

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

STATE OF OHIO, ex rel.)	CASE NO.
ATTORNEY GENERAL)	
DAVE YOST)	
30 East Broad St., 14th Floor)	JUDGE
Columbus, Ohio 43215)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	<u>COMPLAINT FOR</u>
)	<u>DECLARATORY JUDGMENT,</u>
v.)	<u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF,</u>
)	<u>RESTITUTION, CIVIL</u>
AMB AUTO SALES, LLC)	<u>PENALTIES, AND OTHER</u>
C/O JAMEL COWHERD SR.)	<u>APPROPRIATE RELIEF</u>
9090 Pippin Road)	
Cincinnati, Ohio 45251)	
)	
and)	
)	
JAMEL COWHERD SR., Individually)	
30 Apothecary Pl)	
Fairfield, Ohio 45014)	
)	
Defendants.)	

JURISDICTION

1. Plaintiff, State of Ohio, by and through counsel, the Attorney General of Ohio, Dave Yost, having reasonable cause to believe that violations of Ohio’s consumer protection laws have occurred, brings this action in the public interest and on behalf of the State of Ohio under the authority vested in him by the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act (“CSPA”), R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.*, and the Certificate of Motor Vehicle Title Act, R.C. 4505.01 *et seq.*

2. The actions of Defendants AMB Auto Sales, LLC (“AMB”) and Jamel Cowherd Sr, (“Cowherd”) (collectively “Defendants”), hereinafter described, have occurred in the State of Ohio, Hamilton County, and other counties, and, as set forth below, are in violation of

the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.* and the Certificate of Motor Vehicle Title Act, R.C. 4505.01 *et seq.*

3. Jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action lies with this Court pursuant to R.C. 1345.04 of the CSPA.
4. This Court has venue to hear this case pursuant to Ohio Civ.R. 3(C)(1)-(3), in that Defendants operated their business from, reside in, and engaged in some of the transactions complained of herein, in Hamilton County, Ohio.

DEFENDANTS

5. Defendant AMB is a domestic limited liability company conducting business in Hamilton County and other counties in the State of Ohio with its principal place of business located at 9090 Pippin Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45251.
6. Defendant AMB, at all relevant times, was a licensed used motor vehicle dealer previously operating under a permit issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, permit number UD020297.
7. Defendant Cowherd is an individual who, on information and belief, resides at 30 Apothecary Place, Fairfield, Ohio 45014.
8. On information and belief, Defendant Cowherd is an authorized agent of AMB and exercised the authority to establish, implement or alter the policies of AMB, and committed the unlawful acts set forth herein.
9. Defendants are each a “supplier” as that term is defined in R.C. 1345.01(C) as Defendants, at all times relevant herein, engaged in the business of effecting or soliciting “consumer transactions” either directly or indirectly, by offering for sale, selling or financing the

purchase of used motor vehicles to “consumers” for purposes that were primarily for personal, family or household use, as those terms are defined in R.C. 1345.01(A) and (D).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

10. Defendants were at all times relevant to this action engaged in the business of soliciting, promoting, purchasing, selling, financing, and collecting the proceeds of the sales of used motor vehicles to consumers residing in Hamilton and other Ohio counties.
11. Defendants have solicited, and continue to solicit, individual Ohio consumers to enter into consumer transactions, specifically for the sale of used motor vehicles.
12. Consumer interacted with Defendant Cowherd directly when shopping for and purchasing vehicles at Defendant AMB.
13. Defendant Cowherd failed to disclose prior to obtaining signature by the consumer on any document for the purchase of the vehicle the fact that such vehicle was previously titled as a salvage vehicle having actual knowledge of such fact
14. In some instances, the Defendants did not have physical possession of the titles and/or the vehicles were not titled to the Defendants on the dates the vehicles were sold to consumers.
15. Defendants failed to obtain certificates of title on or before the fortieth day after the sale of motor vehicles.
16. As a result of the Defendants’ conduct, retail purchasers were unable to obtain certificates of title to their used motor vehicles and filed complaints with the Ohio Attorney General.
17. As a result of Defendants’ conduct, to date TDR claims totaling \$2,617.00 were paid from the Title Defect Recission (TDR) Fund for the Defendants’ failure to transfer title.

**CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATIONS OF THE
CONSUMER SALES PRACTICES ACT**

COUNT I
**VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER SALES PRACTICES ACT AND
CERTIFICATE OF MOTOR VEHICLES ACT**

18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
19. Defendants engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices in violation of R.C. 1345.02(A), by failing to file applications for certificates of title within thirty days after the assignment or delivery of motor vehicles as required by R.C. 4505.06(A)(5)(b).
20. Defendants engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices in violation of R.C. 1345.02(A), by selling motor vehicles to consumers, in the ordinary course of business, and then failing to obtain certificates of title on or before the fortieth day after the sale of the motor vehicles as required by R.C. 4505.181(B)(1).
21. Such acts or practices have been previously determined by Ohio courts to violate the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.* The Defendants committed said violations after such decisions were available for public inspection pursuant to R.C. 1345.05(A)(3).

COUNT II
FAILURE TO DISCLOSE SALVAGE VEHICLE STATUS

22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if completely rewritten herein, the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
23. Defendants engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices in violation of R.C. 1345.02(A) and Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-16(B)(29), by failing to disclose prior to

obtaining signature by the consumer on any document for the purchase of the vehicle the fact that such vehicle was previously titled as a salvage vehicle having actual knowledge of such fact.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court:

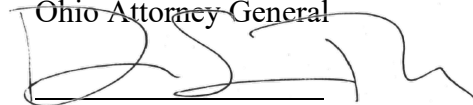
- A. ISSUE A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT declaring that each act or practice described in Plaintiff's Complaint violates the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq* and the Certificate of Motor Vehicle Title Act, R.C. 4505.01 *et seq.*, in the manner set forth in this Complaint.
- B. ISSUE PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF enjoining Defendants and any officers, agents, representatives, salespeople, employees, successors and assigns and all persons acting in concert or participating with them, directly or indirectly, from engaging in the acts and practices of which Plaintiff complains and from further violating the CSPA, R.C. 1345.01 *et seq.*, its Substantive Rules, Ohio Adm.Code 109:4-3-01 *et seq.*, and the Certificate of Motor Vehicle Title Act, R.C. 4505.01 *et seq.*
- C. ORDER Defendants liable for reimbursement to all consumers found to have been damaged by the Defendants' unfair and deceptive acts and practices.
- D. ORDER Defendants liable for payment to the TDR Fund for funds expended to resolve title defects caused by Defendants' motor vehicle title violations.
- E. ASSESS, FINE, AND IMPOSE upon Defendants a civil penalty of \$25,000.00 for each of the appropriate unfair and deceptive acts alleged in the Complaint, pursuant to R.C. 1345.07(D).

- F. ORDER that the Defendants be enjoined from engaging in consumer transactions as a Supplier in the State of Ohio until they have satisfied all payments, civil penalties, court costs, and have made full payment to the TDR Fund.
- G. ORDER that the Defendants be prohibited from maintaining, renewing, or applying for an auto dealer or salesperson license under Chapter 4517 of the Revised Code.
- H. GRANT Plaintiff its costs in bringing this action, including, but not limited to, the costs of collecting on any judgment awarded.
- I. ORDER the Defendants to pay all court costs.
- J. GRANT such other relief as the Court deems to be just, equitable and appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVE YOST

~~Ohio Attorney General~~



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