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· .	COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
	In the matter of:
	Bronne ( and Brid
· · .	BARBARA CURTIN BORG
• •	COMPLAINANI 2001-345
	VS.
	VERIZON WIRELESS
	(Name of Utility) ) DEFENDANT )
	COMPLAINT
· ·	The complaint of respectfully shows: (Your Full Name)
	Russian Car Rac
· .	(a) <u>QARBARA (URTIN DOK6</u> (Your Full Name)
	620 TALLY RD LEXINGTON KY 40502
	(Your Address)
	(h) VERIZON WIRELESS
:	(Name of Utility)
· .	ST75 FATERALD PARK WAY JUBLIN OH 43017
· ·	( In alloched Constand)
	(c) That:
	the specific act, fully and clearly, or facts that are the reason
	and basis for the complaint)
	Continued on Next Page
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

## Fermal Complaint

\_\_\_\_\_VS.

# Page 2 of 2

Wherefore, complainant asks

(Specifically state the relief desired.)

Dated at <u>f. M(M) (Your City)</u>, Kentucky, this <u>// M</u> day

of \_\_\_\_\_(<u>/(\_\_\_\_</u>\_\_ (Month)

(Your Signature)

(Name and address of attorney, If ariy)

## COMPLAINT

Complainant states that Verizon Wireless has repeatedly billed her \$175 for "Penalties" in violation of the both its own written contract and the Kentucky Statute of Frauds, which she fears will adversely affect her credit rating it not paid. A copy of that bill is attached as Exhibit A.

Complainant had one cellular line with Verizon for ten years, and added a second line for her son five years ago. Always paying her bill upon receipt, she discontinued her service with Verizon in the spring of 2001 in order to switch to a smaller cellphone not offerred by them. Cancellation of her service was not a problem, but Verizon has fought cancellation of her son's line, imposing penalties in the amount of \$175 (which she has not paid).

During the five years of his service with Verizon, when newspaper ads offerred a new feature to the public at her son's minutes/price level, or when her son's minutes needed to be expanded, Complainant would call Verizon and request that the advertized feature be added or his minutes expanded; it was never a problem until the spring of 2001. When she called on March 7, 2001 to request the advertized feature of unlimited mobile-to-mobile minutes (same minutes/price level as his then current service), she was told something like, "You'll have to have a contract." She responded, "That's fine", thinking that her current contract with Verizon satisfied that requirement. She believed that she had reached an inexperienced employee who merely misunderstood the situation, and that she could only be bound by a document that she had signed because no "contract" had ever been mentioned when she called before to add a feature or change his number of minutes. In fact, when she asked, she had always been told that this would not extend her contract. She later dug out her contract signed on December 7, 1999, and believed that it had to control the dealings between the parties, or else her law school education was for naught. She had been taught that a written contract could only be superceded by another written contract; therefore, the Verizon representative must be unaware of her current contract with Verizon.

Her son planned to do a summer internship in Los Angelos in the summer of 2001, and she did not want to pay for his\_unuscable service for these months. Verizon also did not really have a minutes/price increment that worked well for his deliphone needs since he no longer had a land line. When she later called Verizon (in March or April of 2001) to discuss discontinuing his service at the beginning of the summer, she was told that adding the mobile-to-mobile feature (just weeks earlier) added a year onto some existing year's contract Verizon thought they already had with her (of which she was unaware). She was told that his service could not be cancelled until December of 2002, more than twenty months from them! This was the first time any Verizon representative had ever discussed a specific contract ending date with her.

Verizon's edict was in violation of the Kentucky Statute of Frauds, as woll as any notion of fair dealing. Any contract that is not to be performed in one

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year must be in writing. When she tried to argue with Verizon representatives, she was told, "You're not trying to work this out." Months later, only after she discontinued the service and when it was too late to do anything about it, Verizon claimed that she only had to fulfill her contract through April of 2002.

The only contract with Verizon that Complainant knew of is the one signed on December 7, 1999, when she purchased a new Qualcomm 860 for her son. This contract was for one year, and states that it would continue on a month-tomonth basis at the expiration of the original contract. A copy of that contract is attached as an exhibit to a letter Complainant sent by certified mail to the Administration Department of Verizon Wireless on May 14, 2001. With this letter, she hoped to accomplish an agreeable discontinuation of service, giving them a thirty day advance notice of the cessation of service date. In that letter, she said what she intended to do and requested a response before 5-29-04. It also said that if no response were received, she would assume this was agreeable with Verizon.

This was actually the second time she had informed Verizon by certified mail of the intended discontinuation of her son's line, also informing them two months in advance when she discontinued service for her line. No response was received from Verizon either time, although she has signed receipts from the Administration Department for Verizon Wireless in Alpharetta, Georgia for both letters. Attached as Exhibit B is a copy of her May 14, 2001 letter with its exhibits.

### RELIEF REQUESTED

Because Complainant believes that Verizon's policy violates both her written contract and the Kentucky Statute of Frauds, she files this Complaint. Orally locking customers into contract extensions on top of contract extensions without explaining that it intends to run the contracts consecutively instead of concurrently is unfair and overreaching. The customer should be given notice of Verizon's specific intended contract end date. She seeks relief for both herooif and countless others who may not be as informed of their legal rights.

It is also not right to attempt to hold customers to longer and tonger verbal contracts without requiring a signature before changing the terms of the contract; it simply does not convey the import of the seriousness of requesting a mere change in a feature. If Verizon intends to lock people into contracts longer than one year, it should be required to either mail the customer a contract to sign (which one could read to consider the seriousness of signing up for additional service) or require that customer to come into a Verizon office to sign a new contract before activating the new feature.

Complainant requested at several levels that Verizon representatives check with their attorneys to team that any contract that is not to be performed in one year must be in writing to be enforceable. She even threatened to file a class action if necessary to establish that what Verizon was attempting to do is not right. On June 20, 2001, a representative of the Public Service Commission prepared a PSC consumer complaint on her behalf (Number 20012623 - a copy is attached as Exhibit C), but Verizon has failed to correct the "Penalties" charge.

Verizon should be estopped from attempting to lock customers in to longer and longer oral contracts without the requirement of a writing. Her "Penalties" and those of any other simularly situated customers should be erased, so that credit records are not destroyed by this unfair and overbearing practice. Complainant requests that Verizon be forced to obey the laws of the Commonwealth, and be bound by the terms of its own written contract.



BARBARA C. SORG

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Page 4 of.7 June 25, 2001

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EXHIBIT A

### claimemaii2 : 07/31/2001

PSC Consumer Complaint Sent: 07/31/

Complaint Number: 20012623 Date Complaint Entered: 06/20/2001

Customer Information

Name : Borg. Barbara

Address :

620 Talley Rd.

Lexington, KY 40502 County Fayette Home Phone:

Work Phone: (502)564-7348

Customer can be reached at : Fax :

Complaint Reason : Rates/Policies (Ubjects to utility policy/practices) Email: -

Customer Relations : Failed To Correct Problem Utility Information for Verizon Wireless

Contact . Gharon Harris

Fax Number : E-Mail :

Investigator : RHODY\_M

Customer says that she orginally signed a contract with Verizon for cellular service in 12/99 which was to last for one year. Customer says that she contacted Verizon to add another feature to her phone two months ago. Customer says she recently contacted Verizon to cancel service and was told her contract was extended to 12/02 since another feature was added. Customer says that she never signed a contract that extended the service. Customer wants

Page 1

# EXHIBIT B

# claimemail2

Verizon to cancel her cellular service and to not charge her a penalty for breach of rontract. Customer's cellular numbers are

Page 2

May 11, 2001

Administration Department Verizon Wireless One Verizon Wireless Place Alpharetta GA 30004

Re: Discontinuation of service for

(my son's phone)

Dear Verizon,

I shall terminate service for the above number as of 6-12-01. My son will travel . out of the country and work in Los Angelos this summer, so he won't need it.

I bought his Qualcomm 000 in December of 1090. A copy of that contract for a year of service, which does not even appear to be signed by me, is attached. At the end of the year, paragraph 5 calls for service to continue on a month-tomonth basis. When I saw ads in the paper with a new feature or more minutes at my son's price level, I would call and ask for it to be added, saying it would be unfair to give new customers a better deal than old customers, which is so true.

A March Verizon ad (copy attached) offerred 400 peak minutes, 1,000 night and weekend minutes, free long distance, and added 1,000 mobile to mobile minutes as a new feature at his rate of \$35 a month. I called to add the mobile-to-mobile minutes and was told it would require a contract, and I said okay.

When I checked his contract ond date, I was told 12/02. I argued that it could not extend past a year from when I added the new feature. Both the ad and your agent stated that a contract was required; since I already had one, I assumed that the requirement of a contract really just applied to new customers. I haven't cigned any documents cince December of 1999, so I don't see how Verizon considers anyone bound by a contract (which by your terms will last longer than a year) by oral statements that were ambiguous at best (that a contract was required and my okay since I already had one). The failure of your agent to say this would add a year onto some contract Verizon already thought it had with me (and that the contracts would run consecutively instead of concurrently) left me with the impression that if I already had a contract, that was satisfactory.

You cannot change the terms of your own contract. No oral statement can override it; only another written contract can change its terms. As a lawyer, I know that any contract that by its terms will extend beyond a year must be in writing; this law is called the Statute of Frauds. A copy of Kentucky's Statute of Frauds is attached. Your attempt to erally lock people into contracts that extend longer is unfair, overreaching, and legally unenforceable. This response to the competition in the current wireless market will not increase your desirability as a service provider.

FXHIBIT C

Any attempt (including billing, use of a collection agency, or an adverse credit report) to collect any sum Verizon sees as due on my "contract" after cessation will result in my reporting Verizon to the Better Business Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Service Commission (with whom I have already spoken), and the Attorney General, and may even result in a class action suit against you. Unless I receive a response before 5-29-01, I shall assume that this is satisfactory.

called to cancel settled 6-14-6

Barbara Borg 620 Tally Road Lexington KY 40502

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General Terms and Conditions 12. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: CARRIER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE 13. CUSTOMER FOR INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE, LOSS OF DATA INTERCEPTION OF ANY CELLULAR TRANSMISSION, OMISSIONS OR ERRORS OF THIRD PARTIES, EQUIPMENT FAILURES, ACTS OF COO, STRIKES, COVERNMENT ACTIONS, OR OTHER CAUSES BUILDED CARRIER'S REASONABLE CONTROL. CARRIER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE IF CHANGES IN OPERATIONS, PROCEDURES, OR BUILDED CARRIER'S REASONABLE CONTROL. CARRIER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE IF CHANGES IN OPERATIONS, PROCEDURES, OR BUILDED CONTROL. CARRIER'S ALL BUILDED CONTROL OF ALL BE NO REDUCTIONS, SETOFFS OR BUILDED CONSECUTIVE HOURS CARRIER SHALL BUILDED CARRIER OF THE SERVICE INTERRUPTION CARRIER BUILDED CARRIER OF THE SERVICE INTERRUPTION CARRIER BUILDED CARRIER OF THE SERVICE INTERRUPTION CARRIER BUILDED CARRIER OF THE SERVICE ON SOME BUILDED THE BUILDED CARRIER OF THE SERVICE ON SOME

SERVICE THIS LIMITATION OF LIABILITY APPLIES TO ALL GAUGES OF ACTION. 13. CUSTOMER INDEMNITY: CUSTOMER AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, HOLDTHARMLESS, AND DEFEND CARRIER AGAINST ANY CLAIMS RELATING TO CUSTOMER'S MISUSE OF SERVICE OR EOUIPMENT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. CUSTOMER AGREES TO REIMBURSE CARRIER FOR ANY AND ALL COSTS AND REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES INCURRED BY CARRIER IN DEFENDING ANY CLAIMS RELATING TO CUSTOMER'S MISUSE OF SERVICE OR EOUIDMENT QUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT, 14. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES: CARRIER IS NOT THE MANUFACTURER OF ANY EQUIPMENT OR ANCILLARY PRODUCTS SOLD OR RENTED UNDER THE AGREEMENT, CARRIER MAKES NO WARRANTY REGARDING MANUFACTURER'S EQUIPMENT, AND NO PERSON IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY SUCH WARRANTIES ON CARRIER'S BEHALF. CARRIER MAKES NO WARRANTIES ON PURPOSE OR USE, WARRANTIES OF MARCHANTABILITY. WARRANTIES AGAINST INTERFERENCE, AND ANY OTHER WARRANTY IMPLIED BY LAW. NO STATEMENT REGARDING EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTS OR SERVICE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A WARRANTY.

Fig. Representation Constraint Law and Severability. The provision of Service under this Agreement is regulated by the FCC. (In Provision Constraints) is regulated by the FCC. (In Provision Constraints) is required to the provision of Service under the Agreement that are received in a constraint. The provision of Service under the Agreement is required to the provision of Service under the Agreement that are received to any the Agreement is required to the provision of Service under the Agreement that are received and the Service under the Agreement that are received and the Service under the Agreement are constraint of the Service and the Ser emain valid and enforceable.

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16. <u>Provence of Services</u>: Complete privacy of Customer's conversations while using a cellular telephone system canon de guaranteed. Customer consents to Campite privacy of Customer's conversations, and the customer's guaranteed.
17. <u>Unauthorized Usance</u>: "If Customer's cellular telephone is fact, stolen, or derwer from Guality assurance.
18. <u>Invance of the cellular telephone number assigned to campite privacy and an end without Customer's generations of the cellular telephone is fact, stolen, or derwer from Guality assurance.
19. USIDITIER matrix neuro cellular telephone harmour telephone is fact, stolen, or derwer for Guality assurance approach to customer's generative and without Customer's perfitation.
19. USIDITIER matrix neuro cellular telephone harmour sequer's la hours of the cellular telephone is factomer to cellular telephone is been and telephone is been and without Customer's generative and and telephone is telephone is been and telephone is telephone is and attractive generative approach is telephone is been and telephone is an advected and telephone is telephone.</u> interphone number was insudurendly used without fault or authorization of Customer, and Customer notified Carner of the loss. Heppone number was inpudviendly used wilbout fault or authorization of Qustomer, and Qustomer holded Curren of the loss, their or haudviend, usage within forty-sight (48) hours, Carrier will not churge Oustomer for such usage. As part of Carrier's interstigibility, Customer such usage. As part of Carrier's applies, or tow enforcements againstes to call any technine netrolers that Eustromer super carled without Qustomer's participation of the which Qustomer such carrier's against or tow enforcements againstes to call any technine netrolers that Eustromer space with Carrier's against or tow enforcements againstes to call any technine netrolers that Eustromer space with Carrier's against or tow enforcements againstes to call any technine for current space area down Carrier's carrier's against or tow enforcements againstes to call any technine for the technine netrolers that Eustromer space with Carrier's against and take created without Qustomer's participation and take created without a Carrier's account at the former to take the space of the technine time to carrier to the technine of the technine take the space of the technine for the technine automore and take created against at the participation of the technine against or tow environment account at the former towned current and the carrier of the carrier of the technine for the technine automore account at the carrier of account of the technine automore account and the carrier of the technine automore account at the carrier of the carrier of

when under una experiment. T<u>ransfer (Assemment, Assignment):</u> Customer may not transfer or assign this Agreentent, either in whois or in yar, st as autorizated in writing by Cather. Cartier may assign this Agreentent and as of its rights and oakes under this and 19. ພາໄສສະສິສ

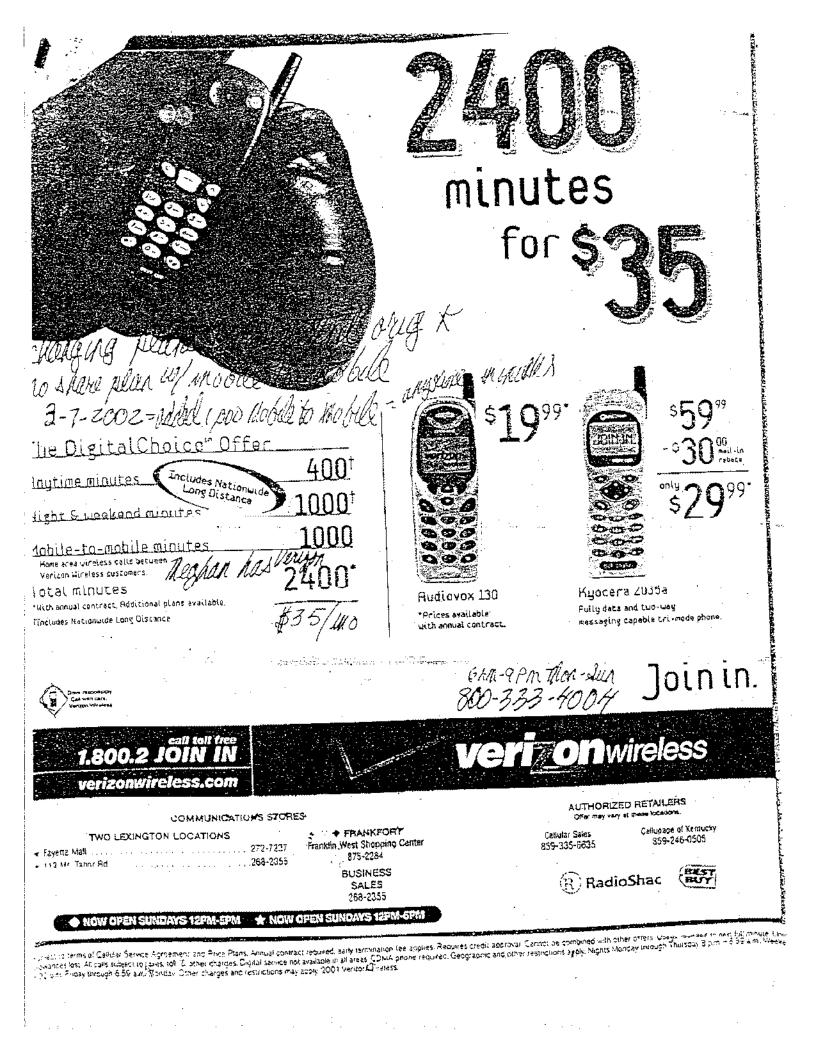
Automation. 201. <u>Rate Plan and Account Transfer Fras:</u> Subject to Carrier's approval and any applicable fees. Customer may strange to amptive Carrier rate plan their in affect at the end of any billing period. Customer is advoced that same spend for Carrier disc impose fees for transferring Customer to another (ate plan. These fees are separate from any fees required by Carrier dse impose uses to working convol-

<u>SUDDED</u>, General in a second intervention (Inclusion as Construct's log) Append Solders. <u>RODEWSING</u> (Second Solders of Second Solders and Solders of any other riate,

23. <u>313 Conservance, Services</u>: Customer advance equal that when calling \$11 Smarqency Services, Customer's location will not be known automatically by the operator anyweight the \$11 call. Customer must provide the operator specific information identifying the Customer's location.

anormation wentiging the classifiers a location. 24. TTTTDD One to restrict a comparison of classifier classofier canool use a Tereconstruction Benes for one Deal (TTVTDD) to call pitt with a digital writers phone. 24. <u>Expandence accompany</u> to any single consummer a net signed by Costomer, discement or research of sails by Customer 24. <u>Characterized accompany</u> to any single consume classifiers a Scottance of the cations are serviced as the consumer and the

Appearitorit. 26. <u>Entrine Agreements</u> The terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement represent the entire agreement begins and respect to Service provided by Carner, and this Agreement supersetted as any plor of contemporaneous representations of safety representations of safety representations of safety representations of other terms or contemporaneous and the Agreement be agreed as any plor of contemporaneous representations of safety representations of safety representations of safety representations of safety representations of other terms or contemporaneous and the Agreement Cas seen autoprotect and no such change with be valid or entorcable withers confirmed in writing by an officer of GTE.



#### 371.010

### CONTRACTS

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#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 371.010. Statute of frauds - Contracts to be written.

No action shall be brought to sharge any parson;

- (1) For any representation or assurance concerning the character, conduct, so credit, ability, trade, or dealings of another, made with intent that such other may obtain thereby credit, money, or goods;
- (2) Upon any promise to pay a debt contracted during infancy, or any ratification of a contract or promise made during infancy;
- (3) Upon any promise of a personal representative as such to answer any liability of his decedent out of his own estate;
- (4) Upon any promise to answer for the debt, default, or misdoing of another;
- Upon any agreement made in consideration of marriage, except mutual promises to marry;
- (6) Upon any contract for the sale of real estate, or any lease thereof for longer than one year;
- (7) Upon any agreement that is not to be performed within one year from the making thereof.
- (8) Upon any promise, agreement, or contract for any commissi n'or compensation for the sale or lease of any real estate or for assistings another in the sale or lease of any real estate; or
- (9) Upon any promise, contract, agreement, undertaking, or commitment to loan money, to grant, extend, or renew credit, or make any financial accommodation to establish or assist a business enterprise of an existing business enterprise including, but not limited to the purchase of realty or real property, but this subsection shall not apply to agreements pursuant to which credit is extended by means of a credit card-or similar device, or to consumer credit transactions;
  - unless the promise, contract, agreement, representation, assurance, or ratification, or some memorandum or note thereof, be in writing and signed by the party to be charged therewith, or by his authorized agenus. It shall not be necessary to express the consideration in the writing, but it may be proved when necessary or disproved by parol or other evidence.

(470: amend. Acts 1950, ch. 174; 1990, ch. 259, § 1, effective July 13, 1990)

Cross-References. Assignment by tenant invalid unless landlord gives written consent, KRS 383.180.

Conveyance for over five years or marriage agreement to be acknowledged or recorded, KRS 382.080.

Landlord and tenant, recovery on oral contract between, KRS 383.090.

Law impairing obligation of contract forbidden, Const., § 19.

Lessee's agreement to erect similar buildings to be in writing, KRS 383.170.

Mortgage, release, or waiver of exemption to be in writing, KRS 427,100.

Writing required to be signed must be signed at end, KRS \$46.060.

Kentucky Law Journal Hall, Rights of a Teacher in the Fullic Schools Whon School Is Chosed, 25 Ky, LJ. 261 (1937).

Ferguson, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings in Kentucky Other than for Judg ment Notwithstanding the Verdict, 25, KV (2014) L.J. 263 (1938).

Pauming, Some Observations of the Strain Called Doctrine of Mutual Remedy and its Application in Kentucky, 26 Ky: L.J. 129 (1938).

Gilbert, Conveyances - Validity of Parol Agreements as to Determinable Boundary Linus, 27 Kp. L.J. 340 (1939).

Evans, "The First Words in a Deed and the Last in a Will Prevail" or "Testamentary Re-