

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**HOLLY PACK,**

**CIVIL ACTION NO.:**

**Plaintiff**

**V.  
3M COMPANY and  
ARIZANT HEALTHCARE, INC.,**

**JUDGE  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

**JURY DEMAND**

**Defendants**

**COMPLAINT**

Now into Court, through undersigned counsel, comes Plaintiff, Holly Pack, who files this Complaint with Jury Demand against Defendants 3M Company and Arizant Healthcare, Inc. (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Defendants”), and alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. This is an action brought on behalf of Holly Pack for damages arising out of the use of the Bair Hugger forced air warming units or blankets (hereinafter “Bair Hugger”).
2. Defendants, directly or indirectly through their agents, apparent agents, servants and/or employees are engaged in the business of designing, developing, testing, assembling, manufacturing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distributing, supplying and/or selling Bair Hugger.
3. Due to the defective design of the Bair Hugger, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer severe and permanent personal injuries, including, but not limited to, impaired

mobility.

4. In December 29, 2010, June 15, 2011, July 13, 2011, August 29, 2011, November 30, 2011, May 7, 2012, and May 19, 2015, the Bair Hugger was used on Plaintiff during the Plaintiff's three total right knee replacement surgeries. The Bair Hugger was also use on Plaintiff during four subsequent surgeries.

5. The Bair Hugger caused contaminants to be introduced into Plaintiff's open surgical wound, which resulted in an infection, and required Plaintiff to undergo additional surgical procedures.

6. Plaintiff now suffers and will continue to suffer from severe and permanent injuries as a result of the Bair Hugger-induced infection. Indeed, Plaintiff's mobility is now impaired, making even the simple movement of walking a challenge.

7. Defendants concealed and continue to conceal their knowledge of the unreasonably dangerous risks of using the Bair Hugger from Plaintiff, other consumers, and the medical community.

8. Moreover, Defendants failed to conduct sufficient and adequate post-marketing surveillance after they began marketing, advertising, distributing and selling the Bair Hugger.

9. Because of Defendants' actions and omissions, Plaintiff was injured by the use of the Bair Hugger. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages against Defendants.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, because the amount in controversy as to Plaintiff exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendants.

11. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claim occurred in this District, and because Defendants conducted substantial business in this District.

12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they have done substantial business in the State of Louisiana, have committed a tort in whole or in part in the State of Louisiana, have substantial and continuing contact with the State of Louisiana, and derive substantial revenue from goods used and consumed in the State of Louisiana. Defendants actively advertise, sell, market, distribute, and/or promote their Bair Hugger forced air warming devices to physicians and consumers in the State of Louisiana on a regular and consistent basis.

### **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff Holly Pack (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), is a citizen and resident of the State of Louisiana, and was a citizen and resident of the State of Louisiana at all times relevant to the allegations in this Complaint. Plaintiff, upon information and belief, suffered severe and permanent personal injuries as a result of the use of Bair Hugger.

14. Defendant 3M Company is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business in Maplewood, Minnesota. 3M is engaged in the business of researching, developing, designing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, supplying,

selling, marketing and introducing into interstate commerce, either directly or indirectly, its products, including the Bair Hugger.

15. Defendant Arizant is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Arizant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant 3M. Arizant conducts business throughout the United States, including the State of Louisiana.

16. Upon information and belief, each of the Defendants was the representative, agent, servant, partner, predecessor or successor in interest, aider and abettor, co-conspirator and joint venture of each of the remaining Defendants, and was at all times operating and acting with the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment, partnership, conspiracy and joint venture.

17. At all times relevant, Defendants were engaged in the business of developing, designing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, selling, marketing, and/or introducing into interstate commerce throughout the United States, either directly or indirectly through third parties, subsidiaries or related entities, the Bair Hugger forced air warming blanket.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

18. At all times relevant to the allegations herein, Defendants designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, sold and/or distributed Bair Hugger for the purpose of warming patients during orthopedic implant surgery.

19. Upon information and belief, there are over 50,000 Bair Hugger units currently in use across the United States.

20. The Bair Hugger consists of a disposable blanket that is connected to a portable heater/blower by a flexible hose. The Bair Hugger system is positioned over (or in some cases under) surgical patients during surgery, and keeps patients warm by blowing hot air on the patient's exposed skin.

21. The hot air accumulates under the surgical blanket and escapes the blanket either below the surgical table or at the head end of the surgical table. The escaped hot air creates airflow currents that flow against the downward air flow of the operating room. As this warmed air rises, it deposits bacteria from the floor of the operating room onto the surgical site.

22. Between 2002 and 2009, Defendants reduced the efficiency of the Bair Hugger air filtration blowers, which drastically reduced the safety of such blowers.

23. As a result, the internal airflow pathways of the Bair Hugger blowers became contaminated with pathogens. The pathogens incubate and proliferate within the internal airflow paths of the Bair Hugger blowers.

24. The pathogens are then expelled from the interior of the Bair Hugger blower by the outward airflow, travel through the hose into the disposable blanket and escape into the operating room.

25. Since at least 2009, Defendants have been aware of the pathogenic contamination of the airflow paths of the Bair Hugger.

26. Despite their knowledge to the contrary, Defendants have actively and

aggressively marketed the Bair Hugger as safe in both general and orthopedic surgeries.

27. In September of 2009, Defendants falsely represented to the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) that the Bair Hugger’s filtration system meets High Efficiency Particulate Air (“HEPA”) standards. HEPA standards require that an air filter be capable of removing 99.97% of all particles 0.3 microns or larger. The Bair Hugger filter is marketed as HEPA compliant. However, the filter is only capable of removing less than 65% of all such particles. At the time Defendants made these representations, they had actual knowledge that the statements were false.

28. In June of 1997, Defendants admitted that “air blow intraoperatively across the surgical wound may result in airborne contamination.” Defendants further addressed the Bair Hugger’s risk of contamination by stating that the risk of contamination is obviated because all “Bair Hugger Blankets designed for use in the operating room feature a tape barrier which prevent [sic] air from migrating toward the surgical site.” Defendants’ statement, however, was and is patently false. In fact, a number of Bair Hugger blankets that are marketed as safe for use in surgeries do not utilize a taped edge. Instead, those blankets blow contaminated air directly toward the surgical site.

Moreover, Defendants’ statement that the taped barrier would prevent the contaminated air from escaping the device is untrue because it ignores the fact that the warm air from the Bair Hugger rises against the general downward airflow of the operating theatre. The tape barrier

does not prevent the Bair Hugger from facilitating the movement of pathogens from the floor of the operating room to the surgical site. At the time Defendants made these statements, Defendants had actual knowledge of their falsity.

29. Furthermore, Defendants make the following misrepresentations on their website:

- a. Contamination mobilized by the convection currents generated by the Bair Hugger cannot reach the surgical site because “[a]ir velocity within the operating room is many times stronger than that of a forced air warming blanket”;
- b. “The air emerging from the blanket is directed downward by the surgical drape and emerges under the operating room table and is drawn away through the laminar system’s return air inlets”; and
- c. “It’s been suggested that warm air rising above the Bair Hugger blanket could interfere with the downward laminar flow towards the surgical site. It should be noted that the Bair Hugger warming unit delivers less than one percent of the airflow of a laminar flow system and the momentum of the downward air is far greater than the upward momentum imparted to the air above the blanket.”

30. Defendants’ statements in the preceding paragraphs are false. Defendants’ statements disguise the fact that the true issue with the Bair Hugger is not the strength of the airflow in a laminar system, but instead the hot temperature of the air generated by the Bair Hugger. The cold air generated by the operating room has a higher density than the hot air generated by the Bair Hugger. The cold air falls to the floor of the operating room and forces the contaminated air at the floor of the operating room (now warmed by the waste heat from the Bair Hugger) to rise into the sterile field and surgical site. Contrary to Defendants’ advertisement, the warm air rises and is not “drawn away” from the surgical site.

31. In as early as 2010, Defendants advertised the Bair Hugger in multiple medical publications, available at [http://www.fawfacts.com/\\_asset/zn062p/AJIC.pdf](http://www.fawfacts.com/_asset/zn062p/AJIC.pdf) (last visited October

5, 2015), and made the following false and misleading claims:

“While simple logic makes it clear that forced air warming has no impact on laminar conditions, science also supports this. A forced air warming blanket delivers less than one percent of the airflow of a laminar flow system and therefore is unable to affect laminar flow ventilation systems.”

Prior to and after Defendants’ statement, Published scientific research has demonstrated the inaccuracy of this statement. The Bair Hugger generates an exhaust that creates convective airflow patterns which disrupt the laminar flow of the operating theatre.

32. In July of 2012, Defendants’ public relations and communications specialist, Greta Deutsch, stated “some conductive-warming manufacturers have alleged that forced-air warming increases bacterial contamination of operating rooms or interrupts laminar airflow. These accusations have no factual basis.” Indeed, this statement ignored numerous published studies documenting the adverse effects the Bair Hugger has on laminar airflow.

33. Defendants should have been prompted to redesign or discontinue the Bair Hugger in light of the numerous peer-reviewed publications and studies identifying the critical defects of the Bair Hugger. These publications include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Albrecht M, et al. Forced-air warming blowers: An evaluation of filtration adequacy and airborne contamination emissions in the operating room. *Am J Infect Control* 2010;39:321-8;
- b. Leaper D, et al. Forced-air warming: a source of airborne contamination in the operating room? *Orthopedic Rev.* 2009;1(2):e28;
- c. McGovern, P.D., et al. Forced-air warming and ultra-clean ventilation do not mix. *J Bone and Joint Surg-Br.* 2012;93-B(11):1537-1544;
- d. Legg, A. et al. Do forced air patient-warming devices disrupt unidirectional downward airflow? *J Bone and Joint Surg-Br.* 2012;94-B:254-6;
- e. Belani, K., et al. Patient warming excess heat: The effects on



orthopedic operating room ventilation performance. *Anesthesia & Analgesia* 2012 (prepublication on-line) 2013;117(2):406-411;

f. Dasari, K.B., et al. Effect of forced air warming on the performance of operating theatre laminar flow ventilation. *Anesthesia* 2012;67:244249.

34. Defendants were aware that their misrepresentations were false at the time they were made. Nonetheless, Defendants continued to mislead healthcare providers regarding the safety of the Bair Hugger.

35. Despite the numerous scientific studies to the contrary, Defendants chose not to alter the design of the Bair Hugger or to warn physicians of the dangers associated with the device. Instead, Defendants chose to “double down” on their efforts to market and promote their defective product.

36. Plaintiff’s physician reasonably relied upon Defendants’ representations and advertisements to Plaintiff’s detriment. Any reasonable physician would not use the Bair Hugger if they were fully aware of the risks associated with it.

37. As a direct and proximate result of the failure of Defendants’ Bair Hugger to maintain the sterility of the surgical site and Defendants’ wrongful conduct, Plaintiff has incurred damages, including severe and permanent personal injuries, medical expenses and other economic and non-economic damages.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE**

38. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

39. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care when designing, developing,

researching, manufacturing, marketing, supplying, promoting, packaging, selling, and distributing Bair Hugger.

40. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary care in the designing, developing, researching, manufacturing, marketing, supplying, promoting, packaging, selling, and distributing Bair Hugger in that Defendants knew or should have known that using Bair Hugger could cause significant bodily harm, including, but not limited to, physical injuries of a permanent and disabling nature, physical pain and mental anguish, diminished enjoyment of life, hospitalization and other medical expenses, and loss of earnings; and was therefore not safe for consumer use.

41. Defendants' negligent acts and/or omissions include, but are not limited to:

- a. Failing to properly and thoroughly test the Bair Hugger before releasing the device to market;
- b. Failing to properly and thoroughly analyze the data resulting from the pre-market tests of the Bair Hugger;
- c. Failing to conduct sufficient post-market testing and surveillance of the Bair Hugger;
- d. Designing, manufacturing, marketing, advertising, distributing, and selling the Bair Hugger to consumers, including Plaintiff, without  
  
adequate warning of the significant and dangerous risks of the Bair Hugger and without proper instructions to avoid the harm which could foreseeably occur as a result of the using the device;
- e. Failing to exercise due care when advertising and promoting the Bair Hugger; and
- f. Negligently continuing to manufacture, market, advertise, and distribute the Bair Hugger after Defendants knew or should have known of its adverse effects.

42. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that Bair Hugger posed a serious risk of bodily harm to consumers, Defendants continued to manufacture and market the Bair Hugger.

43. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers such as Plaintiff would foreseeably suffer damages as a result of Defendants' failure to exercise ordinary care as described above.

44. It was foreseeable that Defendants' product, as designed, would cause serious injury to consumers, including Plaintiff.

45. As a direct and foreseeable result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff suffered serious physical injury, harm, damages, and economic loss and will continue to suffer such harm, damages, and economic loss in the future.

46. Defendants' conduct evidences a flagrant disregard of human life so as to warrant the imposition of punitive damages. This conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: failing to adequately design, test, and manufacture the Bair Hugger, and continuing to market and distribute the Bair Hugger when Defendants knew or should have known of the serious health risks it posed to consumers.

47. As a result of the foregoing negligent actions and/or omissions by Defendants, Plaintiff suffered injuries and damages alleged herein.

## **COUNT II: NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

48. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

49. Defendants made negligent misrepresentations regarding the Bair Hugger including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Defendants represented through the labeling, advertising, marketing materials, seminar presentations, publications, notice letters, and regulatory submissions that Bair Hugger has been tested and found to be safe and effective for the warming of patients during orthopedic implant surgery; and

b. Defendants represented that Bair Hugger was safer than other patient warming systems.

50. Defendants made the foregoing representations without having reasonable grounds for believing them to be true. The representations made by Defendants were false, in that the Bair Hugger is not safe, fit or effective for human use.

51. The foregoing representations were made directly by Defendants, sales representatives, and other authorized agents of Defendants, in publications and other written materials that were directed to Plaintiff, the general public, and healthcare providers, with the intention of inducing reliance on the misrepresentations, thereby promoting the sale and use of the Bair Hugger.

52. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians did, in fact, reasonably rely upon the representations. In the absence of the representations, the Bair Hugger would not have been used in implantation surgeries such as the one at issue in this case.

53. As a result of Defendants' actions, omissions, and misrepresentations, Plaintiff suffered severe bodily injuries and damages.

### **COUNT III: FRAUD AND DECEIT**

54. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

55. As a result of Defendants' research or testing, or lack thereof, Defendants blatantly and intentionally distributed false information, including, but not limited to, assuring Plaintiff, healthcare providers, and the FDA, that the Bair Hugger was safe and effective for use

as a means to warm patients during orthopedic surgeries.

56. Defendants intentionally represented that the Bair Hugger has been tested and found to be safe and effective for the warming of patients during orthopedic implant surgery, and that the Bair Hugger was safer than other patient warming systems.

57. Defendants had a duty to disseminate truthful information to the general public, including Plaintiff, and a parallel duty not to deceive the general public and Plaintiff, as well as the Plaintiff's respective healthcare providers.

58. The information distributed by Defendants to Plaintiff, the general public, and healthcare providers contained false representations that Bair Hugger was safe and effective for use as a means to warm patients during orthopedic surgeries.

59. Defendants' representations were all false and misleading.

60. Upon information and belief, Defendants intentionally suppressed, ignored and disregarded test results not favorable to Defendants, and results demonstrating that the Bair Hugger was not safe as a means of warming patients during orthopedic surgeries.

61. Defendants' representations were made with the intent that healthcare providers and patients, including Plaintiff, would rely upon them.

62. Defendants' representations were made with the intent of defrauding and deceiving Plaintiff, other consumers, and healthcare providers to induce and encourage the sale of Bair Hugger.

63. At the time the representations were made, Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's respective

healthcare providers did not know the truth with regard to the dangerous and serious health and safety concerns associated with the use of the Bair Hugger.

64. Plaintiff did not discover the true facts with respect to the dangerous and serious health and safety concerns associated with the use of the Bair Hugger, nor Defendants' false representations regarding the same, nor could Plaintiff with reasonable diligence have discovered the true facts.

65. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physician did in fact rely upon the representations. In the absence of Defendants' representations, the Bair Hugger would not be used in implantation surgeries such as the one at issue in this case.

66. Defendants' conduct was fraudulent and deceitful, and was committed willfully, wantonly and/or purposefully to induce Plaintiff's reliance.

67. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Plaintiff suffered serious physical injury, harm, damages and economic loss and will continue to suffer such harm, damages, and economic loss in the future.

#### **COUNT IV: BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

68. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

69. Defendants expressly warranted that the Bair Hugger was safe and fit for its intended purposes, that is was of merchantable quality, that it did not produce any dangerous side effects, and that it was adequately tested. Defendants did not disclose the material risks that the

Bair Hugger could cause severe and permanent injury.

70. Members of the consuming public, including consumers like Plaintiff and his healthcare provider, were intended beneficiaries of the warranty.

71. Plaintiff and his healthcare provider reasonably relied on Defendants' express representations pertaining to the Bair Hugger's purported safety.

72. The Bair Hugger did not conform to Defendants' express representations regarding its purported safety because it caused serious injury to Plaintiff when used as recommended and directed, and these risks were not disclosed to Plaintiff or his healthcare provider.

73. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach of warranty, Plaintiff suffered serious physical injury, harm, damages and economic loss and will continue to suffer such harm, damages, and economic loss in the future.

#### **COUNT V: BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**

74. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

75. When Defendants designed, developed, manufactured, marketed, sold, and/or distributed the Bair Hugger for use by consumers like Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physician, Defendants knew of the use for which the Bair Hugger was intended and impliedly warranted the product to be of merchantable quality and safe for such use.

76. Plaintiff and his physician reasonably relied upon Defendants' representations

regarding the Bair Hugger's merchantable quality and upon Defendants' implied warranty that it was safe for its intended use.

77. Contrary to Defendants' implied warranty, the Bair Hugger was not of merchantable quality or safe for its intended use, because the product was defective, as described herein.

78. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach of warranty, Plaintiff suffered serious physical injury, harm, damages, and economic loss, and will continue to suffer such harm, damages, and economic loss in the future.

#### **COUNT VI: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY**

79. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

80. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed the Bair Hugger which was used by Plaintiff.

81. The Bair Hugger was expected to and did reach the usual consumers, handlers, and persons coming into contact with said product without substantial change in the condition in which it was it was produced, manufactured, sold, distributed, and/or marketed by Defendants.

82. At those times, the Bair Hugger was in an unsafe, defective, and inherently dangerous condition, which was dangerous to users, and in particular, Plaintiff herein.

83. The Bair Hugger designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested,



advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed by Defendants was defective in design or formulation in that, when it left the hands of the manufacturer and/or suppliers, the foreseeable risks exceeded the benefits associated with the design or formulation of the Bair Hugger.

84. The Bair Hugger designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed by Defendants was defective in design or formulation in that, when it left the hands of the Defendants, it was unreasonably dangerous, and it was more dangerous than an ordinary consumer would expect.

85. At all times herein mentioned, the Bair Hugger was in a defective condition and unsafe, and Defendants knew or had reason to know that said product was defective and unsafe, especially when used in the form and manner as provided by Defendants.

86. Defendants knew, or should have known that at all times herein mentioned, their product was in a defective condition, and was and is inherently dangerous and unsafe.

87. At the time of Plaintiff's use of the Bair Hugger, the Bair Hugger was being used for the purposes and in a manner normally intended, namely to warm patients during knee replacement surgery.

88. Defendants with this knowledge voluntarily designed their product in a dangerous condition for use by the public, and in particular Plaintiff.

89. Defendants had a duty to create a product that was not unreasonably dangerous for

its normal, intended use.

90. Defendants created a product unreasonably dangerous for its normal, intended use.

91. Defendants designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed a defective product which created an unreasonable risk to the health of consumers and to Plaintiff in particular; and Defendants are therefore strictly liable for the injuries sustained by Plaintiff.

92. Plaintiff could not, by the exercise of reasonable care, have discovered the Bair Hugger's defects herein mentioned or perceived its danger.

93. The Bair Hugger designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed by Defendants was defective due to inadequate warnings or instructions, because Defendants knew or should have known that the product created a risk of serious and dangerous side effects, as well as other severe and personal injuries which are permanent and lasting in nature, yet Defendants failed to adequately warn of said risk.

94. The Bair Hugger designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed by Defendants was defective due to inadequate warnings and/or inadequate testing.

95. The Bair Hugger designed, developed, researched, manufactured, tested,

advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and/or distributed by Defendants was defective due to inadequate post-marketing surveillance and/or warnings because, after Defendants knew or should have known of the risk of serious and dangerous side effects, including the contamination of the surgical site, as well as other severe and permanent health consequences from the Bair Hugger, they failed to provide adequate warning to users or consumers of the product, and continued to improperly advertise, market, and/or promote the Bair Hugger.

96. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants have become strictly liable in tort to Plaintiff for the manufacturing, marketing, distribution, and selling of a defective product, the Bair Hugger.

97. Defendants' defective design, manufacturing defect, and inadequate warnings of the Bair Hugger were acts that amount to willful, wanton, and/or reckless conduct.

98. The defects in Defendants' Bair Hugger were a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's injuries.

99. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Plaintiff suffered and will continue to suffer serious and permanent injuries, including limited mobility, as well as other severe and personal injuries, physical pain, mental anguish, diminished enjoyment of life, and expenses for hospitalization.

#### **COUNT VII: LOUISIANA PRODUCTS LIABILITY ACT**

100. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

101. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were engaged in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, testing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distributing, labeling, and/or selling the Bair Hugger.

102. At all times relevant to this action, the Bair Hugger was expected to reach, and did reach, consumers in the State of Louisiana and throughout the United States, including Plaintiff herein without substantial change in the condition it was sold.

103. At all times relevant to this action, the Bair Hugger was designed, developed, manufactured, tested, packaged, promoted, marketed, distributed, labeled, and/or sold by Defendants in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition at the time it was placed in the stream of commerce in ways including, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

a. When placed in the stream of commerce, the Bair Hugger contained manufacturing defects which rendered the subject product unreasonably dangerous;

b. The Bair Hugger's manufacturing defects occurred while the product was in the possession and control of Defendants;

c. The Bair Hugger was not made in accordance with Defendants' specifications or performance standards; and

d. The Bair Hugger's manufacturing defects existed before it left the control of Defendants.

104. The subject product manufactured and/or supplied by Defendants was defective in construction or composition in that, when it left the hands of Defendants, it deviated in a material way from Defendants' manufacturing performance standards and/or it differed from otherwise identical products manufactured to the same design formula. In particular, the product is not safe and causes severe and permanent injuries. The product was unreasonably dangerous in

construction or composition as provided by La. R.S. 9:2800.55.

105. The subject product manufactured and/or supplied by Defendants was defective in design because an alternative design exists that would prevent not cause and permanent injury. The product was unreasonably dangerous in design as provided by La. R.S. 9:2800.56.

106. The subject product manufactured and/or supplied by Defendants was unreasonably dangerous because Defendants did not provide an adequate warning about the product. At the time the subject product left Defendants' control, it possessed a characteristic that may cause damage, and Defendants failed to use reasonable care to provide an adequate warning of such characteristic and its danger to users and handlers of the product. The product is not safe and causes severe and permanent injuries. The product was unreasonably dangerous because of inadequate warning as provided by La. R.S. 9:2800.57.

107. The subject product manufactured and/or supplied by Defendants was unreasonably dangerous because it did not conform to an express warranty made by Defendants regarding the product's safety and fitness for use. Defendants' express warranty regarding the subject product induced Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians to use the product, and Plaintiff's damage was proximately caused because Defendants' express warranty was untrue. The product was unreasonably dangerous because of nonconformity to express warranty as provided by La. R.S. 9:2800.58.

108. As a result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Plaintiff was caused to suffer severe and personal injuries, which are permanent and lasting in nature, including physical pain

and mental anguish, diminished enjoyment of life, and financial expenses for hospitalization and medical care.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment against Defendants on each of the above counts as follows:

- a. Compensatory damages in excess of the jurisdictional amount, including, but not limited to pain, suffering, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-economic damages in an amount to be determined at the trial of this action;
- b. Economic damages in the form of medical expenses, out of pocket expenses, lost earnings and other economic damages, including, but not limited to, all damages sustained as a result of the injury in an amount to be determined at the trial of this action;
- c. Punitive and exemplary damages for the wanton, willful, fraudulent, and reckless acts of Defendants who demonstrated a complete disregard and reckless indifference for the safety and welfare of the general public and the Plaintiff, in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter future similar conduct;
- d. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as provided by law;
- e. Plaintiff's attorney fees;
- f. Plaintiff's costs of the proceedings; and
- g. Such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all counts and as to all issues and allegations presented herein.

DATED: February 15, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael Hingle  
Michael Hingle, T.A. #6943  
Bryan A. Pfleege, La Bar #23896  
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*Counsel for Plaintiff*

**WAIVER OF SERVICE SENT TO DEFENDANTS**

## 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**

HOLLY PACK

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  
**MICHAEL HINGLE & ASSOCIATES**  
220 GAUSE BLVD. SLIDELL, LA 70458  
985-641-6800

**DEFENDANTS**

3M COMPANY, ET AL

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  
(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)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4            |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

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

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education <b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**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 (specify)
- ☐ 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 USC 1332**

Brief description of cause:

**PERSONAL INJURIES CAUSED BY DEFENDANT'S BAIR HUGGER DEVICE****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 **HON. JOAN N. ERICKSEN**DOCKET NUMBER **15-MD-2666**

DATE

02/15/2016

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/S/ MICHAEL HINGLE

**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.