

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
SAVANNAH DIVISION**

MARY YOUNG, )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

Civil Action No. 4:16-cv-286-WTM-GRS

JOHNSON & JOHNSON; )

JOHNSON & JOHNSON )

CONSUMER COMPANIES, INC.; )

IMERYS TALC AMERICA, INC. )

f/k/a LUZENAC AMERICA, INC.; )

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS )

COUNCIL f/k/a COSMETIC, )

TOILETRY, AND FRAGRANCE )

ASSOCIATION (CTFA); )

Defendants.

---

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

**COMES NOW** Mary Young, Plaintiff in the above-styled action, and files this her Complaint against Defendants Johnson & Johnson; Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc.; Imerys Talc America, Inc.; and the Personal Care Products Council, showing the following:

**I. PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. Plaintiff Mary Young is a citizen of the City of Pooler, State of Georgia. At all pertinent times, including from approximately 1995 until 2015, Plaintiff purchased and applied talcum powder in the State of Georgia. In or around September 2015,

Plaintiff was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, which developed in the State of Georgia. Plaintiff developed ovarian cancer, and suffered effects attendant thereto, as a direct and proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous and defective nature of talcum powder research, development, testing, manufacture, production, promotion, distribution, marketing, and Defendants' wrongful and negligent conduct in the sale of talcum powder. As a direct and proximate result of these injuries, Plaintiff has incurred and will incur medical expenses in the future, has endured and will endure pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life, and Plaintiff has otherwise been damaged in a personal and pecuniary nature.

2. Defendant Johnson & Johnson, is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey. Johnson & Johnson may be served with process through its registered agent, Steven M. Rosenberg, located at One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933.

3. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson was engaged in the business of manufacturing, marketing, testing, promoting, selling, and/or distributing Johnson & Johnson Baby Powder and Shower to Shower (hereafter "Products"). At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson regularly transacted, solicited, and conducted business in all States of the United States, including the State of Georgia.

4. Defendant Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey. Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. may be served with process through its agent,

Johnson & Johnson (Person in Charge), located at One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933.

5. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. was engaged in the business of manufacturing, marketing, testing, promoting, selling, and/or distributing the Products. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson regularly transacted, solicited, and conducted business in all States of the United States, including the State of Georgia.

6. Defendant Imerys Talc America, Inc., f/k/a Luzenac America, Inc. (hereafter “Imerys”) is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in the State of California. Imerys may be served with process through its registered agent, CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, located at 221 Bolivar Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

7. At all pertinent times, Defendant Imerys has been in the business of mining and distributing talcum powder for use in talcum powder based products, including the Products. Imerys Talc is the successor or continuation of Luzenac America, Inc., and Imerys Talc America, Inc. is legally responsible for all liabilities incurred when it was known as Luzenac America, Inc.

8. Defendant Personal Care Products Council f/k/a Cosmetic Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (CTFA) (hereafter “PCPC”) is a corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, with its principal place of business in the District of Columbia. PCPC is the successor or continuation of CTFA and PCPC is legally

responsible for all liabilities incurred when it was known as CTFA. PCPC may be served through its president and CEO, Leslee Westine, located at 1101 17th St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036-4702.

9. At all pertinent times, all Defendants were engaged in the research, development, manufacture, design, testing, sale and marketing of Products, and introduced such products into interstate commerce with knowledge and intent that such products be sold in the State of Georgia.

10. Venue is proper in this Court because Plaintiff was first exposed in the City of Pooler, State of Georgia, as this is where, at all pertinent times, she purchased, ingested, and was exposed to the product at issue.

## **II. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11. Talc is a magnesium trisilicate and is mined from the earth. Talc is an inorganic mineral. Defendant Imerys mined the talc contained in the Products.

12. Talc is the main substance in talcum powders. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants manufactured the Products. The Products are composed almost entirely of talc.

13. At all pertinent times, a feasible alternative to the Products has existed. Cornstarch is an organic carbohydrate that is quickly broken down by the body with no known health effects. Cornstarch powders have been sold and marketed for the same uses with nearly the same effectiveness.

14. Defendant Imerys has continually advertised and marketed talc as safe for human use.

15. Defendant Imerys supplies customers with material safety data sheets for talc. These material safety data sheets are supposed to convey adequate health and warning information to its customers.

16. Historically, “Johnson’s Baby Powder” has been a symbol of freshness, cleanliness, and purity. During the time in question, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants advertised and marketed this product as the beacon of “freshness” and “comfort”, eliminating friction on the skin, absorbing “excess wetness” helping skin feel dry and comfortable, and “clinically proven gentle and mild.” The Johnson & Johnson Defendants compelled women through advertisements to dust themselves with the Products to mask odors. The bottle of “Johnson’s Baby Powder” specifically targets women by stating, “For you, use every day to help feel soft, fresh, and comfortable.”

17. During the time in question, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants advertised and marketed the product “Shower to Shower” as safe for use by women as evidenced in its slogan “A sprinkle a day keeps odor away”, and through advertisements such as “Your body perspires in more places than just under your arms. Use SHOWER to SHOWER to feel dry, fresh, and comfortable throughout the day.” And “SHOWER to SHOWER can be used all over your body.”

18. The Plaintiff used the PRODUCTS to dust their perineum for feminine hygiene purposes. This was an intended and foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS based on the advertising, marketing, and labeling of the PRODUCTS.

19. In 1971, the first study was conducted that suggested an association between talc and ovarian cancer. This study was conducted by Dr. W.J. Henderson and others in Cardiff, Wales.

20. In 1982, the first epidemiologic study was performed on talc powder use in the female genital area. This study was conducted by Dr. Daniel Cramer and others. This study found a 92% increased risk in ovarian cancer with women who reported genital talc use. Shortly after this study was published, Dr. Bruce Semple of Johnson & Johnson came and visited Dr. Cramer about his study. Dr. Cramer advised Dr. Semple that Johnson & Johnson should place a warning on its talcum powders about the ovarian cancer risks so that women can make an informed decision about their health.

21. Since 1982, there have been approximately twenty-two (22) additional epidemiologic studies providing data regarding the association of talc and ovarian cancer. Nearly all of these studies have reported an elevated risk for ovarian cancer associated with genital talc use in women.

22. In 1993, the United States National Toxicology Program published a study on the toxicity of non-asbestiform talc and found clear evidence of carcinogenic activity. Talc was found to be a carcinogen, with or without the presence of asbestos-like fibers.

23. In response to United States National Toxicology Program's study, the

Cosmetic Toiletry and Fragrance Association (CTFA) formed the Talc Interested Party Task Force (TIPTF). Johnson & Johnson, Inc., Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. and Luzenac were members of the CTFA and were the primary actors and contributors of the TIPTF. The stated purpose of the TIPTF was to pool financial resources of these companies in an effort to collectively defend talc use at all costs and to prevent regulation of any type over this industry. The TIPTF hired scientists to perform biased research regarding the safety of talc, members of the TIPTF edited scientific reports of the scientists hired by this group prior the submission of these scientific reports to governmental agencies, members of the TIPTF knowingly released false information about the safety of talc to the consuming public, and used political and economic influence on regulatory bodies regarding talc. All of these activities have been well coordinated and planned by these companies and organizations over the past four (4) decades in an effort to prevent regulation of talc and to create confusion to the consuming public about the true hazards of talc relative to ovarian cancer.

24. On November 10, 1994, the Cancer Prevention Coalition mailed a letter to then Johnson & Johnson C.E.O., Ralph Larson, informing his company that studies as far back as the 1960s “. . . show[ ] conclusively that the frequent use of talcum powder in the genital area pose[ ] a serious health risk of ovarian cancer.” The letter cited a recent study by Dr. Bernard Harlow from Harvard Medical School confirming this fact and quoted a portion of the study where Dr. Harlow and his colleagues discouraged the use of talc in the female genital area. The letter further stated that 14,000 women per year die

from ovarian cancer and that this type of cancer is very difficult to detect and has a low survival rate. The letter concluded by requesting that Johnson & Johnson withdraw talc products from the market because of the alternative of cornstarch powders, or at a minimum, place warning information on its talc-based body powders about ovarian cancer risk they pose.

25. In 1996, the condom industry stopped dusting condoms with talc due to the health concerns of ovarian cancer.

26. In February of 2006, the International Association for the Research of Cancer (IARC) part of the World Health Organization published a paper whereby they classified perineal use of talc-based body powder as a “Group 2B” human carcinogen. IARC, which is universally accepted as the international authority on cancer issues, concluded that studies from around the world consistently found an increased risk of ovarian cancer in women from perineal use of talc. IARC found that between 16-52% of women in the world were using talc to dust their perineum and found an increased risk of ovarian cancer in women talc users ranging from 30-60%. IARC concluded with this this “Evaluation”: “There is limited evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of perineal use of talc-based body powder.” By definition “Limited evidence of carcinogenicity” means “a positive association has been observed between the exposure to the agent and cancer for which a causal interpretation is considered by the Working Group to be credible, but chance, bias or confounding could not be ruled out with reasonable confidence.”



27. In approximately 2006, the Canadian government under The Hazardous Products Act and associated Controlled Products Regulations classified talc as a “D2A”, “very toxic”, “cancer causing” substance under its Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). Asbestos is also classified as “D2A”.

28. In 2006, Imerys Talc began placing a warning on its Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) it provided to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants regarding the talc it sold to them to be used in the PRODUCTS. These MSDSs not only provided the warning information about the IARC classification, but also included warning information regarding “States Rights to Know” and warning information about the Canadian Government’s “D2A” classification of talc as well.

29. The Defendants had a duty to know and warn about the hazards associated with the use of the PRODUCTS.

30. The Defendants failed to inform its customers and end users of the PRODUCTS of a known catastrophic health hazard associated with the use of its products.

31. In addition, the Defendants procured and disseminated false, misleading, and biased information regarding the safety of the PRODUCTS to the public and used influence over governmental and regulatory bodies regarding talc.

32. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants’ calculated and reprehensible conduct, Plaintiff was injured and suffered damages, namely ovarian cancer, which required surgeries and treatments.

**COUNT ONE R STRICT LIABILITY FOR FAILURE TO WARN**

**(Imerys Talc and Johnson & Johnson Defendants)**

33. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

34. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc mined and sold talc to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, which it knew that Johnson & Johnson was then packaging and selling to consumers as the PRODUCTS and it knew that consumers of the PRODUCTS were using it to powder their perineal regions.

35. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc knew and/or should have known of the unreasonably dangerous and carcinogenic nature of the talc it was selling to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, especially when used in a woman's perineal regions, and it knew or should have known that Johnson & Johnson was not warning its consumers of this danger.

36. At all pertinent times, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants were manufacturing, marketing, testing, promoting, selling and/or distributing the PRODUCTS in the regular course of business.

37. At all pertinent times, Plaintiff used the PRODUCTS to powder her perineal area, which is a reasonably foreseeable use.

38. At all pertinent times, all Defendants in this action knew or should have known that the use of talcum powder based products in the perineal area significantly

increases the risk of ovarian cancer based upon scientific knowledge dating back to the 1960s.

39. At all pertinent times, including the time of sale and consumption, the PRODUCTS, when put to the aforementioned reasonably foreseeable use, were in an unreasonably dangerous and defective condition because they failed to contain adequate and proper warnings and/or instructions regarding the increased risk of ovarian cancer associated with the use of the PRODUCTS by women to powder their perineal area. Defendants themselves failed to properly and adequately warn and instruct Plaintiff as to the risks and benefits of the PRODUCTS given Plaintiff's need for this information.

40. Had the Plaintiff received a warning that the use of the PRODUCTS would have significantly increased her risk of ovarian cancer, she would not have used the same. As a proximate result of Defendants' design, manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of the PRODUCTS, Plaintiff has been injured catastrophically, and has been caused severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, and economic damages.

41. The development of ovarian cancer by the Plaintiff was the direct and proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous and defective condition of the PRODUCTS at the time of sale and consumption, including their lack of warnings; Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages including but not limited to conscious pain and suffering of Plaintiff, medical expenses and lost wages.

42. The Defendants' products were defective because they failed to contain warnings and/or instructions, and breached express warranties and/or failed to conform to express factual representations upon which the Plaintiff justifiably relied in electing to use the products. The defect or defects made the products unreasonably dangerous to those persons, such as Plaintiff, who could reasonably be expected to use and rely upon such products. As a result, the defect or defects were a producing cause of the Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

43. The Defendants' products failed to contain, and continue to this day not to contain adequate warnings and/or instructions regarding the increased risk of ovarian cancer with the use of their products by women. The Defendants continue to market, advertise, and expressly represent to the general public that it is safe for women to use their product regardless of application. These Defendants continue with these marketing and advertising campaigns despite having scientific knowledge that dates back to the 1960s that their products increase the risk of ovarian cancer in women when used in the perineal area.

44. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Imerys Talc and the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00 together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT TWO - NEGLIGENCE**

**(Imerys Talc)**

45. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference every allegation of this Complaint as if each were set forth fully and completely herein.

46. At all pertinent times, Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care to consumers, including Plaintiff herein, in the design, development, manufacture, testing, inspection, packaging, promotion, marketing, distribution, labeling and/or sale of the PRODUCTS.

47. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc mined and sold talc to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, which it knew and/or should have known was then being packaged and sold to consumers as the PRODUCTS by the Johnson and Johnson Defendants. Further, Imerys Talc knew and/or should have known that consumers of the PRODUCTS were using it to powder their perineal regions.

48. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc knew or should have known that the use of talcum powder based products in the perineal area significantly increases the risk of ovarian cancer based upon scientific knowledge dating back to the 1960s.

49. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc knew or should have known that Johnson & Johnson was not providing warnings to consumers of the PRODUCTS of the risk of ovarian cancer posed by talc contained therein.

50. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc was negligent in providing talc to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, when it knew or should have known that the talc would be used in the PRODUCTS, without adequately taking steps to ensure that ultimate consumers of the PRODUCTS, including Plaintiff, received the information that Imerys

Talc possessed on the carcinogenic properties of talc, including its risk of causing ovarian cancer.

51. As a direct and proximate result of Imerys Talc's negligence, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused Plaintiff to develop ovarian cancer; Plaintiff was caused to incur medical bills, lost wages, and conscious pain and suffering.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Imerys Talc in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT THREE – NEGLIGENCE**

**(Johnson & Johnson Defendants)**

52. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

53. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants were negligent in marketing, designing, manufacturing, producing, supplying, inspecting, testing, selling and/or distributing the PRODUCTS in one or more of the following respects:

- a) In failing to warn Plaintiff of the hazards associated with the use of the PRODUCTS.
- b) In failing to properly test their products to determine adequacy and effectiveness or safety measures, if any, prior to releasing the PRODUCTS for consumer use;

- c) In failing to properly test their products to determine the increased risk of ovarian cancer during the normal and/or intended use of the PRODUCTS;
- d) In failing to inform ultimate users, such as Plaintiff as to the safe and proper methods of handling and using the PRODUCTS;
- e) In failing to remove the PRODUCTS from the market when the Defendants knew or should have known the PRODUCTS were defective;
- f) In failing to instruct the ultimate users, such as Plaintiff, as to the methods for reducing the type of exposure to the PRODUCTS which caused increased risk of ovarian cancer;
- f) In failing to inform the public in general and the Plaintiff in particular of the known dangers of using the PRODUCTS for dusting the perineum;
- g) In failing to advise users how to prevent or reduce exposure that caused increased risk for ovarian cancer;
- h) In marketing and labeling the PRODUCTS as safe for all uses despite knowledge to the contrary.
- i) In failing to act like a reasonably prudent company under similar circumstances.

Each and all of these acts and omissions, taken singularly or in combination, were a proximate cause of the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff.

54. At all pertinent times, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS were unreasonably dangerous and defective when put to their reasonably anticipated use.

55. As a direct and proximate result of the Johnson & Johnson Defendants' negligence, in one or more of the aforementioned ways, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused each Plaintiff to develop ovarian cancer; Plaintiff was caused to incur medical bills, lost wages, and conscious pain and suffering.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT FOUR - BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

**(Johnson & Johnson Defendants)**

56. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

57. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants expressly warranted, through direct-to consumer marketing, advertisements, and labels, that the PRODUCTS were safe and effective for reasonably anticipated uses, including use by women in the perineal area.



58. The PRODUCTS did not conform to these express representations because they cause serious injury when used by women in the perineal area in the form of ovarian cancer.

59. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's breach of warranty, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer; Plaintiff was caused to incur medical bills, lost wages, and conscious pain and suffering.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT FIVE R BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

**(Johnson & Johnson Defendants)**

60. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

61. At the time the Defendants manufactured, marketed, labeled, promoted, distributed and/or sold the PRODUCTS, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants knew of the uses for which the PRODUCTS were intended, including use by women in the perineal area, and impliedly warranted the PRODUCTS to be of merchantable quality and safe for such use.

62. Defendants breached their implied warranties of the PRODUCTS sold to Plaintiff because they were not fit for their common, ordinary and intended uses, including use by women in the perineal area.

63. As a direct, foreseeable and proximate result of the Defendants' breaches of implied warranties, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer; Plaintiff was caused to incur medical bills, lost wages, and conscious pain and suffering.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

### **COUNT SIX - CIVIL CONSPIRACY**

**(All Defendants)**

64. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

65. Defendants and/or their predecessors-in-interest knowingly agreed, contrived, combined, confederated and conspired among themselves to cause Plaintiff's injuries, disease, and/or illnesses by exposing the Plaintiff to harmful and dangerous PRODUCTS. Defendants further knowingly agreed, contrived, confederated and conspired to deprive Plaintiff of the opportunity of informed free choice as to whether to use the PRODUCTS or to expose her to said dangers. Defendants committed the above-

described wrongs by willfully misrepresenting and suppressing the truth as to the risks and dangers associated with the use of and exposure to the PRODUCTS.

66. In furtherance of said conspiracies, Defendants performed the following overt acts:

- a) For many decades, Defendants, individually, jointly, and in conspiracy with each other, have been in possession of medical and scientific data, literature and test reports which clearly indicated that use of their by women resulting from ordinary and foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS were unreasonably dangerous, hazardous, deleterious to human health, carcinogenic, and potentially deadly;
- b) Despite the medical and scientific data, literature, and test reports possessed by and available to Defendants, Defendants individually, jointly, and in conspiracy with each other, fraudulently, willfully and maliciously:
  - i) Withheld, concealed and suppressed said medical information regarding the increased risk of ovarian cancer from Plaintiff (as set out in this pleading); In addition, on July 27, 2005 Defendants as part of the TIPTF corresponded and agreed to edit and delete portions of scientific papers being submitted on their behalf to the United States Toxicology Program in an attempt to prevent talc from being classified as a carcinogen;

- ii) The Defendants, through the TIPTF, instituted a “defense strategy” to defend talc at all costs. Admittedly, the Defendants, through the TIPTF, used their influence over the NTP Subcommittee, and the threat of litigation against the NTP to prevent the NTP from classifying talc as a carcinogen on its 10<sup>th</sup> RoC. According to the Defendants, “. . . we believe these strategies paid-off”;
- iii) Caused to be released, published and disseminated medical and scientific data, literature, and test reports containing information and statements regarding the risks of ovarian cancer which Defendants knew were incorrect, incomplete, outdated, and misleading. Specifically, the Defendants, through the TIPTF, collectively agreed to release false information to the public regarding the safety of talc on July 1, 1992; July 8, 1992; and November 17, 1994. In a letter dated September 17, 1997, the Defendants were criticized by their own Toxicologist consultant for releasing this false information to the public, yet nothing was done by the Defendants to correct or redact this public release of knowingly false information.

c) By these false and fraudulent representations, omissions, and concealments, Defendants intended to induce the Plaintiff to rely upon said false and fraudulent representations, omissions and concealments, and to continue to expose herself to dangers inherent in the use of and exposure to the PRODUCTS.

67. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied upon the aforementioned fraudulent representations, omissions, and concealments made by Defendants regarding the nature of the PRODUCTS.

68. As a direct, foreseeable and proximate result of the Defendants' breaches of implied warranties, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused Plaintiff to develop ovarian cancer; Plaintiff was caused to incur medical bills, lost wages, and conscious pain and suffering.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against all Defendants, each of them, in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT EIGHT – PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

**(All Defendants)**

69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

70. The Defendants have acted willfully, wantonly, with an evil motive, and recklessly in one or more of the following ways:

- a) Defendants knew of the unreasonably high risk of ovarian cancer posed by the PRODUCTS before manufacturing, marketing, distributing and/or selling the PRODUCTS, yet purposefully proceeded with such action;

- b) Despite their knowledge of the high risk of ovarian cancer associated with the PRODUCTS, Defendants affirmatively minimized this risk through marketing and promotional efforts and product labeling;
- c) Through the actions outlined above, Defendants expressed a reckless indifference to the safety of users of the PRODUCTS, including Plaintiff. Defendant's conduct, as described herein, knowing the dangers and risks of the PRODUCTS, yet concealing and/or omitting this information, in furtherance of their conspiracy and concerted action was outrageous because of Defendants' evil motive or a reckless indifference to the safety of users of the PRODUCTS.

71. As a direct and proximate result of the willful, wanton, evilly motivated and/or reckless conduct of the Defendants, the Plaintiff has sustained damages as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for a judgment for punitive damages against all Defendants in a fair and reasonable amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter them and others from engaging in similar conduct in the future, costs expended herein, and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT NINE - NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

**(All Defendants)**

72. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint as if each were set forth fully and completely herein.

73. Defendants had a duty to accurately and truthfully represent to the medical and healthcare community, Plaintiff and the public, that the PRODUCTS had been tested and found to be safe and effective for use in the perineal area. The representations made by Defendants, in fact, were false.

74. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary care in the representations concerning the PRODUCTS while they were involved in their manufacture, sale, testing, quality assurance, quality control, and distribution in interstate commerce, because Defendants negligently misrepresented the PRODUCTS' high risk of unreasonable, dangerous, adverse side effects.

75. Defendants breached their duty in representing that the PRODUCTS have no serious side effects.

76. As a foreseeable, direct and proximate result of the negligent misrepresentation of Defendants as set forth herein, Defendants knew, and had reason to know, that the PRODUCTS had been insufficiently tested, or had not been tested at all, and that they lacked adequate and accurate warnings, and that it created a high risk, and/or higher than acceptable risk, and/or higher than reported and represented risk, of adverse side effects.

77. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has been injured and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care and comfort, and economic damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, requests compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

### **TOLLING STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

78. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint as if each were set forth fully herein.

79. Plaintiff has suffered an illness that has a latency period and does not arise until many years after exposure. Plaintiff's illness did not distinctly manifest itself until she was made aware that her ovarian cancer could be caused by her use of the Defendants' products. Consequently, the discovery rule applies to this case and the statute of limitations has been tolled until the day that Plaintiff knew or had reason to know that her ovarian cancer was linked to her use of the Defendants' products.

80. Furthermore, the running of any statute of limitations has been equitably tolled by Defendants' fraudulent concealment and conduct. Through their affirmative misrepresentations and omissions, Defendants actively concealed from Plaintiff the true risks associated with the PRODUCTS.

81. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff and her prescribing physicians were unaware, and could not reasonably known or have learned through reasonable diligence that Plaintiff had been exposed to the risks alleged herein and that those risks were the direct and proximate result of Defendants' acts and omissions.



83. Furthermore, Defendants are estopped from relying on any statute of limitations because of their concealment of the truth, quality and nature of PRODUCTS. Defendants were under a duty to disclose the true character, quality and nature of PRODUCTS because this was non-public information which the Defendants had and continue to have exclusive control, and because the Defendants knew that this information was not available to Plaintiff, her medical providers and/or their health facilities.

84. Defendants had the ability to and did spend enormous amounts of money in furtherance of their purpose of marketing and promoting a profitable drug, notwithstanding the known or reasonably known risks. Plaintiff and medical professionals could not have afforded and could not have possibly conducted studies to determine the nature, extent and identity of related health risks, and were forced to rely on Defendants' representations.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays as follows:

- (A) That Summons and Process be issued and served upon Defendants;
- (B) For a trial by a jury;
- (C) That Plaintiff be awarded an appropriate sum to compensate her for all past, present and future medical expenses associated with her injuries;

- (D) That Plaintiff be awarded an appropriate sum to compensate her for all past, present and future economic and non-economic damages resulting from her injuries;
- (E) That Plaintiff be awarded punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish and to deter Defendants;
- (F) That Plaintiff be awarded attorneys' fees and costs; and
- (G) That Plaintiff recover such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

This 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2016.

KARSMAN, McKENZIE & HART

/s/ C. Dorian Britt  
C. Dorian Britt  
Georgia Bar No. 083259

21 West Park Avenue  
Savannah, Georgia 31401  
(912) 335-4977 (fax)  
(912) 388-2503 (fax)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

MARY YOUNG

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Chatham (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Karsman, McKenzie & Hart 21 W. Park Avenue Savannah, GA 31401

DEFENDANTS

JOHNSON & JOHNSON; JOHNSON & JOHNSON CONSUMER COMPANIES, INC.; IMERYS TALC AMERICA, INC. f/k/a LUZENAC AMERICA, INC.; PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS COUNCIL f/k/a COSMETIC, TOILETRY, AND FRAGRANCE ASSOCIATION (CTFA)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Middlesex (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District, 6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Brief description of cause: Product liability - personal injuries related to use of defective talcum powder

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 10/31/2016 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD s/ C. Dorian Britt

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44**

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.  
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.  
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.  
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.  
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.  
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.  
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.  
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.  
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.  
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.  
 Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.  
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.  
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.