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8 Attorneys for Plaintiff,

9 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

12 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.,  
13 in the public interest,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 HOBBY LOBBY STORES, INC., an  
17 Oklahoma Corporation;  
18 and DOES 1-10,

19 Defendants.

CASE NO. **25STCV38065**

COMPLAINT FOR PENALTY AND  
INJUNCTION

Violation of Proposition 65, the Safe  
Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement  
Act of 1986 (*Health & Safety Code*, §  
25249.5, *et seq.*)

ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL  
CASE (exceeds \$35,000)

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26 Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. alleges one cause of action against  
27 defendants HOBBY LOBBY STORES, INC.; and DOES 1-10 as follows:  
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**THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. (“Plaintiff” or “CAG”) is an organization qualified to do business in the State of California. CAG is a person within the meaning of Health and Safety Code Section 25249.11, subdivision (a). CAG, acting as a private attorney general, brings this action in the public interest as defined under Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, subdivision (d).
2. Defendant HOBBY LOBBY STORES, INC. (“HOBBY LOBBY”) is an Oklahoma Corporation, qualified to do business in California, and doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
3. Plaintiff is presently unaware of the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1-10, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each fictitiously named defendant is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged and the damages caused thereby.
4. At all times mentioned herein, the term “Defendants” includes HOBBY LOBBY, and DOES 1-10.
5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that each of the Defendants at all times mentioned herein have conducted business within the State of California.
6. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this action, each of the Defendants, including DOES 1-10, was an agent, servant, or employee of each of the other Defendants. In conducting the activities alleged in this Complaint, each of the Defendants was acting within the course and scope of this agency, service, or employment, and was acting with the consent, permission, and authorization of each of the other Defendants. All actions of each of the Defendants alleged in this Complaint were ratified and approved by every other Defendant or their officers or managing

agents. Alternatively, each of the Defendants aided, conspired with and/or facilitated the alleged wrongful conduct of each of the other Defendants.

7. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that at all relevant times, each of the Defendants was a person doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code Section 25249.11, subdivision (b), and that each of the Defendants had ten (10) or more employees at all relevant times.

### **JURISDICTION**

8. The Court has jurisdiction over this lawsuit pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, which allows enforcement of violations of Proposition 65 in any Court of competent jurisdiction.
9. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants named herein because Defendants either reside or are located in this State or are foreign corporations authorized to do business in California, are registered with the California Secretary of State, or who do sufficient business in California, have sufficient minimum contacts with California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the markets within California through their manufacture, distribution, promotion, marketing, or sale of their products within California to render the exercise of jurisdiction by the California courts permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
10. Venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles because one or more of the instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the County of Los Angeles and/or because Defendants conducted, and continue to conduct, business in the County of Los Angeles with respect to the consumer product that is the subject of this action.

### **BACKGROUND AND PRELIMINARY FACTS**

11. In 1986, California voters approved an initiative to address growing concerns about exposure to toxic chemicals and declared their right “[t]o be informed about exposures to

chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm." Ballot Pamp., Proposed Law, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 4, 1986) at p. 3. The initiative, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5, *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"), helps to protect California's drinking water sources from contamination, to allow consumers to make informed choices about the products they buy, and to enable persons to protect themselves from toxic chemicals as they see fit.

12. Proposition 65 requires the Governor of California to publish a list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.8. The list, which the Governor updates at least once a year, contains over 700 chemicals and chemical families. Proposition 65 imposes warning requirements and other controls that apply to Proposition 65-listed chemicals.

13. All businesses with ten (10) or more employees that operate or sell products in California must comply with Proposition 65. Under Proposition 65, businesses are: (1) prohibited from knowingly discharging Proposition 65-listed chemicals into sources of drinking water (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5), and (2) required to provide "clear and reasonable" warnings before exposing a person, knowingly and intentionally, to a Proposition 65-listed chemical (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.6).

14. Proposition 65 provides that any person "violating or threatening to violate" the statute may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7. "Threaten to violate" means "to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.11(e). Defendants are also liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per violation, recoverable in a civil action. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(b).

15. Plaintiff identified certain practices of manufacturers and distributors of Faux Fur Plush of exposing, knowingly and intentionally, persons in California to Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate and Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate of such products without first providing clear

1 and reasonable warnings of such to the exposed persons prior to the time of exposure.  
2 Plaintiff later discerned that Defendants engaged in such practice.

3 16. On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate and Di  
4 (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“DEHP”) to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause  
5 cancer (*Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27, § 27001(b)), and on October 24, 2003, the Governor  
6 added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male  
7 reproductive toxicity (*Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27, § 27001(c)). Pursuant to Health and  
8 Safety Code sections 25249.9 and 25249.10, twenty (20) months after addition of DEHP  
9 to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, DEHP became  
10 fully subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements and discharge prohibitions.

11 **SATISFACTION OF PRIOR NOTICE**

12 17. Plaintiff served the following notices for alleged violations of Health and Safety Code  
13 Section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures:

- 14 a. On or about July 23, 2025, Plaintiff gave notice of alleged violations of Health  
15 and Safety Code Section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures  
16 subject to a private action to HOBBY LOBBY, and to the California Attorney  
17 General, County District Attorneys, and City Attorneys for each city containing  
18 a population of at least 750,000 people in whose jurisdictions the violations  
19 allegedly occurred, concerning the Faux Fur Plush.
- 20 b. On or about July 30, 2025, Plaintiff gave notice of alleged violations of Health  
21 and Safety Code Section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures  
22 subject to a private action to HOBBY LOBBY, and to the California Attorney  
23 General, County District Attorneys, and City Attorneys for each city containing  
24 a population of at least 750,000 people in whose jurisdictions the violations  
25 allegedly occurred, concerning the Faux Fur Plush.
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1 18. Before sending the notice of alleged violations, Plaintiff investigated the consumer  
2 products involved, the likelihood that such products would cause users to suffer  
3 significant exposures to DEHP and the corporate structure of each of the Defendants.

4 19. Plaintiff's notice of alleged violation included a Certificate of Merit executed by the  
5 attorney for the noticing party, CAG. The Certificate of Merit stated that the attorney for  
6 Plaintiff who executed the certificate had consulted with at least one person with relevant  
7 and appropriate expertise who reviewed data regarding the exposures to DEHP, the  
8 subject Proposition 65-listed chemical of this action. Based on that information, the  
9 attorney for Plaintiff who executed the Certificate of Merit believed there was a  
10 reasonable and meritorious case for this private action. The attorney for Plaintiff  
11 attached to the Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General the confidential  
12 factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit.

13 20. Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations also included a Certificate of Service and a  
14 document entitled "The Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986  
15 (Proposition 65) A Summary." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(d).

16 21. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty (60) days from the dates that Plaintiff  
17 gave notice of the alleged violations to HOBBY LOBBY, and the public prosecutors  
18 referenced in Paragraph 17.

19 22. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that neither the Attorney General, nor  
20 any applicable district attorney or city attorney has commenced and is diligently  
21 prosecuting an action against the Defendants.

### 22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **(By CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. and against HOBBY LOBBY, and**  
24 **DOES 1-10 for Violations of Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic**  
25 **Enforcement Act of 1986 (*Health & Safety Code*, §§ 25249.5, *et seq.*))**

### 26 **Toys**

27 23. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 22 of this complaint  
28 as though fully set forth herein.

1 24. Each of the Defendants is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a manufacturer,  
2 distributor, promoter, or retailer of Faux Fur Plush, including but not limited to: "Brother  
3 Sister DESIGN STUDIO"; "PLUSH Faux Fur"; "HL9200447"; "Made for Hobby Lobby  
4 Stores, Inc.".

5 25. Faux Fur Plush contains DEHP.

6 26. Defendants knew or should have known that DEHP has been identified by the State of  
7 California as a chemical known to cause cancer, and reproductive toxicity, and therefore  
8 was subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements. Defendants were also informed of  
9 the presence of DEHP in Faux Fur Plush within Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations  
10 further discussed above at Paragraphs 17a, 17b.

11 27. Plaintiff's allegations regarding Faux Fur Plush concerns "[c]onsumer products  
12 exposure[s]," which "is an exposure that results from a person's acquisition, purchase,  
13 storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any  
14 exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." *Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, §*  
15 *25602(b)*. Faux Fur Plush is/are consumer products, and, as mentioned herein, exposures  
16 to DEHP took place as a result of such normal and foreseeable consumption and use.

17 28. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that between July 23, 2022 and the  
18 present, each of the Defendants knowingly and intentionally exposed California  
19 consumers and users of Faux Fur Plush, which Defendants manufactured, distributed, or  
20 sold as mentioned above, to DEHP, without first providing any type of clear and  
21 reasonable warning of such to the exposed persons before the time of exposure.  
22 Defendants have distributed and sold Faux Fur Plush in California. Defendants know  
23 and intend that California consumers will use and consume Faux Fur Plush, thereby  
24 exposing them to DEHP. Further, Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that  
25 Defendants are selling Faux Fur Plush under a brand or trademark that is owned or  
26 licensed by the Defendants or an entity affiliated thereto; have knowingly introduced  
27 DEHP into Faux Fur Plush or knowingly caused DEHP to be created in Faux Fur Plush;

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1 have covered, obscured or altered a warning label that has been affixed to Faux Fur  
2 Plush by the manufacturer, producer, packager, importer, supplier or distributor of Faux  
3 Fur Plush; have received a notice and warning materials for exposure from Faux Fur  
4 Plush without conspicuously posting or displaying the warning materials; and/or have  
5 actual knowledge of potential exposure to DEHP from Faux Fur Plush. Defendants  
6 thereby violated Proposition 65.

7 29. The principal routes of exposure are through dermal contact, ingestion and inhalation.  
8 Persons sustain exposures by handling Faux Fur Plush without wearing gloves or any  
9 other personal protective equipment, or by touching bare skin or mucous membranes  
10 with gloves after handling Faux Fur Plush, as well as through direct and indirect hand to  
11 mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter dispersed  
12 from Faux Fur Plush.

13 30. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each of Defendants' violations of  
14 Proposition 65 as to Faux Fur Plush have been ongoing and continuous, as Defendants  
15 engaged and continue to engage in conduct which violates Health and Safety Code  
16 Section 25249.6, including the manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sale of Faux  
17 Fur Plush, so that a separate and distinct violation of Proposition 65 occurred each and  
18 every time a person was exposed to DEHP by Faux Fur Plush as mentioned herein.

19 31. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each violation of Proposition 65  
20 mentioned herein is ever continuing. Plaintiff further alleges and believes that the  
21 violations alleged herein will continue to occur into the future.

22 32. Based on the allegations herein, Defendants are liable for civil penalties of up to  
23 \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposure to DEHP from Faux Fur Plush, pursuant to  
24 Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b).

25 33. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to  
26 filing this Complaint.



1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 Plaintiff demands against each of the Defendants as follows:

- 3 1. A permanent injunction mandating Proposition 65-compliant warnings;  
4 2. Penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, subdivision (b);  
5 3. Costs of suit;  
6 4. Reasonable attorney fees and costs; and  
7 5. Any further relief that the court may deem just and equitable.

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9 Dated: December 29, 2025

YEROUSHALMI & YEROUSHALMI\*

10  
11 /s/ Reuben Yeroushalmi

12 Reuben Yeroushalmi

13 Attorneys for Plaintiff,

14 CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.  
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