

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
	)	
LEACHCO, INC.	)	CPSC DOCKET NO. 22-1
	)	
	)	Hon. Michael G. Young
	)	Presiding Officer
Respondent.	)	
	)	

**COMPLAINT COUNSEL’S APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE  
OF SUBPOENA TO NON-PARTY LEAH DIONNE BARNES**

Pursuant to 16 C.F.R. § 1025.38, which requires the issuance of a subpoena to any non-party for the purpose of compelling attendance, testimony, and production of documents at a hearing or deposition, Complaint Counsel respectfully requests that the Presiding Officer forward, and that the Commission issue, the subpoena attached to this Application as Exhibit A.

The non-party named in the subpoena is Leah Dionne Barnes. Leah Dionne Barnes is the former Marketing Director of Leachco, Inc. (“Leachco”), the Respondent in this matter.

Based on the discovery conducted thus far, Complaint Counsel believes that this non-party has critical, relevant information regarding the Leachco Podster infant lounging pillows at issue in this matter (“Subject Products”), including, but not limited to, information related to the marketing of the Subject Products; the use of the Subject Products, including for sleep; communications with third parties about the appropriate use of the Subject Products; and the development and effectiveness of the Subject Products’ labels, warnings, and instructions. In light of Ms. Barnes’s role at Leachco, Ms. Barnes also may have other relevant information

regarding interactions Leachco had with both third-parties and Leachco employees regarding the use of the Subject Products and the risk of injury they pose.

Accordingly, Complaint Counsel requests that the Presiding Officer forward this Application and the subpoenas to the Commission for appropriate action.

Dated: October 5, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Brett Ruff*

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Gregory Reyes, Supervisory Attorney

Brett Ruff, Trial Attorney

Rosalee Thomas, Trial Attorney

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Frederick Millett, Trial Attorney

Division of Enforcement and Litigation

Office of Compliance and Field Operations

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Bethesda, MD 20814

Complaint Counsel for

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 5, 2022, I served Complaint Counsel's Application for the Issuance of Subpoena to Non-Party Leah Dionne Barnes upon all parties and participants of record in these proceedings as described below:

*By email to the Secretary:*

Alberta E. Mills  
Secretary  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Email: AMills@cpsc.gov

*By email to the Presiding Officer:*

Judge Michael G. Young  
Presiding Officer and Administrative Law Judge  
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission  
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Ste. 520N  
Washington, DC 20004-1710  
Email: myoung@fmshrc.gov  
cjannace@fmshrc.gov

*By email to Counsel for Respondent:*

Oliver J. Dunford  
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4440 PGA Blvd., Suite 307  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
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*/s/ Brett Ruff*

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Brett Ruff  
Complaint Counsel for  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

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_____	)	

**ORDER TRANSMITTING COMPLAINT COUNSEL’S APPLICATION FOR THE  
ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENA TO NON-PARTY LEAH DIONNE BARNES**

On October 5, 2022, Complaint Counsel for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission filed an Application for the Issuance of Subpoena to Non-Party Leah Dionne Barnes.

Pursuant to 16 C.F.R. § 1025.38(c), the application is hereby transmitted to the Secretary so that it may be forwarded to the Commission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael G. Young  
Administrative Law Judge

# **EXHIBIT A**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
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LEACHCO, INC.	)	CPSC DOCKET NO. 22-1
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Respondent.	)	

TO: Leah Dionne Barnes

**SUBPOENA**

Complaint Counsel in the above-captioned matter ("Complaint Counsel") is seeking an Initial Decision and Order determining that various models of infant lounger pillows manufactured and distributed by Leachco, Inc. ("Leachco") present a substantial product hazard. Complaint Counsel believes that you, as former Marketing Director for Leachco, possess information or have knowledge that will assist in that determination.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has authorized the issuance of this Subpoena in this matter pursuant to Sections 15 and 27(b)(3) & (4) of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2064 and 2076(b)(3) & (4), and 16 C.F.R. part 1025. **The Subpoena requires that you produce documents and appear for a deposition.**

## **I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

A. The Commission's rules for adjudications govern this Subpoena. 16 C.F.R. § 1025.38. Title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1025.38(g) sets forth procedures for motions to quash or modify the terms of this Subpoena.

B. This Subpoena shall be answered by you.

C. The public disclosure of any information provided to the Commission under this Subpoena shall be governed by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Commission's regulations under that Act, 16 C.F.R. part 1015, and the April 11, 2022 Protective Order entered in this matter, available at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/Recall-Lawsuits-Adjudicative-Proceedings>. If you wish to request confidential treatment for any information provided, you should submit a request for such treatment with responsive documents. Questions about this Subpoena should be directed to Frederick Millett, Trial Attorney, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance and Field Operations, Division of Enforcement and Litigation, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504-7849; e-mail: [fmillett@cpsc.gov](mailto:fmillett@cpsc.gov).

D. Each document production request seeks production of all documents described herein, and any attachments thereto, in your possession, custody, or control, or in the possession, custody, or control of any of your attorneys, past or present employees or employers, agents, or representatives, and all documents and any attachments that you or any of your attorneys, past or present employees or employers, agents, or representatives have the legal right to obtain, or have the ability to obtain from sources under your or their control.

E. The words "and" and "or" shall be construed conjunctively or disjunctively, as necessary, to make the request inclusive rather than exclusive. The word "including" shall be



construed to mean without limitation. The words “any” and “all” shall be construed to make the request inclusive rather than exclusive.

F. The use of the past tense shall include the present tense, and the use of the present tense shall include the past tense, to make all definitions and discovery requests inclusive rather than exclusive. The singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

G. To the extent that you withheld, based upon a claim of privilege, any information or documents (including electronic records) that would have been responsive to any information or document production requests contained in the Subpoena, provide the following information:

1. For any document withheld, specify the privilege claimed and the factual basis you contend supports the assertion of the privilege, and identify the document as follows: (a) state the date, nature, and subject matter of the document; (b) identify each author of the document; (c) identify each preparer of the document; (d) identify each person who is an addressee or an intended recipient of the document; (e) identify each person from whom the document was received; (f) state the present location of the document and all copies thereof; (g) identify each person who has, or ever had, possession, custody, or control of the document or any copy thereof; (h) state the number of pages, attachments, appendices, and exhibits; and (i) provide all further information concerning the document and the circumstances upon which the claim of privilege is asserted.

2. Regarding any communication withheld, identify the persons or entities among whom the communication took place, the date of the communication, and the subject.

H. In an affidavit accompanying the response to the Subpoena, you must include a statement, signed under oath or affirmation, indicating that a diligent search of all files, records, and databases for responsive information and documents has been made, that the information

contained in the responses to the questions is complete and accurate, and that you have produced true copies of all the documents requested in the Subpoena.

I. Submit your response to the Subpoena to Frederick Millett and Brett Ruff, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance and Field Operations, Division of Enforcement and Litigation, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504-7849; e-mail: fmillett@cpsc.gov and bruff@cpsc.gov. Documents should be provided electronically in native file format.

J. Your obligation to respond to the Subpoena is a continuing one. As additional information becomes available to you that is responsive to the Subpoena, you must submit that information immediately.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of the Subpoena, the following definitions apply:

1. “You,” “your,” and “Respondent” mean the Respondent to whom these subpoena requests are directed (including if previously known under different names), including all past and present representatives, agents, and employees of the Respondent and all other past and present persons acting or purporting to act on Respondent’s behalf.

2. “Person” means any natural person, entity, group, corporation, company, partnership, joint venture, firm, association, proprietorship, agency, board, authority, commission, officer, or other business or legal entity, whether private or governmental, and whether foreign or domestic.

3. “Subject Products” means various models of infant lounging pillows that were manufactured and/or distributed in U.S. commerce by Leachco from 2008 to present, specifically the Podster, Podster Plush, Bummzie, and Podster Playtime.

4. “Document(s)” shall be interpreted as the term is used in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34, and includes electronically stored information.

5. “Communication(s)” shall mean any transfer of information, ideas, opinions, or thoughts by any means, at any time or place, under any circumstances, including, but not limited to, any transfer of information or data in a document, or from one location to another, by electrical, electronic, digital, or other means.

6. “Relating to” or “related to” shall mean consisting of, referring to, describing, discussing, constituting, evidencing, containing, mentioning, concerning, pertaining to, citing, summarizing, analyzing, or bearing any logical or factual connection to the matter discussed.

### **III. SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM AND DUCES TECUM**

You are ordered to appear for a virtual deposition to testify regarding the matters referred to above thirty (30) days after service of the subpoena, or on a date and at a location mutually agreeable to the parties, and continuing thereafter until your testimony is concluded.

You are also directed to produce via email to [fmillett@cpsc.gov](mailto:fmillett@cpsc.gov) and [bruff@cpsc.gov](mailto:bruff@cpsc.gov), or at a location or through means mutually agreeable to the parties, within ten (10) days of service of the subpoena and prior to testifying at the deposition above, copies of all records in your possession, custody, or control relating to:

- 1) Any and all Documents and Communications containing the terms “Podster” or “Podsters”.
- 2) Any and all Documents and Communications relating to reports of incidents, including incidents involving injuries, involving the Subject Products.
- 3) All Documents and Communications, whether formal or informal, including opinions, assessments, studies, reports, publications, written evaluations, or materials of any

kind, which discuss or refer to the effectiveness of any labels, warnings, instructions, or videos regarding the Subject Products.

- 4) All Documents and Communications, including Leachco internal communications and third-party communications to all retailers, dealers, distributors, or other third parties, relating to any guidance Leachco or You provided with respect to marketing and advertising of the Subject Products.
- 5) All Documents and Communications, including Leachco internal communications, third-party communications between Leachco and any retailer, and communications between past and present Leachco employees, that discuss or refer to any risk of injury posed by the Subject Products.
- 6) All Documents or Communications that reference the Subject Products being used for sleep or napping.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

The undersigned, an authorized official of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, has hereto set her hand and caused the seal of the Commission to be affixed at Bethesda, MD, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Alberta E. Mills  
Secretary  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission