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19 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
20 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**

21 A.A. and C.M., individually and on behalf of all  
22 others similarly situated,

23 Plaintiffs,

24 v.

25 META PLATFORMS, INC.,

26 Defendant.

27 Case No.

28 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 Plaintiffs A.A. and C.M. (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) bring this class action complaint on  
2 behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (the “Class Members”) against Defendant  
3 Meta Platforms, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Facebook”)<sup>1</sup>. Plaintiffs bring this action based on personal  
4 knowledge of the facts pertaining to themselves, and on information and belief as to all other  
5 matters, by and through the investigation of undersigned counsel.

### 6 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

7 1. This is a class action brought on behalf of all California residents who maintain a  
8 Facebook account and who accessed and used [www.hellowisp.com](http://www.hellowisp.com) (the “Website”) to purchase  
9 over-the-counter and prescription medications.

10 2. The Website represents that patients can access “healthcare on your terms,”<sup>2</sup> and  
11 offers consumers convenient access to medications for the treatment of sexual and reproductive  
12 health issues.

13 3. Treatment related to sexual and reproductive health is inherently personal, involving  
14 intimate details about an individual’s health and reproductive choices. When seeking such  
15 treatment, patients reasonably expect that information related to their medical treatment will be  
16 kept confidential and not intercepted and recorded by unknown third parties.

17 4. Such expectations are based, in part, on the legal protections afforded to such  
18 information.

19 5. Despite these protections, Facebook intentionally intercepted this protected  
20 information through tacking technology embedded on the Website, including its software  
21 development kits (“SDK”) and tracking pixel.

22 6. The protected information intercepted by Facebook was not aggregated or  
23 deidentified. More troubling is the fact that Facebook used this information for its own purposes,  
24 including targeted advertising.

25 7. Plaintiffs and class members provided their personal information, including health  
26

27 <sup>1</sup> In October 2021, Facebook, Inc. changed its name to Meta Platforms, Inc. Unless otherwise  
28 indicated, Facebook, Inc. and Meta Platforms, Inc. are referenced collectively as “Facebook.”

<sup>2</sup> WISP, <https://hellowisp.com/about>.

1 conditions for which they were seeking treatment, when browsing for and purchasing medications  
2 on the Website with the expectation that this information would remain confidential and private.  
3 Defendant's unlawful interception and recording of this information without explicit consent  
4 constitutes an extreme invasion of Plaintiffs' and Class members' privacy. Plaintiffs bring this  
5 action for legal and equitable remedies resulting from these illegal actions.

## 6 PARTIES

7 8. Plaintiff A.A. is a California citizen who resides in San Diego, California. On  
8 August 25, 2023, Plaintiff A.A. was prescribed and ordered Norethindrone birth control medication  
9 through the Website. Unbeknownst to Plaintiff A.A., Facebook intercepted and recorded protected  
10 health information ("PHI") related to her prescription medication through proprietary software  
11 codes, as described more thoroughly below. Due to the surreptitious nature of the interceptions at  
12 issue, Plaintiff A.A. did not realize confidential information related to this medical prescription was  
13 intercepted and recorded by Facebook until August 19, 2024. Plaintiff A.A. was in California  
14 when she ordered prescription medication through the website.

15 9. Plaintiff C.M. is a California citizen who resides in Siskiyou County, California.  
16 From approximately 2022 through 2024, Plaintiff C.M. accessed the Website to book medical  
17 appointments, look up medical information, and buy prescription medications. For example, on  
18 March 7, 2022 Plaintiff C.M. attended a telehealth appointment via the Website to consult with a  
19 healthcare professional about her sensitive health condition. Later that day, she purchased  
20 Metronidazole, the prescribed medication, through the Website. Plaintiff C.M. last visited the  
21 Website on June 10, 2024, when she attended another telehealth appointment. As before, she  
22 purchased Norethisterone, the prescribed medication, through the Website later that day.

23 10. Unbeknownst to Plaintiff C.M., Facebook intercepted her confidential prescription  
24 information through software code known as the Facebook Tracking Pixel, as described below.  
25 Due to the surreptitious nature of the interceptions at issue, Plaintiff C.M. did not realize  
26 information related to her prescription was intercepted and recorded by Facebook until around  
27 October 2024. Plaintiff C.M. was in California when she ordered prescription medication through  
28 the Website.



1 Defendant resides in this county.

2 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

3 **A. Facebook Intercepted Sensitive, Private Information**

4 19. Defendant intercepted information that was sensitive, private, and personally  
5 identifiable.

6 20. Americans have an expectation of privacy when it concerns reproductive health  
7 information. This is especially true when the disclosure of such information can reveal an  
8 individual's sexual preferences, sexual orientation, and/or pregnancy status.

9 21. Not only is this confidential and sensitive, but it is also legally protected. In 2020,  
10 California passed the California Privacy Rights Act, which expands the protections afforded by the  
11 California Consumer Privacy Act. This includes expanding the term "sensitive personal  
12 information" to include "[p]ersonal information collected and analyzed concerning a consumer's  
13 sex life or sexual orientation." Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140(ae)(2)(C).

14 22. Further, the information Facebook intercepted is also protected by California's  
15 Confidentiality of Medical Information Act ("CMIA"), Cal. Civ. Code § 56.

16 23. The CMIA prohibits "[a] provider of health care . . . [from disclosing] medical  
17 information regarding a patient of the provider of health care . . . without first obtaining an  
18 authorization." Cal. Civ. Code § 67.10(a).

19 24. Wisp qualifies as a "provider of health care" under CMIA.

20 25. "Medical information" is defined as:

21 [A]ny individually identifiable information, in electronic or physical  
22 form, in possession of or derived from a provider of health care, health  
23 care service plan, pharmaceutical company, or contractor regarding a  
24 patient's medical history, mental health application information,  
25 **reproductive or sexual health application information**, mental or  
26 physical condition, or treatment. "Individually identifiable" means  
27 that the medical information includes or contains any element of  
28 personal identifying information sufficient to allow identification of  
the individual, such as the patient's name, address, electronic mail  
address, telephone number, or social security number, or other  
information that, alone or in combination with other publicly available  
information, reveals the identity of the individual.

1 Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05(j) (emphasis added).

2 26. “Reproductive or sexual health application information” is defined as:  
3 [I]nformation about a consumer's reproductive health, menstrual  
4 cycle, fertility, pregnancy, pregnancy outcome, plans to conceive, or  
5 type of sexual activity collected by a reproductive or sexual health  
6 digital service, including, but not limited to, information from which  
7 one can infer someone's pregnancy status, menstrual cycle, fertility,  
8 hormone levels, birth control use, sexual activity, or gender identity.

9 Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05(q).

10 **B. Facebook’s Platform and Business Tools**

11 27. Facebook describes itself as a “real identity platform,”<sup>3</sup> meaning users are allowed  
12 only one account and must share “the name they go by in everyday life.”<sup>4</sup> To that end, when  
13 creating an account, users must provide their first and last name, along with their birthday and  
14 gender.<sup>5</sup>

15 28. In 2023, Facebook generated over \$134 billion in revenue.<sup>6</sup> With respect to the  
16 apps offered by Facebook, substantially all of Facebook’s revenue is generated by selling  
17 advertising space.<sup>7</sup>

18 29. Facebook sells advertising space by highlighting its ability to target users.<sup>8</sup>  
19 Facebook can target users effectively because it surveils user activity on and off its site.<sup>9</sup> This  
20 allows Facebook to make inferences about users beyond what they explicitly disclose, like their

21 <sup>3</sup> Sam Schechner & Jeff Horwitz, *How Many Users Does Facebook Have? The Company Struggles*  
22 *to Figure It Out*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 21, 2021, 4:05 PM), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-many-users-does-facebook-have-the-company-struggles-to-figure-it-out-11634846701>.

23 <sup>4</sup> FACEBOOK, COMMUNITY STANDARDS, PART IV INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY,  
24 [https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards/integrity\\_authenticity](https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards/integrity_authenticity).

25 <sup>5</sup> FACEBOOK, SIGN UP, <https://www.facebook.com>.

26 <sup>6</sup> FACEBOOK, META REPORTS FOURTH QUARTER AND FULL YEAR 2023 RESULTS; INITIATES  
27 QUARTERLY DIVIDEND, [https://s21.q4cdn.com/399680738/files/doc\\_news/Meta-Reports-Fourth-Quarter-and-Full-Year-2023-Results-Initiates-Quarterly-Dividend-2024.pdf](https://s21.q4cdn.com/399680738/files/doc_news/Meta-Reports-Fourth-Quarter-and-Full-Year-2023-Results-Initiates-Quarterly-Dividend-2024.pdf) at 8.

28 <sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> FACEBOOK, WHY ADVERTISE ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND OTHER META TECHNOLOGIES,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/205029060038706>.

<sup>9</sup> FACEBOOK, ABOUT META PIXEL,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/742478679120153?id=1205376682832142>.

1 “interests,” “behavior,” and “connections.”<sup>10</sup> Facebook compiles this information into a  
2 generalized dataset called “Core Audiences,” which allows advertisers to reach precise audiences  
3 based on specified targeting types.<sup>11</sup>

4 30. Advertisers can also build “Custom Audiences.”<sup>12</sup> Custom Audiences enables  
5 advertisers to reach “people who have already shown interest in [their] business, whether they’re  
6 loyal customers or people who have used [their] app or visited [their] website.”<sup>13</sup> With Custom  
7 Audiences, advertisers can target existing customers directly and build “Lookalike Audiences,”  
8 which “leverage[] information such as demographics, interests and behaviors from your source  
9 audience to find new people who share similar qualities.”<sup>14</sup> Unlike Core Audiences, advertisers  
10 can build Custom Audiences and Lookalike Audiences only if they first supply Facebook with the  
11 underlying data. They can do so through two mechanisms: (1) by manually uploading contact  
12 information for customers or (2) by utilizing Facebook’s “Business Tools.”<sup>15</sup>

13 31. As Facebook puts it, the Business Tools “help website owners and publishers, app  
14 developers, and business partners, including advertisers and others, integrate with [Facebook],  
15 understand and measure their products and services, and better reach and serve people who might  
16 be interested in their products and services.”<sup>16</sup> Put more succinctly, Facebook’s Business Tools are  
17 bits of code that advertisers can integrate into their websites, mobile applications, and servers,  
18 thereby enabling Facebook to intercept and collect user activity on those platforms.

19 32. The Business Tools are automatically configured to capture certain data, like when a

20 <sup>10</sup> FACEBOOK, AD TARGETING: HELP YOUR ADS FIND THE PEOPLE WHO WILL LOVE YOUR BUSINESS,  
21 <https://www.facebook.com/business/ads/ad-targeting>.

22 <sup>11</sup> FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/business/news/Core-Audiences>.

23 <sup>12</sup> FACEBOOK, ABOUT CUSTOM AUDIENCES,  
24 <https://www.facebook.com/business/help/744354708981227?id=2469097953376494>.

25 <sup>13</sup> FACEBOOK, AUDIENCE AD TARGETING, <https://www.facebook.com/business/ads/ad-targeting>.

26 <sup>14</sup> FACEBOOK, ABOUT LOOKALIKE AUDIENCES,  
27 <https://www.facebook.com/business/help/164749007013531?id=401668390442328>.

28 <sup>15</sup> FACEBOOK, CREATE A CUSTOMER LIST CUSTOM AUDIENCE,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/170456843145568?id=2469097953376494>; FACEBOOK,  
CREATE A WEBSITE CUSTOM AUDIENCE,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/1474662202748341?id=2469097953376494>.

<sup>16</sup> FACEBOOK, THE META BUSINESS TOOLS, <https://www.facebook.com/help/331509497253087>.

1 user visits a webpage, that webpage’s Universal Resource Locator (“URL”) and metadata, or when  
2 a user downloads a mobile application or makes a purchase.<sup>17</sup> Facebook’s Business Tools can also  
3 track other events. Facebook offers a menu of “standard events” from which advertisers can  
4 choose, including what content a visitor views or purchases.<sup>18</sup> Advertisers can even create their  
5 own tracking parameters by building a “custom event.”<sup>19</sup>

6 33. One such Business Tool is the Facebook Tracking Pixel. Facebook encourages  
7 advertisers, like Wisp, to integrate this software into their website. As the name implies, the  
8 Facebook Tracking Pixel “tracks the people and type of actions they take.”<sup>20</sup> When a user accesses  
9 a website hosting the Facebook Tracking Pixel, Facebook’s software script surreptitiously directs  
10 the user’s browser to contemporaneously send a separate message to Facebook’s servers. This  
11 second secret and contemporaneous transmission contains the original GET request sent to the host  
12 website, along with additional data that the Facebook Tracking Pixel is configured to collect. This  
13 transmission is initiated by Facebook code and concurrent with the communications with the host  
14 website. At relevant times, two sets of code were thus automatically run as part of the browser’s  
15 attempt to load and read the Website—Wisp’s own code and Facebook’s embedded code.

16 34. Facebook’s own documentation makes clear how extensively the Facebook  
17 Tracking Pixel tracks private information. It describes the Facebook Tracking Pixel as code that  
18 Facebook’s business customers can put on their website to “[m]ake sure your ads are shown to the  
19 right people[] [and] *ffind . . . people who have visited a specific page or taken a desired action on*  
20

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21 <sup>17</sup> See FACEBOOK, META FOR DEVELOPERS: META PIXEL, ADVANCED,  
22 <https://developers.facebook.com/docs/meta-pixel/advanced/>; see also FACEBOOK, BEST PRACTICES  
23 FOR META PIXEL SETUP,  
24 <https://www.facebook.com/business/help/218844828315224?id=1205376682832142>; FACEBOOK,  
25 META FOR DEVELOPERS: MARKETING API - APP EVENTS API,  
26 <https://developers.facebook.com/docs/marketing-api/app-event-api/>.

27 <sup>18</sup> FACEBOOK, SPECIFICATIONS FOR META PIXEL STANDARD EVENTS,  
28 <https://www.facebook.com/business/help/402791146561655?id=1205376682832142>.

<sup>19</sup> FACEBOOK, ABOUT STANDARD AND CUSTOM WEBSITE EVENTS,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/964258670337005?id=1205376682832142>; see also  
FACEBOOK, META FOR DEVELOPERS: MARKETING API – APP EVENTS API,  
<https://developers.facebook.com/docs/marketing-api/app-event-api/>.

<sup>20</sup> FACEBOOK, RETARGETING, <https://www.facebook.com/business/goals/retargeting>.

1 *your website*” (emphasis added).<sup>21</sup>

2 35. Facebook instructs such business customers that:

3 Once you’ve set up the [Facebook Tracking] Pixel, *the pixel will log when someone*  
4 *takes an action on your website*. Examples of actions include adding an item to their  
5 shopping cart or making a purchase. *The Pixel receives these actions, or events,*  
6 which you can view on your [Facebook Tracking] Pixel page in Events Manager.  
7 From there, you’ll be able to see the actions that your customers take. *You’ll also*  
8 *have options to reach those customers again through future Meta ads.*<sup>22</sup>

9 36. This tracked information includes private data revealing prescribed medications  
10 purchased by consumers on the Website.

11 37. The Facebook Tracking Pixel code enables Facebook not only to help Wisp with  
12 advertising to its own patients outside the Website, but also includes individual patients among  
13 groups targeted by *other* Facebook advertisers relating to the conditions about which patients  
14 communicated on the Website.

15 38. Facebook’s Business Help Center explains:

16 *Meta uses event data to show ads to people who are likely to be interested in them.*  
17 One type of marketing data is website events, which are *actions that people take on*  
18 *your website.*<sup>23</sup>

19 39. In other words, Facebook sells advertising space by highlighting its ability to target  
20 users.<sup>24</sup> Facebook can target users so effectively because it surveils user activity both on and off its  
21 site.<sup>25</sup> This allows Facebook to make inferences about users beyond what they explicitly disclose,  
22 like their “interests,” “behaviors,” and connections.<sup>26</sup>

23 40. An example illustrates how the Facebook Tracking Pixel works. Take an individual

24 <sup>21</sup> META, ABOUT META PIXEL,  
25 <https://www.facebook.com/business/help/742478679120153?id=1205376682832142>.

26 <sup>22</sup> *Id.* (emphasis added).

27 <sup>23</sup> META, ABOUT STANDARD AND CUSTOM WEBSITE EVENTS,  
28 <https://www.facebook.com/business/help/964258670337005?id=1205376682832142> (emphasis  
added).

<sup>24</sup> META, WHY ADVERTISE ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND OTHER META TECHNOLOGIES,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/205029060038706> (last visited May 21, 2024).

<sup>25</sup> META, ABOUT META PIXEL,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/help/742478679120153?id=1205376682832142>.

<sup>26</sup> META, AD TARGETING: HELP YOUR ADS FIND THE PEOPLE WHO WILL LOVE YOUR BUSINESS,  
<https://www.facebook.com/business/ads/ad-targeting>.

1 who, at relevant times, navigated to the Website and clicked on a link to purchase prescription  
2 medication. When that link was clicked, the individual's browser sent a GET request to Wisp's  
3 servers requesting the servers to load the particular webpage. Facebook's embedded code, written  
4 in JavaScript, then sent secret instructions back to the individual's browser, without alerting the  
5 individual that this was happening. Facebook caused the browser to secretly duplicate the  
6 communication with Wisp, transmitting it to Facebook's servers, alongside additional information  
7 that transcribed the communication's content and the individual's identity.

8 41. Examples of these interceptions from the Website are provided in Figures 1 and 2  
9 below:

10 **Figure 1:**

```
11 {"status": "COMPLETE",  
12 "method": "GET",  
13 "protocolVersion": "HTTP/2.0",  
14 "scheme": "https",  
15 "host": "www.facebook.com",  
16 "actualPort": 443,  
17 "path": "/tr/",  
18 "query": "id=253897343916108&ev=AddToCart&cdl=https%3A%2F%2Fhellowisp.com%2Fproducts%2Ftri-sprintec-birth-  
19 sonErol3Fflow%3Dopen&rl=sif=false&ts=1713303085392&sw=1920&sh=1080&v=2.9.153&r=stable&a=tmsimo-GTM-  
20 SH%22%2C%22TSP3-SUB-SH%22%2C%22OM1-A-SUB-SH%22%5D&cd[value]=158.66&cd[currency]=USD&sw=1920&sh=1080&v=2.9.153&r=stable&a=tmsimo-GTM-  
21 WebTemplate&ec=13&o=4126&fbp=fb.1.1713302395193.221102072&ler=empty&cdl=API_unavailable&it=1713302395143&coo=false&tm=1&rqm=GET",  
22 "tunnel": false,  
23 "keptAlive": true,  
24 "webSocket": false,  
25 "remoteAddress": "www.facebook.com/31.13.67.35",  
26 "clientAddress": "/127.0.0.1",  
27 "clientPort": 53981,  
28 "times": {  
  "start": "2024-04-16T17:22:23.355-04:00",  
  "requestBegin": "2024-04-16T17:22:23.355-04:00",  
  "requestComplete": "2024-04-16T17:22:23.356-04:00",  
  "responseBegin": "2024-04-16T17:22:23.364-04:00",
```

19 **Figure 2:**

```
20 {"name": ":method",  
21 "value": "GET"},  
22 {"name": ":authority",  
23 "value": "www.facebook.com"},  
24 {"name": ":scheme",  
25 "value": "https"},  
26 {"name": ":path",  
27 "value": "/tr/"},  
28 {"name": "sec-ch-ua",  
  "value": "\\\"Google Chrome\\\";v=\\\"123\\\", \\\"Not-A-Brand\\\";v=\\\"8\\\", \\\"Chromium\\\";v=\\\"123\\\""},  
  {"name": "sec-ch-ua-mobile",  
    "value": "?0"}]
```

1           42. Through the Facebook Tracking Pixel, Defendant intercepted and recorded  
2 “AddtoCart” and “SubscribedButtonClick” events, which detail information about which products  
3 the patient was purchasing on the website.

4           43. Specifically, when a consumer purchases birth control products from the Website,  
5 the AddToCart even information shared with Facebook the terms “hellowisp,” “birthcontrol,” and  
6 “tri-sprintec.” *See* Figure 1.

7           44. Similar data is intercepted by Facebook when a patient completes the checkout  
8 process on the Website through the “SubscribedButtonClick” event, notifying Facebook that the  
9 medication was purchased. *See* Figure 2.

10           45. Each time Facebook intercepted this activity data through the Facebook Tracking  
11 Pixel, it also disclosed a patient’s personally identifiable information, including their Facebook ID  
12 (“FID”). An FID is a unique and persistent identifier that Facebook assigns to each user. With it,  
13 any ordinary person can look up the user’s Facebook profile and name. Notably, while Facebook  
14 can easily identify any individual on its Facebook platform with only their unique FID, so too can  
15 any ordinary person who comes into possession of an FID. Facebook admits as much on its  
16 website. Indeed, ordinary people who come into possession of the FID can connect to any  
17 Facebook profile.

18           46. A user who accessed the Website while logged into Facebook transmitted what is  
19 known as a “c\_user cookie” to Facebook, which contains that user’s unencrypted FID.

20           47. When a visitor’s browser had recently logged out of an account, Facebook  
21 compelled the visitor’s browser to send a smaller set of cookies.

22           48. One such cookie was the “fr cookie” which contained, at least, an encrypted FID  
23 and browser identifier.<sup>27</sup> Facebook, at a minimum, used the fr cookie to identify users.<sup>28</sup>

24           49. If a visitor had never created an account, an even smaller set of cookies was  
25 transmitted.

26 <sup>27</sup> DATA PROTECTION COMMISSIONER, FACEBOOK IRELAND LTD, REPORT OF RE-AUDIT (Sept. 21,  
27 2012), [http://www.europe-v-facebook.org/ODPC\\_Review.pdf](http://www.europe-v-facebook.org/ODPC_Review.pdf).

28 <sup>28</sup> FACEBOOK, PRIVACY CENTER – COOKIES POLICY,  
<https://www.facebook.com/privacy/policies/cookies/?subpage=subpage-1.3>.

1           50. At each stage, the Website utilized the “\_fbp cookie,” which attached to a browser  
2 as a first-party cookie, and which Facebook used to identify a browser and a user.<sup>29</sup>

3           51. The c\_user cookie expires after 90 days if the user checked the “keep me logged in”  
4 checkbox on the website.<sup>30</sup> Otherwise, the c\_user cookie is cleared when the browser exits.<sup>31</sup>

5           52. The fr cookie expires after 90 days unless the visitor’s browser logs back into  
6 Facebook.<sup>32</sup> If that happens, the time resets, and another 90 days begins to accrue.<sup>33</sup>

7           53. The \_fbp cookie expires after 90 days unless the visitor’s browser accesses the same  
8 website.<sup>34</sup> If that happens, the time resets, and another 90 days begins to accrue.<sup>35</sup>

9           54. The Facebook Tracking Pixel used both first- and third-party cookies. A first-party  
10 cookie is “created by the website the user is visiting”—*i.e.*, Wisp’s Website.<sup>36</sup> A third-party cookie  
11 is “created by a website with a domain name other than the one the user is currently visiting”—*i.e.*,  
12 Facebook.<sup>37</sup> The \_fbp cookie was always transmitted as a first-party cookie. A duplicate \_fbp  
13 cookie was sometimes sent as a third-party cookie, depending on whether the browser had recently  
14 logged into Facebook.

15           55. Facebook, at a minimum, used the fr, \_fbp, and c\_user cookies to link to FIDs and  
16 corresponding Facebook profiles. Wisp sent these identifiers alongside the event data.

17           56. Plaintiffs’ offsite activity report from their personal Facebook account confirms that  
18 their sensitive, confidential, and protected information was intercepted by Facebook through the

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

20 <sup>30</sup> Seralthan, FACEBOOK COOKIES ANALYSIS (Mar. 14, 2019),  
21 <https://techexpertise.medium.com/facebook-cookies-analysis-e1cf6ffbfd8a>.

22 <sup>31</sup> *Id.*

23 <sup>32</sup> *See id.*

24 <sup>33</sup> Confirmable through developer tools.

25 <sup>34</sup> FACEBOOK, PRIVACY CENTER – COOKIES POLICY,  
26 <https://mbasic.facebook.com/privacy/policies/cookies/printable/#annotation-1>.

27 <sup>35</sup> Also confirmable through developer tools.

28 <sup>36</sup> PC MAG, FIRST-PARTY COOKIE, <https://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia/term/first-party-cookie>.  
This is confirmable by using developer tools to inspect a website’s cookies and track network  
activity.

<sup>37</sup> PC MAG, THIRD-PARTY COOKIE, <https://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia/term/third-party-cookie>.  
This is also confirmable by tracking network activity.

1 Website.

2 57. Alternatively, Facebook can also match this prescription information to the specific  
3 Wisp patient based on the PII intercepted from the patient's medical profile.

4 58. After collecting and intercepting the information described in the preceding  
5 paragraphs, Facebook processed, analyzed, and assimilated it into datasets like Core Audiences and  
6 Custom Audiences.

7 59. Plaintiffs never consented, agreed, authorized, or otherwise permitted Facebook to  
8 disclose their PII and PHI.

9 60. By law, Plaintiffs are entitled to privacy in their protected health information and  
10 confidential communications. Facebook deprived Plaintiffs of their privacy rights when they: (1)  
11 implemented a system that surreptitiously tracked, recorded, and disclosed Plaintiffs' and other  
12 online patients' confidential communications, personally identifiable information, and protected  
13 health information; (2) disclosed and/or intercepted patients' protected health information; and (3)  
14 undertook this pattern of conduct without notifying Plaintiffs and without obtaining their express  
15 written consent.

16 **D. Tolling**

17 61. Any applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by Defendant's knowing and  
18 active concealment of its interception and recording of legally protected information.

19 62. The Facebook Tracking Pixel, discussed *supra*, was and is entirely invisible to a  
20 website visitor.

21 63. Through no fault or lack of diligence, Plaintiffs and Class members were deceived  
22 and could not reasonably discover Defendant's deception and unlawful conduct.

23 64. Plaintiffs were ignorant of the information essential to pursue their claims, without  
24 any fault or lack of diligence on their part.

25 65. Defendant had exclusive knowledge that its tracking technology was incorporated  
26 into the Website and yet failed to disclose to its account holders, including Plaintiffs and Class  
27 members, that by purchasing medication through the Website, Plaintiff's and Class members' PII  
28 and PHI would be intercepted and recorded by Facebook for targeted advertising.



1           74.    Numerosity. Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is  
2 impracticable. The exact number of Class Members is unknown to Plaintiffs at this time; however,  
3 it is estimated that there are at least thousands of individuals in the Class. The identity of such  
4 membership is readily ascertainable from Defendant's records.

5           75.    Typicality. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class because Plaintiffs  
6 used hellowisp.com to purchase prescription medications and had their personally identifiable  
7 information and protected health information disclosed to Facebook without their express written  
8 authorization or knowledge. Plaintiffs' claims are based on the same legal theories as the claims of  
9 other Class Members.

10          76.    Adequacy. Plaintiffs are prepared to take all necessary steps to represent fairly and  
11 adequately the interests of the Class Members. Plaintiffs' interests are coincident with, and not  
12 antagonistic to, those of the members of the Class. Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys with  
13 experience in the prosecution of class action litigation, generally, and in the emerging field of  
14 digital privacy litigation, specifically. Plaintiffs' attorneys are committed to vigorously  
15 prosecuting this action on behalf of the members of the Class.

16          77.    Commonality. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class  
17 predominate over questions that may affect only individual members of the Class because  
18 Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class. Such generally applicable  
19 conduct is inherent in Defendant's wrongful conduct. Questions of law and fact common to the  
20 Class include:

- 21           a.    Whether Defendant intentionally tapped the lines of internet communication
- 22                    between patients and their healthcare provider;
- 23           b.    Whether Defendant surreptitiously recorded personally identifiable information,
- 24                    protected health information, and related communications on the Website;
- 25           c.    Whether Defendant is a third-party eavesdropper;
- 26           d.    Whether Defendant's interception of personally identifiable information, protected
- 27                    health information, and related communications constituted an affirmative act of
- 28                    communication;

- 1 e. Whether Defendant violated Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ privacy rights by using  
2 the Facebook Tracking Pixel to record and communicate patients’ confidential  
3 medical communications;
- 4 f. Whether Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to damages under the CIPA, or  
5 any other relevant statute; and
- 6 g. Whether Defendant’s actions violated Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ privacy rights  
7 as provided by the California Constitution.

8 78. Superiority. Class action treatment is the superior method for the fair and efficient  
9 adjudication of this controversy. Such treatment permits a large number of similarly situated  
10 persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and  
11 without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort, or expense that numerous individual  
12 actions would engender. The benefits of proceeding through the class mechanism, including  
13 providing injured persons or entities a method for obtaining redress on claims that could not  
14 practicably be pursued individually, substantially outweigh any potential difficulties in the  
15 management of this class action. Plaintiffs know of no special difficulty to be encountered in  
16 litigating this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

17 **COUNT I**  
18 **Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act,**  
19 **Cal. Penal Code § 632**

20 79. Plaintiffs repeat the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set  
21 forth herein and bring this count individually and on behalf of the members of the Class against  
22 Defendant.

23 80. Cal. Penal Code § 632 prohibits “intentionally and without the consent of all parties  
24 to a confidential communication,” the “use[] [of] an electronic amplifying or recording device to  
25 eavesdrop upon or record the confidential communication”.

26 81. Section 632 defines “confidential communication” as “any communication carried  
27 on in circumstances as may reasonably indicate that any party to the communication desires it to be  
28 confined to the parties thereto[.]”

82. Plaintiffs’ and Class Members’ communications to Wisp, including their sensitive

1 personal and health information, such as information related to their prescription medications, were  
2 confidential communications for purposes of § 632, because Plaintiffs and Class Members had an  
3 objectively reasonable expectation of privacy in this data.

4 83. Plaintiffs and Class Members expected their communications to Wisp to be  
5 confined to Wisp due to the confidential nature of those communications. Plaintiffs and Class  
6 Members did not expect third parties, specifically Facebook, to secretly eavesdrop upon or record  
7 this information and their communications.

8 84. Facebook's tracking technology, i.e., the Facebook Tracking Pixel, is an electronic  
9 amplifying or recording devices for purposes of § 632.

10 85. By contemporaneously intercepting and recording Plaintiffs' and Class Members'  
11 confidential communications to Wisp through this technology, Facebook eavesdropped and/or  
12 recorded confidential communications through an electronic amplifying or recording device in  
13 violation of § 632 of CIPA.

14 86. At no time did Plaintiffs or Class Members consent to Facebook's conduct, nor  
15 could they reasonably expect that their communications to Wisp would be overheard or recorded  
16 by Facebook.

17 87. Facebook utilized Plaintiffs' and Class Members' sensitive personal and health  
18 information for their own purposes, including for targeted advertising.

19 88. Plaintiffs and Class Members seek statutory damages in accordance with § 637.2(a)  
20 which provides for the greater of: (1) \$5,000 per violation; or (2) three times the amount of  
21 damages sustained by Plaintiffs and the members of the Class in an amount to be proven at trial, as  
22 well as injunctive or other equitable relief.

23 89. Plaintiffs and members of the Class have also suffered irreparable injury from these  
24 unauthorized acts. Plaintiffs' and Class Members' sensitive data has been collected, viewed,  
25 accessed, stored, by Facebook, have not been destroyed, and due to the continuing threat of such  
26 injury, have no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiffs and Class Members are accordingly entitled to  
27 injunctive relief.

1 **COUNT II**

2 **Invasion of Privacy Under California's Constitution**

3 90. Plaintiffs repeat the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set  
4 forth herein and bring this count individually and on behalf of the members of the Class against  
5 Defendant.

6 91. Plaintiffs and Class Members have an interest in: (1) precluding the dissemination  
7 and/or misuse of their sensitive, confidential communications and protected health information;  
8 and (2) making personal decisions and/or conducting personal activities without observation,  
9 intrusion, or interference, including, but not limited to, the right to visit and interact with various  
10 internet sites without being subjected to wiretaps without Plaintiffs' and Class Members'  
11 knowledge or consent.

12 92. At all relevant times, by using the SDKs and other software codes to record and  
13 communicate patients' personal identifiers alongside their confidential medical communications,  
14 Facebook intentionally invaded Plaintiffs' and Class Members' privacy rights under the California  
15 Constitution.

16 93. Plaintiffs and Class Members had a reasonable expectation that their  
17 communications, identities, health information, and other data would remain confidential.

18 94. Plaintiffs and Class Members did not authorize Defendant to record and transmit  
19 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' private medical communications alongside their personally  
20 identifiable and health information.

21 95. This invasion of privacy was serious in nature, scope, and impact because it related  
22 to patients' private medical communications. Moreover, it constituted an egregious breach of the  
23 societal norms underlying the privacy right.

24 96. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Class seek all relief available for  
25 invasion of privacy under the California Constitution.

26 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

27 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief and judgment, as follows:

- 28 a. For a determination that this action is a proper class action;



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