which attorney's fees can be awarded.

FOR A FIFTEENTH DEFENSE: CONSENT

74) The Defendants allege that plaintiffs are barred from asserting any causes of action by virtue of their consent to the alleged acts or conditions.

FOR A SIXTEENTH DEFENSE: ALLEGED DAMAGES NOT CAUSED BY DEFENDANTS

75) The Defendants allege that to the extent that plaintiffs suffered any damages alleged, such damages were not caused by defendants but by the acts or omissions of plaintiffs and/or others.

FOR A SEVENTEENTH DEFENSE: NOTICE

76) The Defendants allege that Plaintiffs are barred from any recovery, because of Plaintiffs' lack of notice to Defendants.

77) Defendants specifically reserve the right to amend Answer after the resolution of the service issue.

WHEREFORE, defendants pray that:

- 1. Plaintiffs take nothing by their complaint and that said complaint and each cause of action therein be dismissed as to defendants;
- 2. For defendants' cost of suit herein;
- 3. For reasonable attorney's fees; and
- 4. For such other relief the Court deems proper.

Respectfully submitted

Peter McGrath

McGrayn Law/Firm, P.A. 802 Johnnie/Dodds Blvd.

Mount Pleasant, SC 29402

Phone: (843) 606-2755 Fax: (843) 388-7263

pmcgrath@mcgrathlawfirm.com

Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

THE PROPERTY OF COURSE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS) ELEVENTII JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON) CASE NO.: 2016-CP-32-03552
Mark Federspiel,)
Plaintiff,)
v.	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim,)))
Defendants.	<u></u>

I certify that a copy of the following documents were sent this 7th day of December, 2016 via U.S. Mail with sufficient postage addressed to the following individual:

Documents:

Notice of Appearance

Answer on Behalf of the Defendants

Individual:

Charles H. McDonald, Esq.

Robinson McFadden & Moore, PC

PO Box 944

Columbia, SC 29202

MCGRATH LAW FIRM, P.A.

Stephanie M. Smith

Paralegal to McGrath Law Firm 802 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Phone: (843) 606-2755 Fax: (843) 388-7263

paralegal@mcgrathlawfirm.com

Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	.க. உவரை அடுக்கிப் கூடிக் மி. இன்
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Mark Federspiel,) Case No.: 2016-CP-32-03552
Plaintiff,	,) }
v.) OPPUP GEDOGRAFIA
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim,	ORDER SUBSTITUTING COUNSEL O
Defendants.	,)
·	

This matter is before the Court upon Motion of the plaintiff, Mark Federspiel, to substitute the Law Firm of Belser & Belser, PA, as counsel in this case. Charles H. McDonald recently joined Belser & Belser, PA, and Mark Federspiel, wishes for Charles H. McDonald to continue representing it in the above matter. Sowell Gray Robinson Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, agrees to the substitution of Belser & Belser, PA, as attorneys for the plaintiff, Mark Federspiel.

Therefore, Charles H. McDonald and the Law Firm of Belser & Belser, PA, should be substituted as counsel for the plaintiff, Mark Federspiel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the law firm of Belser & Belser, PA, be substituted as the attorneys for the plaintiff, Mark Federspiel.

Chief Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

Columbia, South Carolina

March 20, 2017.

WE SO MOVE AND CONSENT:

SOWELL GRAY ROBINSON STEPP & LAFFITTE, L.L.C.

Ву:

(

J Calhoun Watson

cwatson@sowellgray.com

1310 Gadsden Street

Post Office Box 11449

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

(803) 929-1400

WE SO MOVE AND CONSENT:

BELSER & BELSER, P.A.

Ву:

Charles II. McDonald

chuck@belserpa.com

Post Office Box 96

Columbia, SC 29202

(803) 929-0096

2011 HAR 23 AM III B CLERK OF COURT CLERK OF COURT

FORM 4

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLI COUNTY OF LEXINGTON IN THE COURT OF COMM			IN A CIVIL CASE ER <u>2016CP3203552</u>
Mark Federspiel		CHW Group Inc Victor Mandalawi	Choice Home Warranty Victor Hakim
PLAINTIFF(S)		DEFENDANT(S)	
(DAITTEP(D)		Attorney for: Plaintit	f 🗆 Defendant
Submitted by:		☐ Self-Represente	d Litigant
		YPE (CHECK ONE)	
DECISION BY THE COU. decision rendered. Dee Page ACTION DISMISSED (Ch.	2 2 for additional information. VECK REASON: □ R	earing before the court. The issue	sed and a vergict rendered. s have been tried or heard and a Rule 41(a), SCRCP (Vol. Nonsuit);
□ Rulç 43(k), SCRCP (Settle	d);		1975L CASE
ACTION STRICKEN (CH)	ECK REASON):	SCRCP;	
	ECK REASON):	ate of Chica,	re Rosse Visco
	LTO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):	. + Pak'-4
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed			_
	ORDER INF and the case. k: INFORMATION FOR T and the judgment affects title to r	TORMATION THE JUDGMENT INDEX Teal or personal property or if	any amount should be enrolled.
Judgment in Favor of (List name(s) below)	Judgment Agains (List name(s) belo	it Judgme	nt Amount To be Enrolled ist amount(s) below)
(ZJSt Haste(S) Dotott)	(2001)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1,10			
If applicable, describe the pro-	perty, including tax map info	ormation and address, referen	nced in the order:
The judgment information above he form may be addressed by way of readditional taxable costs not availabe Note: Title abstractors and researe E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties	notion pursuant to the SC Rules le at the time the form and final chers should refer to the offici	of Civil Procedure. Amounts to l order are submitted to the judg al court order for judgment d	be computed such as interest or ge may be provided to the clerk. etails.
			3/27/2017
Circuit Court Judge		Judge Code	Date
· }	For Clerk of Com	rt Office Use Only	• • •
CPFORM4Cm SCCA SCRCP Form 4C (Revised 2/17)			,

This judgment was entered on the 23rd day of March, 2017, and a copy mailed first class or placed in the appropriate attorney's box on the 28th day of March, 2017, to attorneys of record or to parties (when appearing pro se) as follows:

Peter Gerard McGrath Charles Harry McDonald 802 Johnnie Dodds Blyd. Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 William Clayton Dillard Jr. PO Box 96 Columbia, SC 29202 ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S) ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE DEFENDANT(S) Lisa A. Comer / kr Court Reporter Lisa M. Comer - Clerk of Court Court Reporter: E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties, the date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgement to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING DECISION BY THE COURT AS REFERENCED ON PAGE 1. This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered,

.1 3

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON 11 HAR 24	
Mark Federspiel, LISA M	COMER OF COURT GTON SC
Plaintiff,) UHIGH
٧.	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE
CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi and Victor Hakim,))) }
Defendants.))

TO: PETER G. MCGRATH, ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANTS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned hereby enters his appearance as counsel for the plaintiff Mark Federspiel in the above captioned matter.

BELSER & BELSER, P.A.

William C. Dillard, Jr. (S.C. Bar No. 78986)

1901 Main St., Suite 1550 (29201)

P.O. Box 96

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

(803) 929-0096 will@belserpa.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

Columbia, South Carolina March 23, 2017

Problem Report Information Inquiry

03-28-2017

Problem Report Type::Complaint

Responsible Section: Consumer Services Closure Reason; Closed Date: 07-25-2016 Opened Date: 07-12-2016 OTHER PROBLEM TYPE DESCRIPTION Problem Report ID: 39302 PROBLEM REPORT DETAILS Status: Closed TYPE OF PROBLEM Claim Denial/Delay DESCRIPTION

On June 27, 2016, my air conditioner stopped working. I called my warranty company, Choice Home Warranty in Edison, NJ. They dispatched the call to one of their contract technicians. A technician arrived and determined that the capacitor needed to be replaced, which he replaced. He left, and the capacitor failed within a few hours. I called Choice asked the technician for more information regarding the unit. From my understanding, he supplied sufficient information regarding the unit. From my understanding he supplied sufficient information regarding the unit. From my understanding he supplied sufficient information regarding the unit. From my understanding he supplied sufficient information regarding the unit. From my understanding he sent throughout the call failed. AT one point it managed to get a supervisor one the phone, his name was David. L. Was tool that the calin was rejected verbally by Choice because they said didn't maintain the unit. I have maintained the unit. To which I have sent those copies of the maintenance for these sent structures are existed. The company no longer existed. The company no longer existed. The company no longer existed. The company no longer existed in the call of CONSUMER DETAIL OF COMPLAINT

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HAS THE CONSUMER PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THIS PROBLEM TO OUR OFFICE OR ANY OTHER AGENCY?	(a) ID TO (a) INCLUDING AND THE TOTAL TO A COLUMN TO A
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Complainant called today advising that he still does not have his a/c repaired. I contacted company for a status. I was unable to reach CHW via phone - emailed company.

ACK

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V 21-2016 Phone

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Page 2 of 3

Problem Report Information Inquiry

Problem Report Type: Complaint Opened Date: 07-12-2016

Problem Report ID: 39302 Status: Closed

03-28-2017

Closed Date: 07-25-2016

Responsible Section; Consumer Services Closure Reason:

REASONS		Closure Reason:
CATEGORY	REASON TYPES	RESPONDENT
СН	Denial of Claim	HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY
ACTION DATE ACTION		
뿧		LETTER DESCRIPTION DUE DATE RECEIVED DATE INVOLVED PARTY NAME TIME RATCH DTV COMMENT
07-25-2016 Satisfaction Ballot	n Ballot	
흑		
07-25-2016 Letter		O RS
Kim Kuhlman		0 July 25, 2016
		ANTHONY V TROMBETTA 2172 CHAPMAN RANGH DR HENDERSON NV 89012
		Re: Complaint against: HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY Our File Number: 16-KK39302
		Dear ANTHONY V TROMBETTA:
		The Division of Insurance received a response from Choice Home Warranty to your complaint. I have enclosed a copy for your review.
		The company will be issuing you a check in the amount of \$1,500 for the air conditioning claim; the maximum amount for authorized claims.
		Please be aware that the Division uses all complaint data to assist us in monitoring all the companies that do business in Nevada. Our examiners also use this data as a tool while performing an audit.
		At this time, I am closing your complaint file. Thank you for the opportunity to have been of service.
		Sincerely,
		Kim M Kuhlman Compliance Investigator Consumer Section kkuhlman@doi.nv.gov
		Consumer Services case files may be subject to public records requests. In accordance with applicable law, the Division may respond to public records requests without further confacting you. If you wish for our case file to be designated as Confidential, please motify us within 3n 4 ave
07-25-2016 Letter Kim Kuhlman		CLRS
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Page 3 of 3	ner Services		The state of the s			教室を受けるのでは、これのでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これ	The state of the s
	Responsible Section: Consumer Services		COMMEN			PAID AMOUNT	\$ 1.500.00
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Problem Report Information Inquiry	port Type: Complaint	ORGANIZATION		and the second of the second o		REQUESTED AMOUNT	\$ 0.00
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03-28-2017	Problem Report ID: 39302 Status: Closed	INVOLVED PARTIES INVOLVED PARTY	Choice Home Warranty	Trombetta, Anthony V	OSITIONS	07 42 2046	

Long- and the second	Report ID	Status	Open Date	Report Type	Respondent	Complainant
	39302	Closed	07-12 - 2016	Complaint	HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY	TROMBETTA, ANTHONY V

Action Date

07-25-2016

Action Type

Letter

Letter Description Closure Resolved Letter

Due Date

Received Date

Staff Member

Kuhlman, Kim

Time Allocated

0.0

Involved Party

Print Qty

Comment

July 25, 2016 ANTHONY V TROMBETTA 2172 CHAPMAN RANCH DR HENDERSON N 89012 Re: Complaint against: HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY Our File Number: 16-KK39302 Dear ANTHONY V TROMBETTA: The Division of Insurance received a response from Choice Home Warran to your complaint. I have enclosed a copy for your review. The company will be issuing yo a check in the amount of \$1,500 for the air conditioning claim; the maximum amount for authorized claims. Please be aware that the Division uses all complaint data to assist us i monitoring all the companies that do business in Nevada. Our examiners also use this da as a tool while performing an audit. At this time, I am closing your complaint file. Thank y ϵ for the opportunity to have been of service. Sincerely, Kim M Kuhlman Compliance Investigator Consumer Section kkuhlman@doi.nv.gov Consumer Services case files may subject to public records requests. In accordance with applicable law, the Division may respond to public records requests without further contacting you. If you wish for our case file to be designated as Confidential, please notify us within 30 days.



FOX 4 Problem Solvers: Overland Park man wants to warn others about home warranty company

POSTED 9:46 PM, AUGUST 24, 2015, BY LINDA WAGAR, UPDATED AT 03:40PM, AUGUST 29, 2015

This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated. Please look at the time stamp on the story to see when it was last updated.



OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — An Overland Park man wants others to beware of a home warranty company which he says is worthless.

It was during a heat wave this summer when George Marinelli's air conditioner suddenly stopped working.

"The air went out completely," recalled Marinelli.



George Marinelli

Lucky for Marinelli, or so he thought, he had purchased a warranty from Choice Home Warranty a month

earlier at the cost of \$49 a month. The warranty is supposed to cover the repair or replacement of his furnace, air conditioner and other items in his home.

Marinelli called Choice Home Warranty which dispatched a repair company out of Independence. The technician determined the compressor was fried and Marinelli would need a new unit.

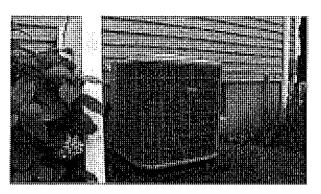
Choice Home Warranty refused to pay for a new unit, accusing him of not maintaining the air conditioner. Marinelli said an employee told him if he wanted to dispute that finding he would need to send three years of maintenance records.

Marinelli found records from 2013 and 2015 (in 2015 his air conditioner had been inspected and received a passing grade, he said). He faxed them to Choice Home Warranty. But no luck. It still wouldn't pay for a new air conditioner.

Upset, Marinelli called the claims department and asked to speak to a manager.

"All I got was another claims representative who told me everyone there is a manager," Marinelli said. "Go figure."

Realizing he was getting nowhere fast and desperate for central air, Marinelli paid \$7,000 for a new unit and cancelled Choice Home



Marinelli purchased his own AC unit out of pocket for \$7,000

Warranty. Then he called FOX 4 Problem Solvers, wanting to warn others.

Marinelli isn't the warranty company's first unhappy customer. The Better Business Bureau has more than a a thousand complaints lodged against the New Jersey-based company. Plus just this year, Choice Home Warranty agreed to pay nearly \$780,000 to settle a lawsuit by New Jersey's consumer protection office.

New Jersey officials alleged Choice Home Warranty used deceptive tactics to deny customer claims, including requiring people to submit multiple years of maintenance records before even reviewing a claim.

In June, Choice Home Warranty promised the state it would change its practices. Yet it was that very next month that Choice Home Warranty demanded Marinelli turn over his maintenance records. Marinelli plans to file complaints against Choice Home Warranty with the Federal Trade Commission and the state of Kansas.

A spokesman for Choice Home Warranty told FOX 4 Problem Solvers that the company has changed its practices since the New Jersey lawsuit and that Marinelli was only asked for maintenance records after his initial claim was denied, not before, which he said was in compliance with the New Jersey agreement.

SPONSORED CONTENT

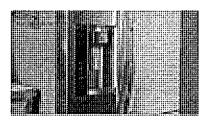
Raise Happy Children With Love And Discipline



SEP 4, 2017, BY CONNATIX

Children need a
balance between
affection and
discipline to grow to
be happy adults. Too
much of either could
have serious
consequences for their

iuture.



Metro family left losing its cool after getting caught in limbo with busted refrigerator



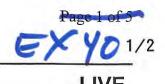
Kansas City officials say warranty program for sewer lines helps save homeowners money and avoid trouble



'Totally fooled me': More homeowners warn of Overl Park contractor operating u different company names









Action 9 investigates home warranties

Updated: Aug 19, 2013 - 4:13 PM



2 of 2



A Titusville woman says she paid \$1,000 for a home warranty, but the company refused to cover a big plumbing repair. She says it ended up costing her hundreds of dollars and triggered serious damage.

Anita Varela found water seeping from the kitchen wall into her garage several times a week. Since she paid for a three-year home warranty, Varela thought she was covered.

__"It says right in the contract it covers leaks," she said.

LIVE

Varela made a claim to Choice Home Warranty in New Jersey, which sells home repairs and says it offers peace of mind. When its subcontractor showed up, he found a plumbing leak near the dishwasher, but Choice Home Warranty denied the claim because it said the leak was buried in the slab, a policy exclusion.

"What's the good of having a warranty if they're not going to cover it?" asked Varela.

Choice Home has an F rating at the Better Business Bureau with 775 complaints, many involving claim denials.

Varela kept disputing.

"They just kept (saying), 'Deny, deny, deny," she said.

Finally, Varela hired her own plumber, who found it was not a slab leak but a busted pipe in the wall, which should have been covered.

Repairs cost \$260, but by that time, there was a lot of wall and cabinet damage.

Consumer experts said many warranty companies make collecting on a claim very difficult.

"If you don't understand really what it can do for you and what it can't do for you, then when the time comes that you need it, you may be left regretting that decision," said BBB Vice President Holly Salmons.

Varela had disputed the Choice Home Warranty charges on her credit card and after Action 9 contacted the company, a manager said it would no longer pursue collecting its fees.

"All they would have had to do is fix the leak," said Varela.

To save yourself the hassle, check a warranty company's complaint history before you buy. And because a warranty is considered insurance, you can also file complaints with Florida Financial Services.



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3 Foods To Avoid in 2017

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE



CERTIFIED COPY OF ONE PARTICULAR DOCUMENT

CERTIFICATE

I THE UNDERSIGNED, Secretary of State, of the State of Oklahoma do hereby certify that, to the date of this certificate, the attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file as described below of:

NAME OF ENTITY HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF OKLAHOMA, INC.

DOCUMENT TYPE Certificate of Incorporation DOCUMENT FILING DATE August 04, 2010



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma, done at the City of Oklahoma City, this <u>8th</u>, day of <u>August</u>, <u>2017</u>.

Secretary Of State

JOHN J. HOFFMAN ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Division of Law 124 Halsey Street - 5th Floor P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 Attorney for Plaintiffs FILED

JUN 09 2015

TRAVIS L. FRANCIS ASSIGNMENT JUDGE MIDDLESEX VICINAGE

By: David M. Reap (025632012) Deputy Attorney General

> SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION MIDDLESEX COUNTY DOCKET NO. C-135-14

JOHN J. HOFFMAN, Acting Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, and STEVE C. LEE, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs,

Civil Action

Plaintiffs,

V.

CHW GROUP INC. d/b/a CHOICE HOME WARRANTY; VICTOR MANDALAWI; VICTOR HAKIM; DAVID SERUYA; JANE AND JOHN DOES 1-20, individually and as officers, directors, shareholders, founders, owners, managers, agents, servants, employees, representatives, sales representatives and/or independent contractors of CHW GROUP, INC. d/b/a CHOICE HOME WARRANTY; and XYZ CORPORATIONS 1-20,

FINAL CONSENT JUDGMENT

Defendants.

The Parties to this Action and Final Consent Judgment ("Consent Judgment") are plaintiffs John J. Hoffman, Acting Attorney General of the State of New Jersey ("Attorney General"), and Steve C. Lee, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs ("Director") (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), and defendants CHW Group Inc. d/b/a Choice Home

Warranty ("CHW"), Victor Mandalawi ("Mandalawi"), Victor Hakim ("Hakim") and David Seruya ("Seruya") (collectively, "Defendants"). As evidenced by their signatures below, the Parties do consent to the entry of this Consent Judgment and its provisions without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and without an admission of any liability or wrongdoing of any kind. The Parties consent to entry of this Consent Judgment to avoid the expenses and uncertainty associated with further investigation and/or litigation.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiffs commenced this Action on July 22, 2014, alleging that Defendants violated the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq. ("CFA"), and the Regulations Governing General Advertising, N.J.A.C. 13:45A-9.1 et seq. ("Advertising Regulations"), arising from their Advertisement, offer for Sale and Sale of RSCs. Defendants have denied the allegations.

The Court has reviewed the terms of this Consent Judgment and based upon the Parties' agreement and for good cause shown:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. JURISDICTION

1.1 The Parties admit jurisdiction of this Court over the subject matter and over the Parties for the purpose of entering into this Consent Judgment. The Court retains jurisdiction for the purpose of enabling the Parties to apply to the Court at any time for such further orders and relief as may be necessary for the construction, modification, enforcement, execution or satisfaction of this Consent Judgment.

2. <u>VENUE</u>

2.1 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 56:8-8, venue as to all matters between the Parties hereto

relating to or arising out of this Consent Judgment will lie exclusively in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

3.1 This Consent Judgment is effective on the date that it is entered with the Court ("Effective Date").

4. **DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Consent Judgment, the following capitalized words or terms have the following meanings, which meanings apply wherever the words and terms appear in this Consent Judgment.

- 4.1 "AAA" refers to the American Arbitration Association.
- 4.2 "Action" refers to the matter titled John J. Hoffman, Acting Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, and Steve C. Lee, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs v. CHW Group, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi, Victor Hakim, and David Seruya, Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, Docket No. MID-C-135-14, and all pleadings and proceedings related thereto, Including the Complaint, filed July 22, 2014.
- 4.3 "Additional Consumer" refers to any Consumer who submits to the Division, directly or through another agency, after the Effective Date, a complaint concerning CHW's business practices.
 - 4.4 "ADR Unit" refers to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit of the Division.
- 4.5 "Advertisement" is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(c). For purposes of the Advertising Regulations, "Advertisement" shall be defined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:45A-9.1. These definitions apply to other forms of the word "Advertisement," Including

"Advertise[s]" and "Advertised."

- 4.6 "Attorney General" refers to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey and the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.
- 4.7 "CHW Advertisements" refers to CHW's Advertisements, Including the CHW Booklet, CHW Commercial Advertisements, CHW Email Advertisements and CHW Website.
- 4.8 "CHW Booklet" refers to the booklet CHW mails to Consumers who purchase RSCs, which includes the RSC.
- 4.9 "CHW Commercial Advertisements" refers to commercials posted by CHW at www.youtube.com.
- 4.10 "CHW Email Advertisements" refers to emails sent by CHW to Consumers Advertising and offering for Sale RSCs.
- 4.11 "CHW Website" refers to the website located at www.choicehomewarranty.com, as well as any other website owned or controlled by CHW through which RSCs are Advertised, offered for Sale and/or sold, Including www.choicehomeaz.com; www.choicehomeuv.com; www.choicehomeuv.com; www.choicehomewarranty.biz; www.choicehomewarranty.info; www.choicehomewarranty.me; www.choicehomewarranty.mobi; www.choicehomewarranty.net; www.choicehomewarranty.org; www.chwplan.com; and www.warrantymyhome.com.
- 4.12 "Claims Agent" refers to any employee of CHW or any Person acting or purporting to act on its behalf, engaged in the evaluation of Consumers' claims arising under RSCs.
- 4.13 "Clearly and Conspicuously" means a statement that, regardless of the medium in which it is made, is presented in such size, color, contrast, duration, location and audibility, compared to the other information with which it is presented, that it is readily apparent and

understandable and in language and terms used in accordance with their common or ordinary usage and meaning.

- 4.14 "Consumer" refers to any Person who is offered Merchandise for Sale.
- 4.15 "Diagnosis Form" refers to the form, whether electronic or otherwise, through which Claim Agents, or any other of CHW's employees or any other Person acting or purporting to act on CHW's behalf, memorialize a technician's diagnosis of a failure to a Consumer's home system or appliance.
- 4.16 "Division" or "Division of Consumer Affairs" refers to the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.
- 4.17 "Including" is construed as broadly as possible and shall mean "without limitation." This definition applies to other forms of the word "Including" such as "Include" and "Included."
- 4.18 "Merchandise" is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(c) and shall Include RSCs.
 - 4.19 "New Jersey" and "State" refers to the State of New Jersey.
 - 4.20 "Person[s]" is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(d).
- 4.21 "Represent" means to state or imply through claims, statements, questions, conduct, graphics, symbols, lettering, formats, devices, language, documents, messages or any other manner or means by which meaning might be conveyed.
- 4.22 "Restitution" refers to all methods undertaken by CHW to resolve Additional Consumer complaints, Including the issuance of refund checks or other payments.
 - 4.23 "RSC" refers to CHW's residential Service Contract.
 - 4.24 "Sale" is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(e).

- 4.25 "Sales Representative" refers to any employee of CHW, or any Person acting or purporting to act on its behalf, engaged in the Advertisement, offer for Sale or Sale of RSCs.
 - 4.26 "Service Contract" is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:12-87.
- 4.27 "Service Contracts Act" refers to the Act Concerning Service Contracts, N.J.S.A. 56:12-87 et seq.
 - 4.28 "Warranty" is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 56:12-87.

5. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND REQUIRED BUSINESS PRACTICES AS TO</u> <u>CHW, MANDALAWI AND HAKIM</u>

5.1 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not engage in any unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business in the State and shall comply with such State laws, rules and regulations as now constituted, Including the CFA, the Advertising Regulations and the Service Contracts Act.

Advertisement and Offer for Sale of RSCs:

- 5.2 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Clearly and Conspicuously disclose that CHW offers for Sale and/or sells Service Contracts, which are not Warranties.
- 5.3 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Represent that Consumers who purchase RSCs will never pay for repairs to home systems or appliances.
- 5.4 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Represent that Consumers who purchase RSCs will be assigned technicians to service their claims, unless they are able to assign technicians to service Consumers' claims.
- 5.5 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and/or Hakim shall not Represent that technicians will be assigned to a Consumer's claim and/or dispatched to a Consumer's residence within a specified time period (e.g. within two (2) days).

- 5.6 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Represent that Consumers who purchase RSCs will have their home systems and/or appliances replaced, unless they Clearly and Conspicuously disclose, in close proximity to such Representations, that CHW reserves the right to make payment to Consumers in lieu of replacing their home systems or appliances, and that, in the event that CHW makes such payment, CHW will provide written notification to Consumers of the basis for the amount of the payment.
- 5.7 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Clearly and Conspicuously disclose that CHW reserves the right to make payment to Consumers in lieu of replacing their home systems or appliances.
- 5.8 In the CHW Advertisements, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Clearly and Conspicuously disclose any limitations of liability and/or exclusions from coverage under the terms and conditions of the RSC.
- 5.9 In the CHW Website, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Include a section concerning Consumers' maintenance of their home systems and appliances, which shall Include a statement that CHW has the right to request "maintenance records" and/or similar documents from Consumers under certain circumstances.

Sales Representatives:

- 5.10 Sales Representatives shall not make any false or misleading statements to induce Consumers to purchase RSCs.
- 5.11 Sales Representatives shall not misrepresent to Consumers the terms and conditions of the RSC.

- 5.12 Sales Representatives shall not Represent to Consumers that CHW will assign technicians to service their claims, unless CHW is able to assign technicians to service Consumers' claims.
- 5.13 Sales Representatives shall disclose that CHW reserves the right to make payment to Consumers in lieu of replacing their home systems or appliances.
- 5.14 Sales Representatives shall disclose that CHW has the right to require Consumers to submit "maintenance records" and/or other similar documents under certain circumstances.

Terms and Conditions of the RSC:

- 5.15 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Clearly and Conspicuously disclose in the terms and conditions of the RSC any limitation of liability and/or exclusion from coverage.
- 5.16 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Include in the RSC any statement that CHW will arrange for technicians to service a Consumers' claims, unless CHW is able to arrange for technicians to service Consumers' claims.
- 5.17 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Include in the RSC any statement that technicians will be assigned to service Consumer's claim and/or dispatched to Consumers' residences within a specified time period (e.g. within two days), unless CHW is able to assign technicians to service Consumers' claims and/or dispatch technicians to Consumers' residences within the specified time period.
- 5.18 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Clearly and Conspicuously disclose in the terms and conditions of the RSC that CHW reserves the right to make payment to Consumers in lieu of replacing their home systems or appliances.
- 5.19 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Clearly and Conspicuously disclose in the terms and conditions of the RSC that CHW has the right to require Consumers to submit

"maintenance records" and/or other similar documents in the event that Consumers request that CHW review the denial of their claims.

- 5.20 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall Include in the terms and condition of the RSC that any informal resolution process of a Consumer's claim is voluntary and shall be concluded within twenty (20) days.
- 5.21 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Include in the terms and conditions of the RSC any references to arbitration before the AAA, unless CHW is in good standing with the AAA.
- 5.22 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not Include in the terms and conditions of the RSC any reference to any limitation on liability that contradicts applicable New Jersey Consumer protection laws, particularly as to Consumers' rights to recovery.
- 5.23 To the extent that any of the above-referenced provisions require changes in the terms and conditions of the existing RSC, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall make such changes within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date.

Assignment of Technicians:

- 5.24 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall ensure, to the best of their knowledge based upon their diligent and good faith inquiries, that any technician they assign to service a Consumer's claim possesses all requisite licenses, registrations and insurance.
- 5.25 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall ensure that any technician they assign to service a Consumer's claim, to the best of their knowledge based on their diligent and good faith inquiries, is available and able to service such claim.

Evaluation of Claims:

- 5.26 In CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim's initial evaluation of Consumers' claims, they shall not request "maintenance records" or other similar documents from Consumers.
- 5.27 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall not deny a Consumer's claim upon a basis not set forth in the RSC.
- 5.28 At the time a Claims Agent orally denies a Consumer's claim, the Claims Agent shall inform the Consumer that he/she has the right to request a written denial from CHW, which shall be provided to him/her in fifteen (15) days of receiving the request for a written denial.
 - 5.29 The written denial shall Include:
 - (a) the technician's diagnosis of the home system or appliance, as demonstrated by any available supporting documents, whether electronic or otherwise, Including the Diagnosis Form;
 - (b) CHW's basis for the denial under the RSC; and
 - (c) notification that the Consumer may send a written request for CHW to review the denial, along with a list of required documents (<u>i.e.</u> "maintenance records") that must be sent with such a request.
- 5.30 Within thirty (30) days of receiving a Consumer's written request to review a denial, CHW shall provide written notification to the Consumer of the results of its review, which shall Include the basis for its decision and any supporting documents.
- 5.31 In the event a Consumer disputes the results of CHW's review, CHW shall orally inform the Consumer that he/she may submit a complaint to the Division, which will be referred to arbitration with the ADR Unit, in accordance with Section 7.

Payment to Technicians:

5.32 In the event that a Consumer notifies CHW, orally or in writing, that a technician is directly seeking payment from him/her, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall make payment to the technician of the approved amount within thirty (30) days.

Payment in Lieu of Replacement:

- 5.33 In the event CHW, Mandalawi and/or Hakim makes payment to a Consumer in lieu of replacing his/her home system or appliance, CHW, Mandalawi and/or Hakim shall provide the Consumer with written notification of payment, which shall Include CHW's basis for the amount provided as payment in lieu of replacement of the home system or appliance.
- 5.34 Within thirty (30) days of providing the Consumer with written notification of payment, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall provide the Consumer with such payment in the same manner in which the Consumer purchased the RSC or by check, at the election of the Consumer.

Refunds:

- 5.35 In the event that CHW, Mandalawi and/or Hakim cancel a RSC, at the time of such cancellation, they shall provide the Consumer with written notification of the cancellation, which shall Include the amount of any refund due to the Consumer.
- 5.36 Within thirty (30) days of providing the Consumer with written notification of the cancellation, CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim shall provide any refund due in the same manner in which the Consumer purchased the RSC or by check, at the election of the Consumer.

Written Notification:

5.37 CHW, Mandalawi and Hakim may provide the written notifications to Consumers required under Sections 5.28, 5.30, 5.33, 5.35 by electronic transmission.

Training of Sales Representatives and Claims Agents:

5.38 CHW, Mandalawi and/or Hakim shall develop training materials to ensure that their Sales Representatives and Claims Agents are familiar with the terms of this Consent