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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

PATRICK WILLS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF AIDEN WILLS; SHERRY SHAFFER PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LOGAN SHAFFER; WHITNEY STETTLER, a single person; CHRISTOPHER GUNNELL, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF IAN GUNNELL; all on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SEATTLE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL, a non-profit Washington Corporation,

Defendant.

No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs allege:

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 For decades Defendant Seattle Children’s Hospital has been one of the most revered pediatric medical facilities in the country.

1.2 In November 2019, Defendant shocked the public by admitting its premises at 4800 Sandpoint Way Northeast, Seattle, Washington, had been contaminated with *Aspergillus* mold since 2001 which sickened and caused the death of numerous child patients.

1 2.3 Plaintiff Class Representative Whitney Stettler, was 17 years of age when she was
2 hospitalized. She is now an adult residing in Battleground, Washington.

3 2.4 Plaintiff Class Representative Christopher Gunnell, Personal Representative,
4 brings this action on behalf of the estate of Ian Gunnell, an eleven-year-old child patient of
5 Defendant who was hospitalized from August 2008 until his death on March 2009, as well as the
6 Parental claims of Ian and Tanya Gunnell, residing in Lewiston, Idaho.

7 2.5 The Plaintiff Class Representatives bring this healthcare negligence and premises
8 liability Class Action against Defendant. Defendant's facilities located at 4800 Sandpoint Way
9 Northeast, Seattle, Washington, should have been, but were not, reasonably safe for the uses
10 intended. The Defendant negligently maintained and tested its facilities, resulting in the
11 transmission of *Aspergillus* mold spores to hospitalized child patients.

12 2.6 Defendant Seattle Children's Hospital is a nonprofit corporation organized under
13 the laws of the State of Washington authorized to do business in the State of Washington.
14 Defendant is a "healthcare provider" within the meaning of RCW 7.70 and was duly authorized
15 to provide healthcare services to Plaintiffs and each class member. There existed a fiduciary
16 health care provider-patient relationship between the parties.

17 2.7 Defendant provided to Plaintiff and each Class member medical care, treatment,
18 and housing within its facilities.

19 2.8 Defendant through its agents, employees, and contractors, acted at all relevant
20 times on behalf of Defendant and within the scope of their employment or agency (whether
21 actual or ostensible).

22 **III. DATE OF OCCURRENCE**

23 3.1 The care in question occurred from the time that the *Aspergillus* mold entered into

1 the Defendant's premises to the present date. By admission of Defendant's Chief Executive
2 Officer Jeff Sperring, MD, that date is 2001 to the present time.

3 3.2 By August 2000, the Defendant knew or should have known of the dangerous
4 condition as a result of internal communication outlining ongoing and systemic problems with
5 the maintenance of the air-handling system.

6 3.3 During 2002 and 2003, Defendant knew of the numerous problems with the air-
7 handling system and risk to patient population due to internal communications and concerns
8 raised by a professional engineering consultant, including lack of formal maintenance program,
9 water leaks, plugged drains, standing water, plugged intake screens, live and dead birds in fan
10 shafts, leaking coils, overall filthy condition of all air handling units, lack of organized blue
11 prints of HVAC system, under-qualified and under-staffed Building and Engineering
12 Department, misallocation of monies from the Building and Engineering Department and failure
13 to test air handling units to determine if operating as designed.

14 3.4 In 2005, Eugene and Clarissa Patnode brought a lawsuit on behalf of their child.
15 The litigation exposed the direct link between inadequate maintenance of the air-handling system
16 and transmission of *Aspergillus* mold into Children's Hospital.

17 3.5 In 2008, Defendant settled the Patnode case on condition of confidentiality. By
18 invoking secrecy, Defendant took active steps to hide from the public the existence of
19 *Aspergillus* mold as spread throughout the hospital's air-handling system.

20 3.6 Based upon the evidence discovered in the Patnode case, Defendant knew or
21 should have known by at least August 2000 that its negligent failure to provide safe premises
22 directly caused the transmission of *Aspergillus* to its vulnerable child patients.

23 3.7 Between 2000 and the present time, the Defendant did not notify the public, its

1 doctors, nurses, or its patients or their parents that there were problems with the maintenance of
2 its air-handling system. Even when hospitalized child patients became sickened by *Aspergillus*,
3 Defendant concealed its culpability.

4 3.8 The “discovery rule” pertaining to the statute of limitations applies.

5 3.9 In 2019, after seven infections and one death were connected to the latest
6 outbreak of *Aspergillus* as transmitted by Defendant’s air-handling system, Defendant looked
7 back at prior cases and identified seven more illnesses and five deaths between 2001 and 2014.
8 Only then did Defendant admit that *Aspergillus* exposure was evident at the hospital these past
9 18 years.

10 IV. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11 4.1 The Superior Court of King County, State of Washington, has subject matter
12 jurisdiction over this action pursuant to RCW 2.08.010.

13 4.2 Jurisdiction and venue are proper in and for the Superior Court of Washington for
14 King County Seattle Division because the incident occurred at Defendant’s place of business in
15 Seattle, King County, Washington.

16 V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

17 5.1 **Class Definition:** Plaintiff brings this Class action pursuant to Washington
18 CR 23(b)(3) on behalf of a Class defined as follows:

19 All former admitted child patients of Defendant who were treated in its premises
20 and affiliated areas starting in 2001 to the present who then contracted any
21 version of *Aspergillus* mold-related illness caused by exposure within
22 Defendant’s premises, where such illness resulted in personal injury including
23 death and loss of consortium to the parents.

1 5.2 **Numerosity:** The hospital has not yet attempted to identify all child patients who
2 were exposed to *Aspergillus* and contracted any of the conditions described in paragraphs 6.3.a-b
3 below. Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is
4 impracticable. The disposition of the claims of the Class in a single action will provide
5 substantial benefits to all parties and the Court.

6 5.3 **Commonality:** There are questions of law and fact which are common to the
7 Class, including, but not limited to:

- 8 a. Whether Defendant breached its duty to comply with the standard of care of a
9 pediatric hospital;
- 10 b. Whether Defendant exercised the requisite degree of skill, care and learning
11 expected of a reasonably prudent hospital/healthcare provider;
- 12 c. Whether Defendant fell below its professional standard of care by failing to
13 provide a safe environment within its premises and related facilities;
- 14 d. Whether Defendant failed to obtain informed consent that surgery would not
15 occur in a safe environment and included the risk of contamination by *Aspergillus*
16 mold which could lead to further injury, including death;
- 17 e. Whether Defendant failed to reasonably maintain its air-handling system;
- 18 f. Whether Defendant reasonably monitored its premises and related facilities to
19 ensure that a safe environment existed;
- 20 g. Whether Defendant had a duty to take reasonably prudent measures to prevent
21 *Aspergillus* mold from infecting Plaintiff and each Class member in the
22 Defendant's premises;
- 23 h. Whether Defendant failed to exercise reasonable care to protect its child patient
24 business invitees from injury;
- i. Whether Defendant failed to take reasonable precautions to eliminate the risk of

1 *Aspergillus* transmission from its air-handling system to its child patient business;

2 j. Whether Defendant owed a duty of care to its child patient business invitees,
3 including Plaintiff and each Class member, which required it to inspect for
4 dangerous conditions, followed by such repair, safeguards, or warnings as may be
5 reasonably necessary under the circumstances;

6 k. Whether Defendant violated WAC 246-320;

7 l. Whether Defendant concealed the existence of chronic *Aspergillus* contamination
8 in its premises from the public between 2000 and 2019;

9 m. Whether Defendant violated the CPA; and

10 n. The nature and extent of Class-wide injury and the measure of compensation for
11 such injury.

12 5.4 **Typicality.** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other members of the
13 Class and Plaintiffs are not subject to any atypical claims or defenses. Defendant did not prevent
14 the transmission of *Aspergillus* into its premises. Plaintiffs were ill when brought to Defendant's
15 hospital, the premises were contaminated, and as a result the patients became sickened by
16 *Aspergillus*. Defendant failed to advise the children's parents that the premises were unsafe and
17 later did not admit to them that the *Aspergillus* infection was caused by Defendant's own
18 negligence. Plaintiffs' claims like those of the Class, arise out of the same common course of
19 conduct by Defendant directed toward Plaintiffs and the Class and are based on the same legal
20 and remedial theories.

21 5.5 **Adequacy:** Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the Class, as they are
22 committed to prosecuting this action, have no conflicts of interest, and have retained competent
23 counsel who are experienced civil trial lawyers with recent significant experience in complex
24 and Class action litigation and trial, including tort litigation. Plaintiffs and their counsel are
committed to prosecuting this action vigorously on behalf of the Class and have the financial

1 6.1 Defendant’s admirable mission is to “provide hope, care and cures to help every
2 child live the healthiest and most fulfilling life possible.” For over 100 years, Defendant has
3 been known to “deliver superior patient care, advance new discoveries and treatments through
4 pediatric research and serve as the pediatric and adolescent academic medical center for
5 Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho – the largest region of any children’s hospital in the
6 country.” In 2019, *U.S. News & World Report* named Seattle Children’s to its Honor Roll of the
7 10 best children’s hospitals in the country. The Honor Roll designates excellence across a range
8 of pediatric specialties.

9 6.2 Included within the Defendant’s responsibilities is the requirement that it ensure
10 that its premises are safe for its child patients. This includes ensuring that its premises remain a
11 sterile environment, including, but not limited to, adequately maintaining its air-handling
12 systems, and testing its premises and affiliated areas for the presence of *Aspergillus* mold spores.

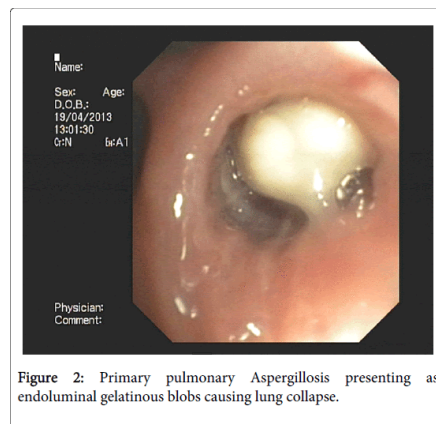


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21 *Demonstrative Photo by: Center for Disease Control*

22 6.3 *Aspergillus* is a common mold. People with lung disease or weakened immune
23 systems – especially organ or stem cell transplant patients – are at higher risk of developing

1 aspergillosis. The condition can appear as an allergic reaction, but in more serious cases causes
2 infections in the lungs and other organs. According to the CDC:

- 3 a. Azole-Resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus*: Occurs when one species of *Aspergillus*,
4 *A. fumigatus*, becomes resistant to certain medicines used to treat it. Patients with
5 resistant infections might not get better with treatment.
- 6 b. Aspergilloma: Occurs when a ball of *Aspergillus* grows in the lungs or sinuses,
7 but usually does not spread to other parts of the body. Aspergilloma is also called
8 a “fungus ball.”
- 9 c. Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis: Occurs when *Aspergillus* infection causes
10 cavities in the lungs, and can be a long-term (3 months or more) condition. One or
11 more fungal balls (aspergillomas) may also be present in the lungs.



19 *Demonstrative Photo from*
20 *Journal of Pulmonary and Respiratory Infection (2014)*

- 21 d. Invasive aspergillosis: Occurs when *Aspergillus* causes a serious infection, and
22 usually affects people who have weakened immune systems, such as people who
23 have had an organ transplant or a stem cell transplant. Invasive aspergillosis most
24 commonly affects the lungs, but it can also spread to other parts of the body.

- 1 e. Cutaneous (skin) aspergillosis: Occurs when *Aspergillus* enters the body through
2 a break in the skin (for example, after surgery or a burn wound) and causes
3 infection, usually in people who have weakened immune systems. Cutaneous
4 aspergillosis can also occur if invasive aspergillosis spreads to the skin from
5 somewhere else in the body, such as the lungs.

6 6.4 In December 2002, 12 year old Jane Doe Patnode had a brain tumor surgically
7 removed at Defendant's hospital. The child survived the tumor removal, but developed
8 aspergillosis in her brain and spine which rendered her permanently disabled. The family sued
9 Defendant in 2005. Two declarations summarize the nature of Defendant's failures regarding its
10 air-handling systems:

- 11 a. Margaret Brown, had a master's degree in civil engineering and construction
12 management, and had been a Navy civil engineer for 20 years. She had
13 previously been a project manager at Fred Hutchison when they built the Seattle
14 Cancer Care Alliance, and was Director of Engineering at Harborview Medical
15 Center. From October 2002 to March 2003, she was retained by Defendant as a
16 consultant for the Building & Engineering Department (B&E). Ms. Brown stated
17 under oath on August 31, 2007:

- 18 i. She was advised by Defendant's infection control staff that *Aspergillus*
19 was a concern for the B&E Department.
20 ii. The operating and maintenance manuals for the air-handling system had
21 been missing for approximately one year.
22 iii. The air-handling system was only repaired when it would breakdown.
23 iv. Preventative maintenance of the air-handling system was not occurring.

- 1 v. The air-intake systems were in poor condition and it appeared
2 maintenance had not been performed for many years. Dead birds along
3 with copious other debris were lodged in the screens. Air-handling unit
4 water pans were filled with slimy water.
- 5 vi. B&E employees had no air-handling education.
- 6 vii. Overall Defendant's B&E Department did not have employees with the
7 skill and knowledge of other B&E staff she had worked with in the past.
- 8 viii. She had grave concerns about how the hospital's critical care systems
9 impacted Defendant's patient populations.
- 10 ix. When she brought and explained these concerns to Defendant, it abruptly
11 terminated her services.
- 12 b. Defendant hired Kenneth Johnson as an engineer in the B&E Department in April
13 1999. He received a promotion to Lead Engineer, but left in September 2003.
14 Mr. Johnson stated under oath that during his time there:
- 15 i. All of the air-handling units were in a filthy condition. Mold accumulated
16 around fan coils and drain pans. Air intake screens were plugged with
17 debris, including dead and live birds and bird droppings.
- 18 ii. The only preventative maintenance performed was limited to changing
19 filters on the air handling units.
- 20 iii. It would have taken several years without maintenance for the system to
21 deteriorate to this state.
- 22 iv. Most of the time the air-handling units and fans had some form of water
23 leak. This is because the system was "rotting out."

- v. The B&E Department tried to put temporary patches on the problems.
- vi. The air-handling system was not tested.
- vii. The maintenance department was understaffed and needed additional funding to complete maintenance, make repairs, and provide for a computerized maintenance management system.
- viii. Defendant's B&E Manager repeatedly expressed concerns in writing by email to Defendant.

6.5 In August 2008, the Patnode lawsuit ended in a secret settlement. The Defendant did not advise the public that children taken for surgery at its Hospital had been or could be exposed to *Aspergillus* mold through its air-handling system.

6.6 Defendant failed to take adequate steps to address the long-standing *Aspergillus* contamination spread through its air-handling system, including, but not limited to, negligence in the maintenance of that system and negligence in testing its premises for the presence of mold spores.

Class representative Estate of Logan Shaffer



1 6.7 On February 5, 2005, Logan Shaffer was born with only half a heart. Physicians
2 advised that surgery could be performed that would allow the right side to function as a whole
3 heart. Logan’s parents chose Defendant over Stanford University Hospital. Logan experienced
4 a successful surgery on February 10, 2005.

5 6.8 Baby Logan recovered from surgery and went home.

6 6.9 During a later examination by a cardiologist, doctors discovered that Logan had
7 suffered a heart aneurism caused by an *Aspergillus* infection.

8 6.10 Logan returned to Defendant’s hospital in March 2005. There, doctors found
9 systematic bleeding throughout Logan’s body.

10 6.11 Logan died on March 28, 2005.

11 6.12 Exposure to *Aspergillus* while in Defendant’s premises directly caused Logan’s
12 pulmonary infection and death.

13 6.13 The doctors and nurses employed by Defendant who provided care to Logan did
14 not know that Defendant’s premises were unsafe and that transmission of *Aspergillus* was
15 Defendant’s fault.

16 6.14 Defendant failed to notify Logan’s parents that the *Aspergillus* had been
17 contracted directly from its facilities as the result of negligent maintenance of its air-handling
18 system.

19 **Class Representative Estate of Aiden Wills**



1 6.15 In August 2008, three-year-old Aiden Wills became a patient at Defendant’s
2 hospital. He suffered from hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, a rare disorder where the body
3 makes too many immune cells. He underwent bone marrow transplant.

4 6.16 In about January 2009, doctors performed bronchoaveolar lavage (a procedure
5 where a bronchoscope is passed into the lungs). He was then diagnosed with *Aspergillus* fungal
6 infection. At the time doctors explained that due to the *Aspergillus* infection:

7 “...we are in a tougher spot than we have been. In the past a fungal infection
8 post-transplant was a fatal condition. However, we do now have medications that
9 can treat fungal infections. The dilemma is that we must prioritize whether to
10 treat the fungus of the VGHD most effectively. If we treat the GVHD (Acute
11 Graft versus Host Disease) most aggressively with a steroid burst and possibly
12 additional medications, we put Aiden at greater risk for the spread of his fungal
13 infection. If we treat the fungus aggressively with immunosuppressants, then we
14 risk a worsening of his GVHD. At present we are choosing to treat the fungus
15 most aggressively with voriconazole and micafungin.

16 6.17 By February 17, 2009, the *Aspergillis* was “unchanged.”

17 6.18 Aiden died March 24, 2009.

18 6.19 Exposure to *Aspergillus* while in Defendant’s premises directly caused Aiden’s
19 pulmonary infection and interfered with his treatment.

20 6.20 The doctors and nurses employed by Defendant who provided care to Aiden did
21 not know that Defendant’s premises were unsafe and that transmission of *Aspergillus* was
22 Defendant’s fault.

23 6.21 Although Defendant treated Aiden for the infection, it failed to notify his parents
24 that the *Aspergillus* had been contracted directly from its facilities as the result of negligent
maintenance of its air-handling system.

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1 **Class Representative Whitney Stettler**



11 6.22 In 2011, Plaintiff Whitney Stettler was a 17-year-old teenager living in Alaska
12 when diagnosed with Leukemia. She flew to Defendant’s hospital for urgent care. She
13 underwent surgery in the operating room where a port (central venous line) was placed. Through
14 the port she received life-saving medication. The goal was to stabilize Whitney so that she could
15 receive a bone marrow transplant.

16 6.23 After the port placement, Whitney became ill in a manner not associated with
17 Leukemia or its treatment. Tests revealed the existence of *Aspergillus* mold in her blood.
18 Whitney went into a coma and remained in-patient for the next month until her condition
19 stabilized.

20 6.24 Exposure to *Aspergillus* while in Defendant’s premises directly caused Whitney’s
21 pulmonary aspergillosis and interfered with her treatment.

22 6.25 The doctors and nurses employed by Defendant who provided care to Whitney
23 did not know that Defendant’s premises were unsafe and that transmission of *Aspergillus* was
24 Defendant’s fault.

1 6.26 Although Defendant treated Whitney for the infection, it failed to notify her that
2 the *Aspergillus* had been contracted directly from its facilities as the result of negligent
3 maintenance of its air-handling system.

4 **Class representative Estate of Ian Gunnell**



15 6.27 In 2017, eleven year old Ian Gunnell had a previous diagnosis of blastic
16 plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm, a rare form of blood cell cancer. He was admitted to
17 Defendant’s hospital for additional chemotherapy. On August 30, 2017, he underwent surgery in
18 the operating room where a port (central venous line) was placed.

19 6.28 Within a few weeks one of his eyes began to swell. By September 15, 2017,
20 uncertain of what was causing the eye symptoms, doctors began performing tests and attempted
21 to treat the unknown infectious disease process which later was verified as *Aspergillus*. Ian
22 complained of pain, subconjunctival hemorrhage was noted, and his eye was swollen shut.
23 Doctors performed surgery to debride (scrape away) black necrotic debris down to bleeding
24 tissue.

25 6.29 Ian died February 15, 2019.

1 6.30 Exposure to *Aspergillus* while in Defendant’s premises directly caused Ian’s
2 severe eye infection and interfered with his cancer treatment.

3 6.31 The doctors and nurses employed by Defendant who provided care to Ian did not
4 know that Defendant’s premises were unsafe and that transmission of *Aspergillus* was
5 Defendant’s fault.

6 6.32 Although Defendant treated Ian for the infection, it failed to notify him that the
7 *Aspergillus* had been contracted directly from its facilities as the result of negligent maintenance
8 of its air-handling system.

9 6.33 In October 2017, State Department of Health inspectors cited Defendant for
10 serious violations involving its failure to “implement and monitor an effective infection
11 prevention program.”

12 6.34 In June 2018, Defendant closed two of its premises and an equipment storage
13 room for three days after detection of *Aspergillus*.

14 6.35 In May 2019, the Defendant discovered another *Aspergillus* infestation in the air-
15 handling unit. As a result, the Defendant closed all of its premises. State inspectors cited
16 Defendant for failing to adequately maintain its air-handling units and exhaust fans.

17 6.36 Defendant claimed to be addressing the issues and reopened the premises on
18 July 4, 2019. Mark Del Beccaro, Defendant’s Chief Medical Officer, informed investigators that
19 the risk to patients was “incredibly low.”

20 6.37 On November 10, 2019, an inspection revealed *Aspergillus* in three of
21 Defendant’s premises. The Defendant closed these premises.

22 6.38 For a period of at least 19 years (2000 until July 4, 2019), Defendant failed to
23 adequately maintain the safety of its premises due to negligent maintenance of its air-handling
24 system, and negligent failure to adequately test for mold spores.

 6.39 On July 4, 2019, Defendant began to test for mold spores at least once per week.
Defendant is also in the process of replacing its air-handling system.

1 (e) Develop and implement policies and procedures on safety related issues such as but
2 not limited to physical hazards and injury prevention; and

...

3 (9) Utility systems. The hospital must establish and implement policies, procedures and a
4 plan to:

(a) Maintain a safe and comfortable environment;

(b) Assess and minimize risks of utility system failures;

(c) Ensure operational reliability of utility systems;

(d) Investigate and evaluate utility systems problems, failures, or user errors and report
6 incidents and corrective actions;

(e) Perform and document preventive maintenance; and

(f) Educate staff on utility management policies and procedures.

(10) Physical environment. The hospital must provide:

...

(c) Ventilation to:

(i) Prevent objectionable odors and/or excessive condensation; and

(ii) With air pressure relationships as designed and approved by the department when
10 constructed and maintained within industry standard tolerances;

...

11 5.4 Defendant failed to take reasonably prudent measures to prevent *Aspergillus* from
12 infecting Plaintiffs and each Class member in its premises.

13 5.5 Defendant's failures constitute a breach of the standard of care and negligence.

14 5.6 Defendant is independently liable under the doctrine of corporate negligence.

15 VI. PREMISES LIABILITY

16 6.1 As of at least 2000, Defendant had actual and constructive notice that its
17 negligently maintained air-handling system could cause the transmission of *Aspergillus* mold
18 into its premises.

19 6.2 Defendant failed to properly maintain its air-handling system, resulting in the
20 contamination of its premises.

21 6.3 Plaintiffs and each Class member was a child patient business invitee.

22 6.4 Defendant failed to exercise reasonable care to protect its child patient business
23 invitees, including Plaintiffs and each Class member, from injury.

1 **VIII. INFORMED CONSENT**

2 8.1 Defendant failed to inform Plaintiffs or any Class member or their parents of material
3 facts relating to their treatment, such failure resulted in injuries and damages, and such injuries
4 and damages would not have occurred had they been fully informed and made aware of material
5 facts relating to the treatment.

6 **IX. CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT – RCW 19.86 et seq.**

7 9.1 Defendant has engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices by engaging in the
8 following courses of conduct:

- 9 a. Making material misrepresentations and omissions about the safety of its premises
10 (in particular that it conforms to the standards required of a hospital facility) to the
11 public, including its business invitees;
- 12 b. Collecting substantial compensation from its business invitees;
- 13 c. Injuring its child patient business invitees, but then not notifying them that the
14 transmission of *Aspergillus* occurred due its unsafe premises; and
- 15 d. Covering up the nature and extent of the deficiencies related to maintenance of its
16 air-handling system in order to avoid exposure to litigation, bad publicity, and
17 damage to its otherwise stellar reputation.

18 9.2 Defendant’s unfair and deceptive acts and practices repeatedly occurred in Defendant’s
19 trade or business and were capable of deceiving a substantial portion of the public, particularly
20 since Defendant advertised itself as the pre-eminent pediatric hospital in the region.

21 9.3 Defendant’s unfair and deceptive acts and practices affect the public interest.

22 9.4 The unfair and deceptive acts and practices were committed in the general course of
23 Defendant’s business in Washington and have already injured and resulted in the death of

1 numerous Washington residents and others.

2 9.5 As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's unfair and deceptive acts and practices,
3 Plaintiffs and the Class have been injured in their business and/or property and are entitled to
4 recover compensatory damages as described below.

5 9.6 Plaintiffs and each of the Class members are entitled to recover treble damages,
6 attorneys' fees, and costs pursuant to RCW 19.86.090.

7 X. DAMAGES

8 10.1 Defendant's failure to exercise such skill, care and learning, and failure to exercise
9 reasonable prudence, was a direct and proximate cause of the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs
10 and each Class member.

11 10.2 Defendant's negligence caused Plaintiffs' and each Class member's infection by
12 *Aspergillus* and all related harms, including treatment and monitoring, then and into the future.

13 10.3 As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiffs and each Class
14 member has suffered past and future physical and emotional harm, pain and suffering, loss of
15 enjoyment of life, lost earning potential, disability, and related medical expenses.

16 10.4 As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff parents suffered loss
17 of consortium, and special damages.

18 XI. STATUTORY ELECTION

19 11.1 Neither Plaintiffs nor any Class member elect to submit this dispute to arbitration
20 pursuant to RCW 7.70A.020, and a declaration by their attorney is attached.

21 XII. WAIVER OF PRIVILEGE

22 12.1 Waiver of the physician-patient privilege under RCW 5.60.060(4)(b) does not waive or
23 release any other rights or privileges, including those related to the physician-patient

1 relationship, other than the privilege set out in the above-cited statute.

2 **XII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

3 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendant in their favor and in favor
4 of the Class and against Defendant, as follows:

5 12. 1 Declaring and decreeing that this action is properly maintainable as a Class action
6 pursuant to CR 23(b)(3).

7 12. 2 Declaring and decreeing that Defendant violated WAC 246-320.

8 12. 3 Declaring and decreeing that Defendant was negligent for introducing the *Aspergillus*
9 mold into what should have been its sterile premises.

10 12. 4 Declaring and decreeing that Defendant’s negligence resulted in injury to Plaintiff and
11 each Class member.

12 12. 5 For special and general damages to Plaintiffs and the Class in amounts to be proven at
13 trial.

14 12. 6 For costs and disbursements.

15 12. 7 For statutory attorney fees.

16 12. 8 If Defendant brings any frivolous or unfounded defenses, for attorneys’ fees and costs
17 pursuant to RCW 4.84.185 and/or Rule 11 of the Superior Court Civil Rules.

18 12. 9 For statutory interest on the judgment from the date judgment is entered until paid in full.

19 12. 10 For prejudgment interest on the special damages.

20 12. 11 For prejudgment interest on liquidated damages.

21 12. 12 For treble damages, attorneys fees and costs under the CPA.

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1 For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

2 **DATED** this 2nd day of December, 2019.

3 **STRITMATTER KESSLER**
4 **KOEHLER MOORE**

5 /s/ Karen K. Koehler

Karen K. Koehler, WSBA#15325

6 Brad J. Moore, WSBA#21802

Counsel for Plaintiffs and Class

7
8 **LAYMAN LAW FIRM**

9 /s/ John R. Layman

10 John R. Layman, WSBA#13823

11 Co-counsel for Plaintiffs and Class