

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE JOHNSON COUNTY SUPERIOR/CIRCUIT COURT

CAUSE NO. _____

STATE OF INDIANA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JB BUGS TRICK & TRUCK SHOP
LLC,

and

PALM PRINCIPLES LLC, operating
under the assumed business name JB
BUGS TRICK TRUCK N ROD OF
INDY,

and

JOHN BRAGG, doing business as JB
BUGS TRICK & TRUCK SHOP LLC
and PALM PRINCIPLES LLC,

and

MELANIE GOODE, doing business as
JB BUGS TRICK & TRUCK SHOP
LLC and PALM PRINCIPLES LLC,

Defendants.

**COMPLAINT
FOR INJUNCTION,
RESTITUTION, CIVIL
PENALTIES, AND COSTS**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The State of Indiana, by Attorney General Theodore E. Rokita and Deputy Attorney General Mark M. Snodgrass, commences this civil action under the

Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, Indiana Code § 24-5-0.5-1 *et seq.*, for injunctive relief, consumer restitution, civil penalties, costs, and other relief.

2. The individual defendants, John Bragg and Melanie Goode, owned and operated a vehicle restoration business operating under the names JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principles LLC. The Defendants represented to consumers that the Defendants would restore the consumers' vehicles. The Defendants accepted over \$227,000.00 from 19 consumers and took possession of vehicles from the consumers. The Defendants failed to restore the vehicles, failed to return the vehicles to the consumers, and failed to refund any of the monies paid by the consumers. The Defendants' misrepresentations and actions are unfair, abusive, and deceptive, and constitute violations of Indiana's Deceptive Consumer Sales Act.

II. PARTIES

3. The plaintiff, the State of Indiana, is authorized to bring this action and to seek injunctive and other statutory relief under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(c).
4. Defendant, JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC, is an Indiana limited liability company engaged in the restoration of consumer vehicles, with a principal place of business in Johnson County, formerly located at 1751 E. 500 N., Whiteland, Indiana 46184.
5. Defendant, Palm Principles LLC, operating under the assumed business name JB Bugs Trick Truck N Rod of Indy, is an Indiana limited liability company engaged in the restoration of consumer vehicles, with a principal

place of business in Johnson County, formerly located at 1751 E. 500 N., Whiteland, Indiana 46184.

6. Defendant, John Bragg, is an individual engaged in the restoration of consumer vehicles under the business names JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principles LLC, with a principal place of business in Johnson County, formerly located at 1751 E. 500 N., Whiteland, Indiana 46184.
7. Defendant, Melanie Goode, is an individual engaged in the restoration of consumer vehicles under the business names JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principles LLC, with a principal place of business in Johnson County, formerly located at 1751 E. 500 N., Whiteland, Indiana 46184.
8. John Bragg and Melanie Goode controlled and directed the affairs of JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principles LLC at the time of the transactions identified in this Complaint and were active in their management and operation, including its advertising, sales, and other practices. John Bragg and Melanie Goode personally made the representations identified in this Complaint. John Bragg and Melanie Goode used JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principles LLC to deceive Indiana consumers.
9. JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC, Palm Principles LLC, John Bragg and Melanie Goode will collectively be referred to as “JB Bugs” throughout this Complaint, unless otherwise individually referenced.

III. FACTS

10. JB Bugs ran a vehicle restoration business purporting to specialize in older vehicles, specifically in restoring older Volkswagen vehicles.
11. On the respective dates below, the following consumers paid JB Bugs to restore their respective vehicles, turned the vehicles over to JB Bugs, and paid JB Bugs the following amounts:

<u>Consumer</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Date of Sale</u>
11.1. Kevin Caldwell	\$26,800.00	3/21/22
11.2. Darci Bell	\$14,000.00	8/20/21
11.3. Louis Robertson	\$2,875.00	1/31/22
11.4. Daniel Reed	\$8,000.00	5/10/20
11.5. Alec Martins	\$12,500.00	4/14/22
11.6. Sarahmarie Clark	\$5,000.00	2/20/22
11.7. Daniel Brooks	\$10,500.00	12/6/21
11.8. Tom & Ann Spots	\$7,500.00	11/3/21
11.9. Ramona Powers	\$5,000.00	9/1/21
11.10. William Stout	\$25,000.00	9/20/21
11.11. Danielle Vidaurre	\$8,500.00	8/5/21
11.12. Jeremy Wentz	\$5,500.00	2/7/22

<u>Consumer</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Date of Sale</u>
11.13. Roger Parks	\$7,500.00	10/17/20
11.14. Neil Spotts	\$13,000.00	3/1/22
11.15. Gerardo Martinez	\$28,000.00	10/20/21
11.16. Diane Kuhn	\$10,500.00	6/20/21
11.17. Carla Barrett	\$20,850.00	6/1/22
11.18. Steve Potter	\$15,000.00	5/1/20
11.19. Brian Barlow	\$1,700.00	9/1/21

12. JB Bugs represented to the consumers referenced in Paragraph 11 above that JB Bugs would complete restorations on each respective consumer's vehicle.
13. JB Bugs provided various updates to each respective consumer referenced in Paragraph 11, representing to each consumer that work was progressing on their vehicle.
14. The updates provided by JB Bugs to consumers were false as it appears JB Bugs was not performing work on the respective consumers' vehicles.
15. In 2022, JB Bugs ceased business operations.
16. JB Bugs failed to return many of the vehicles belonging to the respective consumers referenced in Paragraph 11 above.

17. JB Bugs failed to perform the work it contracted and represented it would perform for the consumers referenced in Paragraph 11 above.
18. JB Bugs failed to provide refunds to any of the consumers referenced in Paragraph 11 above.
19. JB Bugs knowingly committed the actions described in this Complaint.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I:

VIOLATIONS OF THE DECEPTIVE CONSUMER SALES ACT

20. The State realleges Paragraphs 1 through 21 of this Complaint.
21. JB Bugs regularly engages in “consumer transactions” under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-2(a)(1).
22. JB Bugs is a “supplier” under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-2(a)(3).
23. JB Bugs committed unfair and deceptive acts, omissions, and practices violating Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(a) by representing to consumers they would restore consumers’ vehicles and failing to restore the vehicles, return the vehicles or provide refunds to the consumers.
24. JB Bugs committed deceptive acts violating Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(b)(10) by representing they would restore consumers’ vehicles and failing to restore the vehicles within a stated or reasonable period of time.

COUNT II:

KNOWING VIOLATIONS OF THE DECEPTIVE CONSUMER SALES ACT

25. The State realleges Paragraphs 1 through 24 of this Complaint.

26. JB Bugs committed the unfair and deceptive acts asserted in this Complaint with knowledge of their unfair and deceptive acts, subjecting JB Bugs to penalties under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(g).

COUNT III:
INCURABLE DECEPTIVE ACTS

27. The State realleges Paragraphs 1 through 26 of this Complaint.

28. The unfair and deceptive acts asserted in this Complaint are incurable deceptive acts and were committed by JB Bugs as part of a scheme, artifice, or device with intent to defraud or mislead, subjecting JB Bugs to penalties under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-8.

V. RELIEF

29. The State requests the Court enter judgment against the Defendants, JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC, Palm Principles LLC, John Bragg and Melanie Goode, for the relief described in Paragraphs 30 through 37 of this Complaint.

30. The State seeks a permanent injunction, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(c)(1), enjoining John Bragg from owning a business based or operating in Indiana that engages in consumer transactions.

31. The State seeks a permanent injunction, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(c)(1), enjoining Melanie Goode from owning a business based or operating in Indiana that engages in consumer transactions.

32. The State seeks a permanent injunction, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(c)(1), enjoining both JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm Principles LLC from taking consumer deposits for work not yet performed.
33. The State seeks consumer restitution, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(c)(2), payable to the Office of the Attorney General, for the benefit of the consumers referenced in Paragraph 11 above, in the specific amounts identified.
34. The State seeks costs, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(c)(4), awarding the Office of the Attorney General its reasonable expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this action.
35. The State seeks civil penalties, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-4(g), on Count II of this Complaint, for JB Bugs' knowing violations of Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(a) and Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(b)(10), payable to the State of Indiana, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per violation.
36. The State seeks civil penalties, under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-8, on Count III of this Complaint, for JB Bugs' incurable deceptive acts, payable to the State of Indiana, in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per violation.
37. The State seeks all other just and proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /s/ Mark M. Snodgrass
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