

**PATTERSON LAW GROUP**  
 James R. Patterson (CA 211102)  
 402 West Broadway, 29th Floor  
 San Diego, California 92101  
 Telephone: 619.756.6990  
 Facsimile: 619.756.6991  
[jim@pattersonlawgroup.com](mailto:jim@pattersonlawgroup.com)

**CARPENTER LAW GROUP**  
 Todd D. Carpenter (CA 234464)  
 402 West Broadway, 29th Floor  
 San Diego, California 92101  
 Telephone: 619.756.6994  
 Facsimile: 619.756.6991  
[todd@carpenterlawyers.com](mailto:todd@carpenterlawyers.com)

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

[Additional Counsel]

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Ilana Imber-Gluck, On Behalf of Herself  
 and All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GOOGLE, INC., a Delaware Corporation.

Defendants.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:**

1. DECLARATORY RELIEF
2. VIOLATION OF CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT, CIVIL CODE §1750 *et seq.*;
3. VIOLATION OF THE UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE §17200 *et seq.*;
4. UNJUST ENRICHMENT / RESTITUTION; and
5. BREACH OF DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Plaintiff Ilana Imber-Gluck brings this action on behalf of herself and all others  
2 similarly situated against Defendant Google, Inc. (“Google”) and states:

3 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

4 1. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself and other parents and  
5 guardians whose minor children: (a) downloaded from Defendant Google, Inc. (“Google”  
6 or “Defendant”) a free or modestly priced application (“App”), in most cases video games  
7 targeted to minor children; and (b) then incurred charges for in-game-related voidable  
8 purchases that the minor was induced by Google to make, without the parents’ and  
9 guardians’ knowledge or authorization.

10 2. Google is an American, multinational corporation specializing in Internet-  
11 related services and products. These include its well-known internet search engine, cloud  
12 computing, software, and online advertising technologies. Google also operates “Google  
13 Play,” formerly the Android Market,<sup>1</sup> a digital distribution platform for applications for  
14 the Android operating system and an online electronics and digital media store. The  
15 service permits users to browse and download applications developed with the Android  
16 software development kit and published through Google, as well as music, magazines,  
17 books, movies, and television programs. Apps are available through Google Play either  
18 free-of-charge or at a cost. Apps are software applications that users download on their  
19 mobile computing devices. For example, they can be downloaded directly to an Android  
20 cell phone, portable tablet, *i.e.*, a “Kindle,” or to a Google TV device through the Google  
21 Play Store mobile app, or by deploying the App to a device from the Google Play website.

22 3. Google is a leading seller of Apps. Among the thousands of Apps that  
23 Google offers for sale are gaming Apps targeted at children. Although numerous gaming  
24 Apps are offered for free and may be downloaded at no cost, many such games are  
25 designed to induce purchases of what Google refers to as “In-App Purchases” or “In-App  
26

27 <sup>1</sup> On March 6, 2012, with the merging of the Android Market and Google Music, the  
28 service was renamed Google Play to coincide with the rebranding of Google's digital  
distribution strategy. As of July 2013, the Google Play store officially reached over 1  
million apps published and over 50 billion downloads.

1 Content,” *i.e.*, virtual supplies, ammunition, fruits and vegetables, cash, and other fake  
2 “currency,” *etc.*, within the game in order to play the game as it was designed to be played  
3 (“Game Currency”). These games are highly addictive, designed deliberately so, and tend  
4 to compel children playing them to purchase large quantities of Game Currency,  
5 amounting to as much as \$100 per purchase or more. As such, the sale of Game Currency  
6 to minors is highly lucrative.

7 4. Google requires its users to authenticate their accounts by entering a  
8 password prior to purchasing and/or downloading an App or buying Game Currency.  
9 However, once the password is entered, Google permits the user, even if a minor, to buy  
10 Game Currency for up to 30 minutes without reentering the password. This practice  
11 enables minors to purchase Game Currency, in one-click large-dollar-amount sums,  
12 without entering a password, causing Google to pocket millions of dollars from such  
13 Game Currency transactions with minors and without the authorization of their parents,  
14 whose credit cards or PayPal accounts are automatically charged for the purchases.

15 5. Plaintiff brings this action for monetary, declaratory, and equitable relief  
16 under California’s contract laws, Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Business and  
17 Professions Code Sections 17200, *et seq.*, and/or for Unjust Enrichment on behalf of  
18 herself and other similarly situated consumers whose minor children have purchased  
19 Defendant’s App products.

## 20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 6. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d). This is a class  
22 action involving more than 100 class members. Plaintiff is a citizen of a state different  
23 from Defendant, and the amount in controversy, in the aggregate, exceeds the sum of  
24 \$5 million exclusive of interest and costs.

25 7. Google transacts business in this District and has subjected itself to this  
26 Court’s jurisdiction through such activity, and a substantial part of the events and  
27 transactions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District. Accordingly, venue is  
28 proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

1 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant is  
2 headquartered in California, and is authorized to conduct and does conduct substantial  
3 business in California. Defendant has marketed, promoted, distributed, and sold Game  
4 Currency in California, rendering the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible.

5 9. Defendant’s user agreement mandates the Northern District of California,  
6 Santa Clara Division, as its forum for this litigation, with respect to all proposed Class  
7 members.

8 **PARTIES**

9 10. Plaintiff Ilana Imber-Gluck resides in New York with her four- and five-  
10 year-old sons. In or around February 2012, Plaintiff utilized her debit card to establish a  
11 “Google Play” account and placed it on file to make future purchases of Google Play  
12 downloads and Apps. In February 2014, Ilana Imber-Gluck downloaded onto her  
13 Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 10.1 (“the Tablet”) the App Marvel Run Jump Smash (“Run Jump  
14 Smash”). In the 30 minutes after Ms. Imber-Gluck permitted the download, a subsequent  
15 purchase was made in the Run Jump Smash game without her authorization and,  
16 subsequently, Plaintiff received notification by email that Google Play had charged her  
17 account \$65.95 for Game Currency “Crystal (Marvel Run Jump Smash!).” The Game  
18 Currency purchases were made by one of Plaintiff Imber-Gluck’s minor sons.

19 11. Defendant Google, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation with its principal place of  
20 business located at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 94043.

21 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

22 12. The Google Play Store (“Google Play”) is one of the largest retailers of  
23 digital content in the world. Google Play sells all varieties of digital content (*e.g.*, music,  
24 movies, TV shows, audio books, and Apps) that can be downloaded on any device with  
25 the Android operating system.

26 13. Google sells Apps through Google Play which may be accessed directly from  
27 certain devices (such as, *e.g.*, Samsung Galaxy phones or Samsung tablets).

28 14. Google offers Apps in many genres, including travel, business, education,

1 finance, entertainment, and games. Games are by far the most downloaded of all genres.  
2 Apps can be downloaded for free, or for a licensing fee that ranges from \$.99 to \$9.99 or  
3 more. It is the gaming Apps that Google targets and sells to minor children that are the  
4 subject of this action.

5 15. Apps are either developed by Google or licensed to Google by independent  
6 App developers. The App developers license their Apps to Google for sale at the Google  
7 Play online store, and Google splits the revenues earned from the sale of the App, or from  
8 the sale of In-App Purchases, with the App developer.

9 16. Google supervises and controls the function and operation of the Apps it  
10 sells. Before an App is made available by Google, Google staff test the App and confirm  
11 its compliance with dozens of rules that Google imposes unilaterally. If Google deems an  
12 App noncompliant with Google's rules, Google will not make the App available for sale.

13 17. In all instances relevant to this action and the proposed Class, the sale of the  
14 App and/or any Game Currency is a transaction directly between Google and the  
15 consumer. There is no privity between the user and the developer of the App (unless  
16 Google itself is the App developer). Although some Apps can be purchased and  
17 downloaded directly from the developer and other retailers which sell Apps supported by  
18 the Android system, this lawsuit is limited to purchasers of Apps from the Google Play  
19 Store. Google, and Google alone, is the provider to the user of the Apps at issue in this  
20 lawsuit. Google charges its customers' credit (or debit) cards or PayPal accounts through  
21 its online "Google Wallet", or processes Google Play gift cards, and no App developer  
22 ever receives a Google App customer's credit (or debit) card number or PayPal account  
23 information when the App is purchased through the Google Play store.

24 18. Anyone thirteen years old or older can utilize an account on Google Play.<sup>2</sup>  
25 Consumers are required to establish a "Google Wallet" account in order to purchase  
26 products online (*i.e.*, license) from Google Play. Opening an account requires, among

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>2</sup> See Google Play Terms of Service, ¶ 1, "Age Restrictions." Available at  
[https://play.google.com/intl/en\\_us/about/play-terms.html](https://play.google.com/intl/en_us/about/play-terms.html).

1 other things, selecting a user name and password, providing certain contact and other  
2 information, and agreeing to Google’s Terms & Conditions, which are ostensibly a  
3 contract. Users may then make purchases in any of a number of ways, including, most  
4 frequently, by supplying Google with a credit or debit card number or PayPal account  
5 through the Google Wallet function. For users who specify credit or debit card or PayPal  
6 payment, Google automatically draws funds from the account holder’s credit or debit card  
7 or PayPal account.

8 19. Prior to the purchase of an App, Google requires account holders to enter  
9 their password. However, once the account holder enters the password, he or she (or in  
10 cases relevant to this Complaint, his or her minor child) could make purchases for up to  
11 30 minutes without re-entering the password. Thus, a parent could enter his or her  
12 password to permit a child to download a free gaming App, and then allow the child to  
13 download and play the game. What Google did not tell parents, however, is that their  
14 child was then able to purchase Game Currency for 30 minutes without any supervision,  
15 oversight or authorization.

16 20. Following an onslaught of consumer outrage over non-refunded improper  
17 charges made by minors and an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, Apple,  
18 Inc., Google’s primary competitor in digital App development and sales, changed its  
19 practice to require the input of a password for *every* individual purchase of “Game  
20 Currency”, thereby ending Apple’s own *15-minute* purchase window.

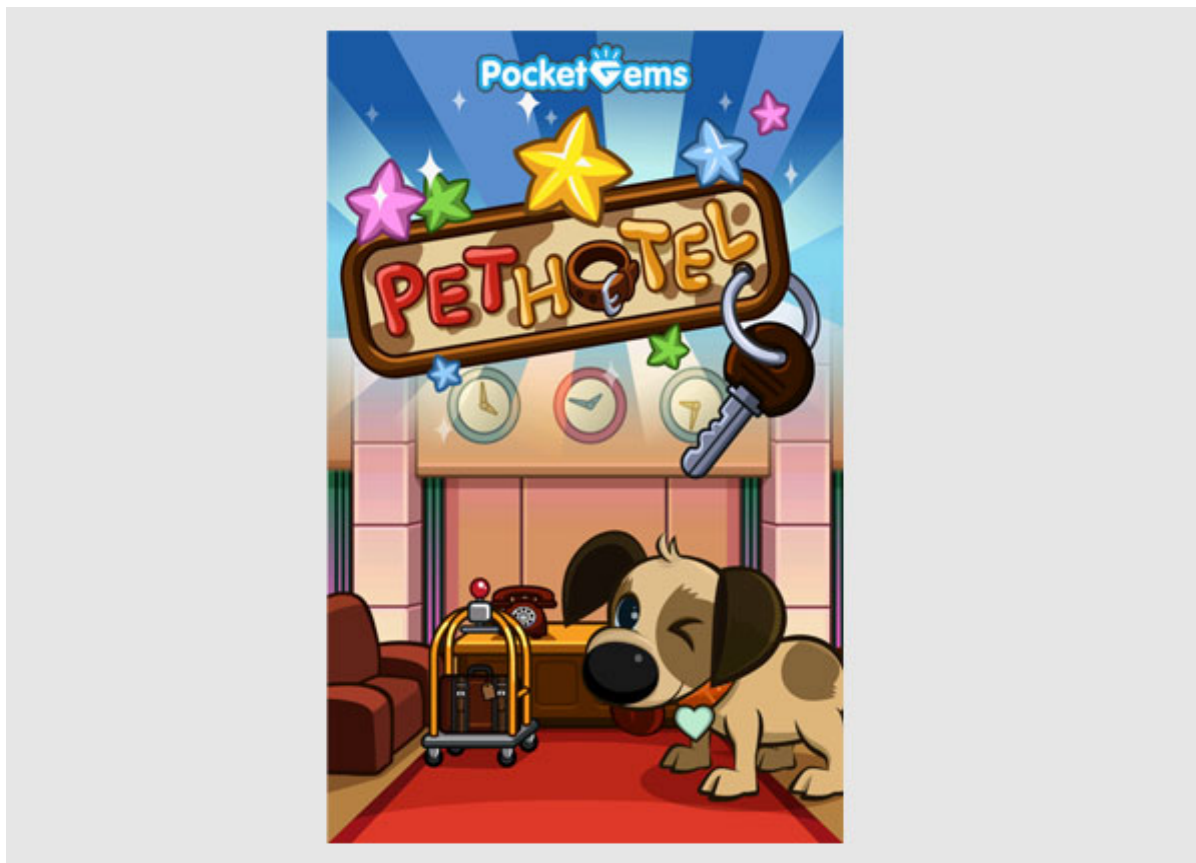
21 21. Despite consumer outrage over Google Play’s *30-minute* purchase window  
22 for In-App purchases, the pending FTC investigation into Apple’s Game Currency  
23 practices and Apple’s subsequent elimination of its 15-minute purchase window for In-  
24 App purchases, Google continues to sell Game Currency to minors. Minors thirteen years  
25 old and older are permitted to open their own Google accounts, and minors younger than  
26 thirteen may purchase Game Currency by using their parents’ general Google password  
27 (no special Google password is required to purchase Game Currency).

28 22. As alleged above, many games are targeted to minors, and are free or cost a

1 nominal charge to download. Many such games, however, are designed solely to lure  
2 minors to purchase Game Currency in order to meet the objectives of the game.

3 23. Such games, by design, are highly addictive. They were developed  
4 strategically to induce purchases of Game Currency. For example, as recently reported by  
5 Consumer Reports,<sup>3</sup> the game “PetHotel” from the developer, “Pocket Gems” is free to  
6 download on the Google Play Store:

7 Screen Shot of Pet Hotel:



22  
23 End shot.

24 24. Consumer reports demonstrated with relative ease the manner in which In-  
25 App Game Currency could be purchased without any reasonable security protections.  
26

27  
28 <sup>3</sup> See, <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/01/google-play-store-lets-your-kid-spend-like-a-drunken-sailor/index.htm> (last verified on February 21, 2014).

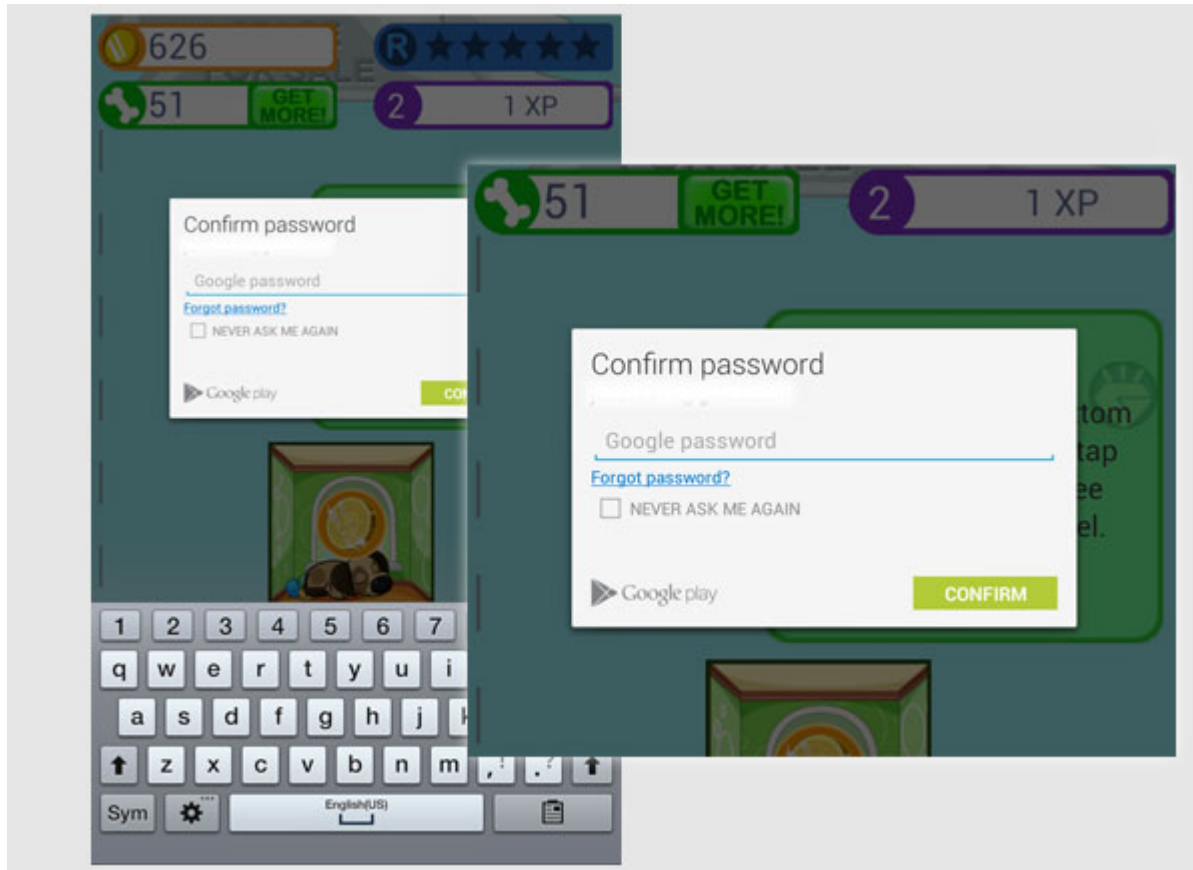
1 Consumer reports accessed and downloaded a children’s video game App from Google  
2 Play entitled: “Tap Pet Hotel,” on an Android tablet and approved one in-app purchase for  
3 ninety nine cents (\$0.99) of digital doggie treats, (“Bunch of Treats”). The user was  
4 requested to enter the Google Password associated with the Google Play account.  
5 However, after entering the password and making this initial purchase, the user was able  
6 to shop with unfettered access for a full 30 minutes before the password protection screen  
7 presented itself again:

8  
9 “So I installed the Android version of that game on an Android tablet by  
10 downloading it free from the Google Play Store. Having previously enabled  
11 the store’s password protection feature (using the Google Play app’s  
12 Settings), I approved one in-app purchase of a Bunch of Treats for 99 cents,  
13 just as any soft-hearted parent might do. As you can see below, there was no  
14 indication on the screen that I had approved anything but that 99 cent  
15 purchase. Morphing from Doting Dad to mischievous child, I then entered  
16 the Pet Hotel unsupervised, where I spent the next 30 minutes making seven  
17 more 99 cent in-app purchases of Treats or Coins, all without any further  
18 authorization. Just tap and spend. (Sometime during that period I indulged in  
19 a spontaneous detour from the game to the Play Store and tacked on an  
20 unauthorized purchase of an unrelated app for \$2.99—just because I could.)  
21 Total cost of my spending spree: \$9.92. My childlike binge came to an  
22 abrupt halt when Google Play’s 30-minute time limit on unauthorized  
23 purchases kicked in, after which the Play Store once again required a  
24 password in order to buy anything.”

25  
26  
27  
28  
29 See [http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/01/google-play-store-lets-](http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/01/google-play-store-lets-your-kid-spend-like-a-drunken-sailor/index.htm)  
30 [your-kid-spend-like-a-drunken-sailor/index.htm](http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/01/google-play-store-lets-your-kid-spend-like-a-drunken-sailor/index.htm) (last verified on February 21,  
31 2014).

32 Screen Shot of Single Purchase Game Currency Google Password Entry:





There's no indication on the display that you're OK'ing anything more than one purchase.

End Shot.

25. While the FTC has yet to take action against Google, the European Commission announced on February 27, 2014, that it would investigate claims raised by several of its member nations that “free” applications that often result in exorbitant charges to consumers are misleading. EU justice commissioner, Viviane Reding, has been quoted as saying “[m]isleading consumers is clearly the wrong business model and also goes against the spirit of EU rules on consumer protection.” See <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/27/eu-consumers-apps-idUSL6N0LW2QF20140227> (last verified on March 3, 2014).

26. The user (as well as Plaintiff and the proposed Class members) was given no indication by Google that they were approving anything more than a single ninety-nine-cent (\$0.99) transaction when their password was first entered for the initial purchase of

1 Game Currency. But as demonstrated by the example in Consumer Reports, an  
2 unsupervised child could easily have purchased several hundreds of dollars of Game  
3 Currency before the 30-minute period elapsed and the security password function  
4 reappeared. The inherent dangers of a seemingly inexpensive, or in this example, a “free”  
5 App, obviously marketed to minor children, are the In-App features which market  
6 expensive Game Currency to children after a seemingly innocuous ninety-nine-cent  
7 (\$0.99) purchase.

8 27. For example, in the Pet Hotel video game App, after the initial purchase was  
9 made, the child-user is then tempted to purchase Game Currency at significantly more  
10 expensive prices and quantities, including \$49.99- to \$99.99-worth of Game Currency in a  
11 single purchase:

12 Screen Shot of Bulk Sale Game Currency:



27 End Shot.

1 28. Thus, Run Jump Smash is by no means the only App that preys on children  
2 in such manner. Google offers many games that use the same bait-and-switch business  
3 scheme as Rum Jump Smash. Google entices the child with a free or inexpensive (e.g.,  
4 \$0.99) download of a gaming platform that then offers the sale of irresistible Game  
5 Currency in order to enjoy the game as it was designed to be “played.” Within seconds of  
6 “playing” the game, one is led to a screen that sells virtual currency, so that the “player”  
7 can “build” things or “have” other virtual things.

8 29. The targeting of children by Google and inducing them to purchase, without  
9 the knowledge or authorization of their parents, millions of dollars of Game Currency is  
10 unlawful exploitation in the extreme. Fortunately for the members of the Class, such  
11 purchases of Game Currency constitute voidable contracts because they were entered into  
12 with minors.

### 13 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

14 30. Ilana Imber-Gluck, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated  
15 California residents, pursuant to Rule 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of  
16 Civil Procedure, seeks certification of the following Class:

17 All persons in the United States who paid for an unauthorized purchase of  
18 Game Currency made by their minor children (the “Class”). Excluded from  
19 the Class are Defendants, their parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers and  
20 directors, and the Judge to whom this case is assigned, any immediate family  
members thereof.

21 31. The Class is numerous and geographically dispersed such that joinder of all  
22 Class members is impracticable. The proposed Class contains many thousands of  
23 members. Plaintiff believes there are thousands of members of the Class whose names  
24 and addresses are in Google’s records.

25 32. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and  
26 predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members. The common legal  
27 and factual questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

28 (a) Whether Google sold Game Currency;

- 1 (b) Whether Google sold Game Currency to minors;
- 2 (c) Whether Google knew that many gaming Apps it sells are designed to
- 3 induce minors to purchase Game Currency;
- 4 (d) Whether Google intended for minors to purchase such Game
- 5 Currency without the knowledge or authorization of the minors' parents or guardians;
- 6 (d) Whether Google's sales to minors of Game Currency constitute
- 7 voidable contracts;
- 8 (e) Whether Google's scheme to induce minors to purchase Game
- 9 Currency violates California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750,
- 10 and Unfair Competition Law, Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*;
- 11 (f) Whether Google was unjustly enriched by its scheme; and
- 12 (g) Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been damaged, and if so, in what
- 13 amount.

14 33. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Class, and

15 there is no defense available to Google that is unique to Plaintiff. Plaintiff paid \$65.95 to

16 Google for unauthorized purchases of Game Currency made by her minor child.

17 34. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class.

18 35. Plaintiff has no interests that are antagonistic to those of the Class. Plaintiff

19 has the ability to assist and adequately protect the rights and interests of the Class during

20 the litigation. Further, Plaintiff is represented by counsel who are competent and

21 experienced in this type of class action litigation.

22 36. This Class Action is not only the appropriate method for the fair and efficient

23 adjudication of the controversy, it is the superior method because:

24 (a) The joinder of thousands of geographically diverse individual Class

25 members is impracticable, cumbersome, unduly burdensome, and a waste of judicial and

26 litigation resources;

27 (b) There is no special interest by Class members in individually

28 controlling prosecution of separate causes of action;

1 (c) Class members' individual claims are small compared with the  
2 expense of litigating the claim, thereby making it impracticable, unduly burdensome, and  
3 expensive, if not totally impossible, to justify individual Class members addressing their  
4 losses;

5 (d) When Google's liability has been adjudicated, claims of all Class  
6 members can be determined by the Court and administered efficiently in a manner that is  
7 far less erroneous, burdensome, and expensive than if it were attempted through filing,  
8 discovery, and trial of many individual cases;

9 (e) This class action will promote the orderly, efficient, expeditious, and  
10 appropriate adjudication and administration of class claims to promote economies of time  
11 and resources;

12 (f) This class action will assure uniformity of decisions among Class  
13 members;

14 (g) Without this class action, restitution will not be ordered and Google  
15 will be able to reap the benefits or profits of its wrongdoing; and

16 (h) The resolution of this controversy through this class action presents  
17 fewer management difficulties than individual claims filed in which the parties may be  
18 subject to varying adjudications of their rights.

19 37. Further, class treatment is appropriate because Google has acted, or refused  
20 to act, on grounds generally applicable to the Class, making class-wide equitable,  
21 injunctive, declaratory, and monetary relief appropriate. In addition, the prosecution of  
22 separate actions by or against individual members of the Class would create a risk of  
23 incompatible standards of conduct for Google and inconsistent or varying adjudications  
24 for all parties. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and  
25 efficient adjudication of this action.

26 38. California's substantive laws apply to every member of the Class, regardless  
27 of where in the United States the Class member resides. Specifically, Google imposes on  
28 its account holders a set of Terms and Conditions that must be accepted before becoming

1 an account holder and before making any purchases or downloads from Google Play.  
2 Among such Terms and Conditions is the following:

3  
4 The laws of California, U.S.A., excluding California's conflict  
5 of laws rules, will apply to any disputes arising out of or relating  
6 to these terms or the Services. All claims arising out of or  
7 relating to these terms or the Services will be litigated  
8 exclusively in the federal or state courts of Santa Clara County,  
9 California, USA, and you and Google consent to personal  
10 jurisdiction in those courts.<sup>4</sup>

11 39. Further, California's substantive laws may be constitutionally applied to the  
12 claims of Plaintiff and the Class under the Due Process Clause, 14th Amend. § 1, and the  
13 Full Faith and Credit Clause, Art. IV § 1 of the U.S. Constitution. California has  
14 significant contact, or significant aggregation of contacts, to the claims asserted by  
15 Plaintiff and all Class members, thereby creating state interests that ensure that the choice  
16 of California state law is not arbitrary or unfair.

17 40. Google's United States headquarters and principal place of business is  
18 located in California. Google also owns property and conducts substantial business in  
19 California, and therefore California has an interest in regulating Google's conduct under  
20 its laws. Google's decision to reside in California and avail itself of California's laws,  
21 and to engage in the challenged conduct emanating out of California, renders the  
22 application of California law to the claims herein constitutionally permissible. California  
23 is also the state from which Google's alleged misconduct emanated. This conduct  
24 similarly injured and affected Plaintiff and all other Class members.

## 25 CAUSES OF ACTION

### 26 FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

#### 27 (Declaratory Judgment)

28 41. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges herein the foregoing allegations.

---

<sup>4</sup> See Google's Terms of Service: <https://www.google.com/intl/en/policies/terms/>;  
incorporated into Google Play terms of service: [https://play.google.com/intl/en-US\\_us/about/play-terms.html](https://play.google.com/intl/en-US_us/about/play-terms.html).

1 42. All Game Currency that Google presents for sale constitutes an offer to enter  
2 into a sales contract.

3 43. All Game Currency purchased by a minor constitutes acceptance of Google's  
4 offer.

5 44. Every payment made by the members of the Class for the purchase of Game  
6 Currency by their minor children constitutes consideration for the provision of the Game  
7 Currency.

8 45. Accordingly, all transactions that are the subject of this Complaint are  
9 possessed of the three elements of a contract: offer, acceptance, and consideration.

10 46. Under California law, minors have the right to disaffirm contracts such as  
11 those at issue here. Cal. Fam. Code § 6710 (2010).

12 47. California law further provides that a parent or guardian may disaffirm a  
13 contract on behalf of a minor.

14 48. The contracts between Defendant and the members of the Class are voidable.

15 49. Accordingly, there is an actual controversy between the parties, requiring a  
16 declaratory judgment.

17 50. This claim for declaratory judgment is brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201,  
18 *et seq.*, seeking a determination by the Court that: (a) this action may proceed and be  
19 maintained as a class action; (b) the contracts between Defendant and the Class members  
20 relating to the purchase of Game Currency are voidable at the option of the respective  
21 Class members on behalf of their minor children; (c) if the Class members elect to void  
22 the contracts, they will be entitled to restitution; (d) an award of reasonable attorneys' fees  
23 and costs of suit to Plaintiff and the Class is appropriate; and (e) such other and further  
24 relief as is necessary and just may be appropriate as well.

25 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **(Violation of the California Consumers Legal Remedies Act)**

27 51. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges herein the foregoing allegations.

28 52. At all times relevant hereto, there was in full force and effect the California

1 Consumers Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA” or “Act”), Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, which  
2 applies to all Class members by virtue of Defendant’s choice of law election.

3 53. Plaintiff and the Class members are consumers within the meaning of Cal.  
4 Civ. Code § 1761(d).

5 54. Google violated the CLRA’s proscription against the concealment of the  
6 characteristics, use, benefit, or quality of goods by actively marketing and promoting  
7 certain gaming Apps as “free” with the intent to induce from minors the purchase of  
8 Game Currency. Specifically, Google has violated: (a) Section 1770(a)(5)’s proscription  
9 against representing that goods have uses or characteristics they do not have; (b) Section  
10 1770(a)(7)’s proscription against representing that goods are of particular standard or  
11 quality when they are of another; and (c) Section 1770(a)(14)’s proscription against  
12 “Representing that a transaction confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations which  
13 it does not have or involve, or which are prohibited by law.”

14 55. Under California law, a duty to disclose arises in four circumstances: (a)  
15 when the defendant is in a fiduciary relationship with the plaintiff; (b) when the defendant  
16 had exclusive knowledge of material facts not known to the plaintiff; (c) when the  
17 defendant actively conceals a material fact from the plaintiff; or (d) when the defendant  
18 makes partial representations but also suppresses some material facts.

19 56. Google owed a duty to disclose material facts about the Game Currency  
20 embedded in games it marketed, advertised, and promoted to children as “free.” Google  
21 breached such duty as alleged in this Complaint.

22 57. Plaintiff and the Class suffered actual damages as a direct and proximate  
23 result of Google’s actions, concealment and/or omissions in violation of the CLRA, as  
24 evidenced by the substantial sums Google pocketed.

25 58. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and for all those similarly situated, demands  
26 judgment against Google for equitable relief in the form of restitution and/or  
27 disgorgement of funds paid to Google.

28 59. Pursuant to § 1782(d) of CLRA, Plaintiff Ilana Imber-Gluck notified Google



1 in writing by certified mail of the particular violations of § 1770 of the Act and demanded  
2 that Google rectify the problems associated with the actions detailed above and give  
3 notice to all affected consumers of Defendant’s intent to so act. A copy of the letter is  
4 attached hereto as Exhibit A. If Defendant fails to rectify or agree to rectify the problems  
5 associated with the actions detailed above and give notice to all affected consumers within  
6 thirty days of the date of written notice pursuant to § 1782 of the Act, Plaintiff will amend  
7 this complaint to add claims for actual, punitive and statutory damages, as appropriate.

8 60. Defendant’s conduct is malicious, fraudulent, and wanton, and provides  
9 misleading information.

10 61. Pursuant to § 1780(d) of the Act, attached hereto as Exhibit B is the affidavit  
11 showing that this action has been commenced in the proper forum.

12 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **Violation of Business and Professions Code §17200, *et seq.***

14 62. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges herein the foregoing allegations.

15 63. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and the Class  
16 members and in her capacity as a private attorney general against Google for its unlawful,  
17 unfair, fraudulent, and/or deceptive business acts and practices pursuant to California’s  
18 Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”), Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*, which  
19 prohibits unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts and/or practices.

20 64. Plaintiff asserts these claims as a representative of an aggrieved group and as  
21 a private attorney general on behalf of the general public and other persons who have  
22 expended funds that Google should be required to reimburse under UCL § 17200, *et seq.*

23 65. This claim is predicated on the duty to refrain from unlawful, unfair, and  
24 deceptive business practices. Plaintiff and the Class members hereby seek to enforce a  
25 general proscription of unfair business practices and the requirement to refrain from  
26 deceptive conduct.

27 66. The UCL § 17200, *et seq.* prohibits acts of “unfair competition.” As used in  
28 this section, “unfair competition” encompasses three distinct types of misconduct: (a)

1 “unlawful...business acts or practices”; (b) “unfair fraudulent business acts or practices”;  
2 and (c) “unfair, deceptive or misleading advertising.”

3 67. Google violated the UCL by engaging in conduct that violated each of the  
4 three prongs identified by the statute as set forth throughout this Complaint.

5 68. Google committed an *unlawful* business act or practice in violation of the  
6 UCL § 17200, *et seq.* when it violated the CLRA.

7 69. Google committed *unfair and fraudulent* business acts and practices in  
8 violation of the UCL §§ 17200 and 17500, *et seq.* by actively advertising, marketing and  
9 promoting certain gaming Apps as “free” with the intent to lure minors to purchase Game  
10 Currency in a manner likely to deceive the public.

11 70. Google’s deceptive practices were specifically designed to induce the  
12 children of Plaintiff and Class members to purchase Game Currency.

13 71. Google’s deceptive practices have deceived and/or are likely to deceive  
14 Plaintiff and members of the consuming public.

15 72. As a direct and proximate cause of Google’s violation of the UCL, Plaintiff  
16 and the Class have suffered harm in that they have not been reimbursed for the purchases  
17 of Game Currency their children made from Google.

18 73. As a direct and proximate result of Google’s violation of the UCL, Google  
19 has been unjustly enriched and should be required to make restitution to Plaintiff and the  
20 Class or disgorge its ill-gotten profits pursuant to the UCL § 17203.

21 74. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and for all others similarly situated, demands  
22 judgment against Google for injunctive relief in the form of restitution and/or  
23 disgorgement of funds paid to Google as alleged herein.

24 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **Unjust Enrichment/Restitution**

26 75. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges herein the foregoing allegations.

27 76. Plaintiff and the Class have conferred benefits on Google by paying for the  
28 Game Currency purchased by their minor children without their knowledge or permission.

1 77. Google knowingly and willingly accepted the monetary benefits provided by  
2 Plaintiff and the Class.

3 78. Under the circumstances alleged herein, it is inequitable for Google to regain  
4 the benefits at the expense of the Class.

5 79. Google has been unjustly enriched at the expense of, and to the detriment of,  
6 Plaintiff and the Class by wrongfully collecting money that Google is not entitled to  
7 retain.

8 80. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover from Google all amounts  
9 wrongfully collected and improperly retained by Google, plus interest thereon.

10 81. As a direct and proximate result of Google's unjust enrichment, Plaintiff and  
11 the Class have suffered injury and are entitled to reimbursement, restitution, and  
12 disgorgement from Google of the benefits conferred by Plaintiff and the Class.

13 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **(Breach of the Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing)**

15 82. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges herein the foregoing allegations.

16 83. Google's contracts with Plaintiff and the Class included a term, implied at  
17 law in all contracts, requiring the parties to exercise "good faith and fair dealing" in all  
18 duties relating to the performance of the contract. By engaging in the misconduct alleged  
19 herein, Google has breached its contractual duty of good faith and fair dealing with  
20 Plaintiff and the Class.

21 84. Plaintiff has adequately pled all of the elements for a breach of the implied  
22 covenant of good faith and fair dealing, which are: (a) an agreement between the parties;  
23 (b) plaintiff's performance under the agreement; (c) defendant's engagement in conduct  
24 separate and apart from the performance of obligations under the agreement without good  
25 faith and for the purpose of depriving plaintiff of rights and benefits under the contract;  
26 and (d) damages to plaintiff.

27 85. The agreement between Plaintiff and the Class on the one hand, and Google  
28 on the other hand, are the "Terms & Conditions" that each member of the Class agreed to

1 when they opened a Google Play account.

2 86. Plaintiff and other members of the Class fully performed their duties under  
3 the contract. Plaintiff and Class members signed the Terms & Conditions and paid for all  
4 content purchased from Google Play. If any member of the Class had failed to honor their  
5 obligations under the Terms & Conditions, Google would have suspended or cancelled  
6 their Google Play account, and, in addition, would have prevented future purchases from  
7 occurring. Thus, Google enjoys a far greater bargaining position than Plaintiff and the  
8 Class.

9 87. Google engaged in conduct that was separate and apart from their obligations  
10 under the agreement without good faith and for the purpose of depriving Plaintiff and the  
11 Class of rights and benefits under the contract, to wit, a sales transaction for an item that  
12 the consumer *intended* to purchase.

13 88. Google has collected and continues to collect millions of dollars from  
14 Plaintiff and the Class by luring their minor children to download bait applications and  
15 games and then, while the 30-minute window is open, spend vast sums on Game Currency  
16 without parental knowledge or permission. Such behavior violates any conception of  
17 good faith and fair dealing.

18 89. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered and continue to suffer damages as a  
19 result of Google's actions.

20  
21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for an  
23 Order as follows:

- 24 A. Finding that this action satisfies the prerequisites for maintenance as a class  
25 action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3), and certifying the  
26 Class defined herein;
- 27 B. Designating Plaintiff as representative of the Class and her counsel as class  
28 counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g);

- 1 C. Entering judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and against Google;
- 2 D. Entering a Declaratory Judgment determining that the contracts between
- 3 Defendant and the Class members relating to the purchase of Game
- 4 Currency are voidable at the option of the respective Class members and
- 5 that if the Class members elect to void the contracts, they will be entitled to
- 6 restitution;
- 7 E. Awarding Plaintiff and members of the Class their individual damages and
- 8 attorneys' fees and allowing costs, including interest thereon, and/or
- 9 restitution and equitable relief; and
- 10 F. Granting such further relief as the Court deems just.
- 11

12 **JURY DEMAND**

13 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

14

15 Dated: March 6, 2014

**CARPENTER LAW GROUP**

16 By: /s/ Todd D. Carpenter

17 Todd D. Carpenter (CA 234464)  
18 402 West Broadway, 29th Floor  
19 San Diego, California 92101  
20 Telephone: 619.756.6994  
21 Facsimile: 619.756.6991  
[todd@carpenterlawyers.com](mailto:todd@carpenterlawyers.com)

22 **PATTERSON LAW GROUP**  
23 James R. Patterson (CA 211102)  
24 402 West Broadway, 29th Floor  
25 San Diego, California 92101  
26 Telephone: 619.756.6990  
27 Facsimile: 619.756.6991  
[jim@pattersonlawgroup.com](mailto:jim@pattersonlawgroup.com)

28 **DEL SOLE CAVANAUGH STROYD  
LLC**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

Benjamin J. Sweet (PA 87338)  
Edwin J. Kilpela, Jr. (PA 201595)  
200 First Avenue, Suite 300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Telephone: 412.261.2393  
Facsimile: 412.261.2110  
[bsweet@dscslaw.com](mailto:bsweet@dscslaw.com)  
[ekilpela@dscslaw.com](mailto:ekilpela@dscslaw.com)

**BERGER & MONTAGUE, P.C.**

Shanon J. Carson  
Patrick Madden  
1622 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Telephone: 215.875.4656  
Facsimile: 215.875.4604  
[scarson@bm.net](mailto:scarson@bm.net)  
[pmadden@bm.net](mailto:pmadden@bm.net)

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class