CONFORMED COPY ORIGINAL FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles VERESCHAGIN LAW FIRM P.C. BRYAN W. VERESCHAGIN (SBN 188608) 505 Montgomery Street, 11th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111 SEP 0 3 2014 3 Telephone: (415) 834-5434 Facsimile: (800) 846-3079 Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk By Shaunya Bolden, Deputy THE LOVELL FIRM, P.C. 5 TRE LOVELL (SBN 162806) 1875 Century Park East, Suite 1490 Century City, CA 90067 Telephone: (310) 275-2100 7 Facsimile: (310) 275-2895 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff **DAUN SLAGLE** 10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BC 5 5 5 5 5 7 12 **COMPLAINT FOR:** DAUN SLAGLE, an individual, 13 1. DEFAMATION PER SE-PRIVATE Plaintiff. 14 **FIGURE** 15 VS. 2. DEFAMATION PER SE-LIMITED **PUBLIC FIGURE** A& E TELEVISION NETWORKS, LLC, a 16 3. FALSE LIGHT INVASION OF Delaware limited liability company; A+E **PRIVACY** NETWORKS, an unknown entity; LIFETIME 17 4. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; EMOTIONAL DISTRESS 18 LIFETIME MOVIE NETWORK, an 5. MISAPPROPRIATION unknown entity; FRONT STREET 19 6. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF PICTURES, INC., a California corporation; RICHARD CHRISTIAN MATHESON an 20 REQUEST FOR PUNITIVE individual; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100 **DAMAGES** inclusive: 21 JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 22 Defendants. 23 24 25 Plaintiff DAUN SLAGLE ("plaintiff Slagle") hereby submits the following Complaint 26 for Damages against Defendants A& E TELEVISION NETWORKS, LLC, A+E NETWORKS, 27 LIFETIME ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES LLC, LIFETIME MOVIE NETWORK, FRONT 28

Slagle v. A&E Television Networks, LLC.

COMPLAINT

STREET PICTURES, INC., RICHARD CHRISTIAN MATHESON, and DOES 1 through 100 inclusive, and hereby alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND FACTS

- 1. On March 1, 2014, Lifetime Entertainment Services, LLC, through its network Lifetime Movie Network (collectively "Lifetime"), premiered the movie "Happy Face Killer." Lifetime represented to the public that "Happy Face Killer" was "based on the true story so shocking and twisted that it was the subject of an hour-long Oprah and covered in the national media."
- 2. "Happy Face Killer" purports to be the "true story" of Keith Hunter Jesperson ("Jesperson"). Jesperson was a serial killer from the Pacific Northwest who killed at least 8 women between 1990 and 1995 in the States of California, Oregon, Washington, Florida and Wyoming or Nebraska. The media named Jesperson the "Happy Face Killer" because he sent journalists and law enforcement letters detailing his crimes and signed the letters with a happy face. Jesperson is a convicted murderer currently serving consecutive life prison sentences in Oregon. Jesperson has also been convicted of murder in California. Serial killer Jesperson was a long-haul big rig truck driver who operated throughout the United States, but primarily up and down the I-5 corridor through Washington, Oregon and California.
- 3. Plaintiff Slagle is a central and recognizable figure in the Keith Jesperson story. She was the sole survivor of Jesperson's killing spree, and had alerted authorities early on to his criminal and violent behavior. She has been identified, discussed and/or portrayed in various articles, stories and television shows pertaining to the serial murderer. Plaintiff Slagle survived a brutal sexual assault, sexual battery and attempted murder effort at the hands of Jesperson in Mount Shasta, California ("Mt. Shasta") on the night of April 13, 1990 and early morning of April 14, 1990. After surviving the brutal life-threatening attack and escaping with her infant

child, she immediately went to the Mt. Shasta Police Department and filed a criminal complaint against Jesperson in the early morning hours of April 14, 1990. Jesperson was subsequently detained in Corning, California and ordered to drive back to Mt. Shasta. Jesperson was interviewed by police on April 14, 1990 and admitted to trying to force plaintiff to orally copulate him. Jesperson was subsequently charged by the Siskiyou County District Attorney Office with sexual battery and sexual assault under California Penal Code §243.4.

- 4. Despite having been portrayed as the courageous victim and survivor of an attempted murder, plaintiff was humiliated and embarrassed by defendants when she was depicted in the "Happy Face Killer" movie as a prostitute, a person who voluntarily orally copulated a serial killer, a mother who committed sex acts for pay in front of her infant child, an unfit mother and person who sought to extort money by threatening to file a false criminal rape complaint against Jespersen. Disturbingly, the film leaves the viewer with the sense that plaintiff somewhat provoked and/or deserved the attack due to her low character, criminal behavior and taunting of Jesperson, creating a certain sympathy for the killer. This portrayal is false, egregious and disgusting.
- 5. At no time has plaintiff Slagle ever been a prostitute. When attacked, plaintiff Slagle was 21 years old, married and the mother of three (3) children. All police and legal documents pertaining to Jesperson's sexual assault and attempted murder of plaintiff are void of any reference that plaintiff Slagle was a prostitute or that there was anything consensual about the attack that evening.
- 6. Even Jesperson himself has never stated that plaintiff Slagle was a prostitute in any of the self-serving and twisted sociopathic explanations he has given for his brutal sexual assault and battery of plaintiff on April 13, 1990. In his April 14, 1990 interview with the Mt. Shasta Police Department, Jesperson admitted that he asked plaintiff Slagle "to give him head"

and that she refused. When she refused his request, Jesperson admitted that he took out his erect penis out of his pants and put his arm around plaintiff Slagle's neck to try and force her to orally copulate him. When plaintiff Slagle resisted, and attempted to exit the vehicle, Jesperson tightened his arm around plaintiff Slagle's neck in the effort to prevent her from exiting the vehicle. Plaintiff maintains Jesperson attempted to sexually assault her, and that when she refused to orally copulate him that he became extremely violent and attempted to choke her and break her neck.

- 7. Defendants were aware that their portrayal of Plaintiff in the "Happy Face Killer" movie was false. In the year 2009, plaintiff Slagle was asked to appear on Oprah Winfrey's television show alongside Jesperson's daughter, Melissa Moore. Oprah Winfrey's producers and Moore solicited plaintiff Slagle to appear on Oprah's show, whereupon Plaintiff reluctantly agreed and chose to do so to ensure the specifics of her ordeal were accurately portrayed. At the time, Moore was promoting her book titled Shattered Silence The Untold Story of a Serial Killer's Daughter.
- 8. Before appearing on the show, however, Oprah Winfrey's producers demanded to see the police report and law enforcement documents related to Jesperson's attack against plaintiff to confirm that her factual recollection of events was accurate. Oprah Winfrey's producers received the police report and charging documents from the Siskiyou County District Attorney Office, confirmed plaintiff's version of the attack was accurate, and then taped the show with Plaintiff in Chicago on August 28, 2009, and broadcast on television on September 17, 2009. A true and correct copy of the Mt. Shasta Police report relating to the incident along with a narrative of law enforcement's interview of Jesperson the day after the attack and the Siskiyou County Superior Court case information sheet for the criminal case against Jesperson is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.

- 9. Plaintiff appeared on the set of the Oprah show with Moore, Dr. Phil and Oprah and a studio audience. During the show, a previously taped video segment with plaintiff visiting the site of where she encountered Jesperson and where he attacked her was played. That segment was taped in Mt. Shasta, California. Within that video segment, plaintiff Slagle discussed how Jesperson attempted to force plaintiff to orally copulate him against her will and that when she refused he attempted to choke and kill her.
- 10. In promoting and advertising the "Happy Face Killer" movie, the A&E defendants and Lifetime defendants prominently used the fact that Jesperson's crimes were "the subject of an hour-long Oprah" episode to increase viewership of the movie and provide credibility to the movie being a "true story." By specifically referencing the Oprah segment, defendants were aware of the truth behind the assault and plaintiff's actions as depicted on that show, yet deliberately and/or recklessly produced, distributed and aired the "Happy Face Killer" that falsely portrayed plaintiff Slagle and defamed her as a prostitute, unfit mother and person who was trying to extort money by threatening to file a false rape charge against Jesperson with police.
- 11. What's even more egregious is that in October 2013, plaintiff wrote to the Lifetime defendants when she learned the movie was being made about Jesperson from his daughter Moore, and offered to be a source with respect to the actual events that occurred behind her attack and the Jesperson ordeal. The Lifetime Defendants did not respond to plaintiff Slagle.
- 12. Notwithstanding, through basic due diligence and general searches over the internet, it was very simple to ascertain the truth about plaintiff's attack and the events of that morning. Within seconds of a google search of plaintiff, Keith Jesperson or Happy Face Killer, numerous articles, interviews, shows and stories come up about Jespersen's story and the truth of his attack against plaintiff. As it is the custom and practice in the film and television industry to

perform field research on topics that portray and/or are based non-fictional accounts, Defendants were either aware or recklessly chose to disregard researching this information and following-up on known facts to ascertain the true story behind plaintiff's attack.

13. The end result of defendants' actions: plaintiff Slagle has been libeled per se, defamed and portrayed in a false light by defendants. Plaintiff has suffered reputational and emotional damages as a result of defendants' deliberate and/or grossly reckless actions in defaming her and portraying her falsely as a prostitute, a person who would seek to extort money by threatening to file a false police report, and as an unfit mother who admits she is not worthy of being a mother to her child. Plaintiff has been treated differently and shunned by certain family members, relatives, friends, former work colleagues and others since "Happy Face Killer" was broadcast, and has additionally been prevented employment opportunities and suffered damages to her good name and reputation. Whereupon, by virtue of this complaint, plaintiff seeks justice.

THE PARTIES

- 14. Plaintiff DAUN SLAGLE (hereinafter "plaintiff" or "plaintiff Slagle") is an adult female residing in the State of California, Butte County. Plaintiff Slagle is a single mother of three (3) children, a grandmother and a registered nurse. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer severe emotional and psychological distress as well as extreme professional and reputational damage as a result of defendants' actions as herein alleged. At the time plaintiff was attacked by Jesperson, her married name was Daun Cochran. However, since 2002, plaintiff has gone by the names Daun Richert-Slagle or Daun Slagle.
- 15. Defendant A&E Television Networks, LLC ("A&E") is a Delaware limited liability company and media entity licensed to and doing business in the State of California.

 A&E is owned by Hearst Corporation and Disney ABC Television Group. A&E operates a

number of television channels and airs and broadcasts its content in the State of California.

- 16. Defendant A+E NETWORKS, from publically available information, is related to defendant A&E. Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore alleges that A&E conducts certain business operations under the name "A+E Networks." Defendant A+E Networks is a media entity conducting business in the State of California. Defendants A&E Television Networks, LLC and A+E NETWORKS will be collectively referred to in this complaint as "A&E." The A&E defendants were involved in the production and broadcast of "Happy Face Killer."
- 17. Defendant Lifetime Entertainment Services, LLC ("Lifetime") is a Delaware limited liability company and media entity licensed to and doing business in the State of California. Lifetime operates television channels including Lifetime Movie Network. Lifetime Entertainment Services, LLC is a subsidiary of A&E.
- 18. Defendant Lifetime Movie Network is a television channel and entity within the Lifetime Entertainment Services, LLC. Lifetime Movie Network broadcasts content in, and collects advertising revenue from, the State of California. Lifetime Entertainment Services, LLC and Lifetime Movie Network will be collectively referred to as "Lifetime" in this complaint. Lifetime Movie Network maintains a website that can be accessed at www.mylifetime.com. The Lifetime defendants were involved in the production and broadcast of "Happy Face Killer."
- 19. Defendant Front Street Pictures, Inc. ("Front Street") is a California corporation and production company involved in making films and television programs. Front Street has offices in and does business in Los Angeles, California. Front Street was the production company involved in producing "Happy Face Killer."
- 20. Defendant Richard Christian Matheson ("Matheson") is an individual who resides and works in Los Angeles, California. Matheson wrote the script for "Happy Face

Killer." Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore alleges that at all times herein mentioned Matheson acted within the scope of his employment or agency with A&E and Lifetime and that his conduct and script were approved and ratified by A&E and Lifetime.

- 21. The true names and capacities of defendants named as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are presently unknown to plaintiff, who therefore sues said defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these fictitious defendants when they are ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that each of the fictitious defendants has participated in the acts alleged in this complaint to have been done by the named defendants.
- 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that, at all relevant times, each defendant, whether named or fictitious, was the agent, partner, joint venture partner, conspirator or employee of each of the other defendants, and in doing the things alleged to have been done in the complaint, acted within the scope of such relationship or ratified the acts of the others, and is jointly and severally liable as such. Plaintiff further believes and alleges that defendants, and each of them, are the alter egos of the other, and that there is such a unity of interest and ownership between and among defendants, that such interests have become intertwined and non-separable.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

23. Jurisdiction is proper in this court as plaintiff resides in, and has suffered injury in, California as a result of defendants' tortious actions involving the writing, producing, and broadcasting of defamatory statements about her in this State. Additionally, all defendants have purposefully availed themselves of the benefits of the State of California as all work and/or reside and/or conduct business operations in California.

24. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendant Matheson is a resident of Los Angeles, California, and Front Street Pictures is a California corporation with it offices located in Los Angeles County, California. In addition, Defendants A&E and Lifetime have offices, agents and/or conduct business in Los Angeles County.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 25. A&E and Lifetime have been making and broadcasting made-for-television "docudrama" movies such as "Happy Face Killer" for many years. Docudramas are dramatic reenactments of actual events. One of the docudrama genres specialized in by A&E and Lifetime is true crime. The true crime genre focuses on making films that document real life serious crimes. A&E and Lifetime predominately broadcast true crime docudramas on the Lifetime Movie Network cable television channel.
- 26. A&E and Lifetime promote their docudrama movies as recreations of "true events" to draw in viewers who then expect to learn the "truth" about what actually happened in notorious crimes featured in the media. Viewers watching these true crime docudramas are led to believe that A&E/Lifetime's portrayals of victims and events in these docudramas are true and accurate.
- 27. On March 1, 2014, Lifetime premiered "Happy Face Killer." The movie was advertised on the www.mylifetime.com website prior to and after the premiere as the "shocking true story" of serial killer Keith Jesperson and his victims. The advertising also prominently stated that issues relating to the Jesperson/Happy Face Killer case had been featured on an hourlong episode of Oprah Winfrey's show.
- 28. The movie purports to portray the true story of Jesperson, his background, his victims and the story of his killing spree, thus making the viewer believe it's a true rendition of what happened. However, with respect to plaintiff Slagle, the movie incorporates as the

backdrop actual circumstances and events surrounding the attack to lead the viewer to believe the depiction is accurate, but then maliciously and gratuitously adds false, defamatory and vicious facts that completely alter and inaccurately describe the nature and character of plaintiff. She is transformed from being the courageous victim of a murderous attack who managed to save the life of herself and her infant, into being portrayed as an unfit young mother who was prostituting herself and providing voluntary sexual acts to a serial killer in the immediate presence of her child, and who then sought to extort money by threatening to file a false rape charge against Jesperson with police.

A. PLAINTIFF DAUN SLAGLE AND THE APRIL 13, 1990 ATTACK

- 29. Daun Slagle is a single mother, grandmother and a registered nurse. She has dealt with fear, sadness and adversity that few people can understand, and thankfully almost none will ever have to experience during their lives.
- 30. On April 13, 1990, plaintiff Slagle was 21 years old and needed to leave her home that evening as her husband at the time had been drinking heavily. Plaintiff knew from past experience that her husband could become very hostile and threatening when drinking. To avoid a potential physical confrontation at home, plaintiff Slagle decided to leave her home with her youngest infant and come back later in the evening when her husband went to sleep.
- 31. Plaintiff Slagle resided in Mt. Shasta, California at the time, a small and sleepy town of slightly more than 3000 people in Northern California. Mt. Shasta had, and still has, a very low crime rate.
- 32. Plaintiff Slagle walked to the downtown central area of Mt. Shasta because it had stores and restaurants open and was well lit.
- 33. While with her child in a parking lot adjacent to businesses in downtown Mt. Shasta, plaintiff was approached by a man later learned to be Jesperson.

- 34. Jesperson attempted to make small talk and elicited plaintiff's situation from her. After learning of plaintiff's home situation, Jesperson said he was divorced and had children to ease any concerns she may have had about him. Jesperson said he had just been at one of his children's birthday parties the day before and discussed his recent divorce from his wife. Jesperson said they should go to his car as it would provide warmth to plaintiff Slagle's child. It was cold that evening and plaintiff eventually agreed to go to his vehicle as he seemed safe given that he was a father of young children and had demonstrated a caring attitude to that point.
- 35. The nightmare began from there. Jesperson drove them out to a remote area of Mt. Shasta and then demanded that plaintiff Slagle "suck his dick." When plaintiff refused, Jesperson became violent and attempted to force plaintiff's head to his penis. As she resisted, Jesperson choked plaintiff and tried to break her neck.
- 36. Plaintiff resisted the violent attack and attempted murder on her life and negotiated with Jesperson to save her life. She told Jesperson that she would do whatever he wanted if he would just let her pick up her infant child who had fell to the floorboard of the vehicle during the attack. The infant was crying and plaintiff kept trying to calm Jesperson down and assure him she would do what he wanted. Plaintiff Slagle told Jesperson she would not tell anyone about the attack and would not go to the police if he just let her and her child go.
- 37. Plaintiff's negotiations with Jesperson and the infant's crying eventually worked, and Jesperson started the vehicle and drove towards town. Then Jesperson pulled over to the side of the road just outside of Mt. Shasta and was silent. Plaintiff gathered all the courage she could as Jesperson was likely internally debating what he was going to do next, and before he could change his mind to try and kill her again or her child, plaintiff opened the car door and ran for her life back to town. Thankfully she and her infant son escaped with their lives that night, but they have coped with the aftermath of that incident ever since.

- 38. Plaintiff immediately went to the Mt. Shasta Police Department and filed a criminal report.
- 39. Jesperson admitted to the Mt. Shasta Police Department Police when he was interviewed by them only hours after the sexual assault and battery that he told plaintiff to orally copulate him, and when plaintiff refused to do so, he forced her head towards his penis. He also admitted to grabbing plaintiff's neck. As such, Jesperson confessed to sexual assault and sexual battery.
- 40. The Siskiyou County District Attorney Office subsequently charged Jesperson with violating Penal Code §243 sexual assault and sexual battery for his attack against plaintiff.

B. PLAINTIFF SLAGLE LIVES A PRIVATE LIFE FOR 19 YEARS

- 41. For 19 years after the Jesperson attack plaintiff remained silent. Before Jesperson was arrested in 1995, plaintiff lived a nightmare never knowing if Jesperson would try and track her down and attempt to rape or kill her again. Plaintiff heard that Jesperson had stopped in Mt. Shasta when trucking down I-5 after he had attacked her.
- 42. Plaintiff was also advised by a police detective investigating one of Jesperson's murders in Blythe, California, that Jesperson had threatened plaintiff's life even while incarcerated. The detective told plaintiff that Jesperson told him that his one mistake was letting plaintiff live and that if he ever got out of prison he would track plaintiff down and kill her. The detective told plaintiff that he believed Jesperson was deadly serious about his threat against her life.
- 43. As such, even when Jesperson was arrested in 1995 and convicted, plaintiff was always fearful. Plaintiff to this date continues to demanded notifications from law enforcement agencies if Jesperson ever breaks out of prison.

- 44. Plaintiff has also lived in fear that Jesperson may ask one of his prison pen-pal friends to track plaintiff down and harm her or her family.
- 45. On a television segment titled "The Secret Lives of Serial Killers" that ran on an Australian television show in May 2013 just last year, Jesperson's ex-wife Rose discussed her fears of Jesperson even after he was arrested and charged with murder. Rose states in the video footage when asked what feelings she had about Jesperson's crimes and arrest: "Um, I was scared, because if he could kill other women, will be come back and kill us?"
- 46. Plaintiff Slagle's fears to this day of Jesperson are well founded and shared by Jesperson's ex-wife.
- 47. Because of these legitimate fears, concerns and real-life issues, plaintiff never sought any media attention or publicity for the attack. Plaintiff's sole focus was on living a life under the radar and hoping she and her children would never face Jesperson again.
- 48. Plaintiff Slagle was silent for nearly 2 decades, and would have liked to continue being so, but was forced to go public in the year 2009 when she learned that David Lohr, a contributing writer to the internet blog called "In Cold Blog," had published portions of some letters he had received from Jesperson from the 1999 to 2002 period when Lohr was corresponding with Jesperson. The portion of the Jesperson letters that Lohr published mentioned plaintiff by name and discussed his attack on plaintiff in Mt. Shasta. Jesperson's letters contained numerous falsities about his attack against plaintiff, and plaintiff felt compelled to respond on the blog website to defend herself and her reputation.
- 49. Notably, Jesperson's letters while nearly entirely false as to the salient details surrounding his attack on plaintiff do not ever state that plaintiff Slagle was a prostitute or engaged in prostitution on the night Jesperson attacked her, nor that she sought to extort him by threatening to file a false police report. Moreover, Jesperson admits in the letters that he tried to

break plaintiff's neck and kill her that night. Jesperson says he stopped trying to kill plaintiff because her infant child was crying and he did not want to kill an infant and realized he would have to if he killed plaintiff.

- 50. Plaintiff Slagle contacted David Lohr after seeing the blog entry in 2009, and ultimately met Jesperson's daughter, Melissa Moore.
- 51. In the year 2009, Moore wrote a book titled Shattered Silence: The Untold Story

 Of A Serial Killer's Daughter. Moore was trying to promote her book, and once she was
 introduced to plaintiff, asked plaintiff to appear on an episode of Dr. Phil or Oprah about

 Jesperson/ Happy Face Killer.

C. PLAINTIFF SLAGLE IS ASKED TO APPEAR ON OPRAH

- 52. Melissa Moore appeared on the *Dr. Phil Show* in November 2008 to talk about her father. Subsequently she began writing a book about her father.
- 53. On February 9, 2009, Melissa Moore reached out to plaintiff and asked if she would like to appear on the *Dr. Phil Show* with her to defend herself and rebut the inaccurate accounts of her attack by Jesperson.
- 54. Plaintiff Slagle remained reluctant to make any public appearance as she wanted to continue staying out of the public light, both for fear of Jesperson's retaliation, as well as due to the extreme emotional nature of reliving the incident. However, Jesperson's killing spree started getting renewed public attention, and inaccurate accountings and reports of Plaintiff's ordeal started to surface (i.e. Lohr's article), and Plaintiff felt compelled to correct the record. In addition, Melissa Moore was persistent and continued to write plaintiff to appear in the show, confirming Plaintiff's need to confront the falsehoods Jesperson has stated publically about his attack on her.
 - 55. In June of 2009, Melissa Moore contacted plaintiff by email and advised her that

Oprah Winfrey's producers were interested in having her and plaintiff on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

- 56. As the year 2009 went on, Melissa Moore asked plaintiff to write a prologue to her book. Plaintiff considered it but ultimately refused. Instead, in July of 2009, plaintiff Slagle wrote to the publisher of Moore's book Cedar Fort Publishing Co. and requested that all references to her name be removed from Moore's book.
- 57. Cedar Fort Publishing Co. agreed and removed all content about plaintiff from Moore's Shattered Silence: The Untold Story Of A Serial Killer's Daughter book prior to publishing.
- 58. In August of 2009, plaintiff advised Oprah's producers that she did not want to appear on the show. But Moore and Oprah's producers kept after plaintiff to appear on the show, and she eventually agreed believing it would be necessary to preserve a true accounting of what happened during the attack, as well as an opportunity to refute the false statements

 Jesperson had made about the factual details of his attack on her. The show was taped in Chicago on August 28, 2009 aired on September 17, 2009 as the Oprah season 24 premiere episode.
- 59. After agreeing to appear, the producers of the Oprah Winfrey show required plaintiff Slagle to provide them with a copy of the police report tied to her incident with Jesperson. This was part of the factual due diligence conducted by the Oprah Winfrey show and not negotiable.
- 60. Thereafter plaintiff and Oprah's producers contacted the Mr. Shasta Police
 Department and the Siskiyou County District Attorney Office to obtain the police reports and
 criminal charging documents. The Siskiyou County District Attorney office sent a copy of the
 police report and Siskiyou County Court charging documents attached as Exhibit A to this

complaint to Oprah's producers. Once the producers confirmed plaintiff's factual version of events, she then taped and appeared on the show.

- 61. Plaintiff Slagle was not paid an appearance fee for appearing on Oprah.
- 62. Plaintiff appeared on the show as Daun Slagle. In addition to being on the set in Chicago to shoot the episode with a live studio audience, a previously taped video segment concerning plaintiff's incident where plaintiff was interviewed at the sites of where Jesperson approached her and where Jesperson attacked her in Mt. Shasta was aired during the show.
- 63. In the video segment, plaintiff Slagle describes how Jesperson approached her on the night of the attack and was friendly. Plaintiff states that once Jesperson drove them to an area outside of town that she saw that Jesperson had pulled his penis out of his pants and was masturbating. Plaintiff knew she was in trouble and started grabbing the door handle. Jesperson then began choking her. Plaintiff Slagle told Jesperson she would do whatever he wanted so long as Jesperson did not harm her child. Jesperson then tried to force plaintiff to orally copulate him. As she resisted, her infant child fell to the floor of the car and Jesperson was stomping on the child as he was assaulting and battering plaintiff. Eventually with begging and pleading Jesperson drove back to Mt. Shasta, and when pulled over, plaintiff got out of the car with her infant and ran for her life.
- 64. The video segment of the Oprah show can be viewed on the web at www.oprah.com/oprahshow/How-One-Woman-Escaped-a-Serial-Killer-Video.
- 65. Related to the Oprah appearance, two local newspapers in the Chico, California area ran a story of her survival and incident the day the Oprah show aired. The local news article can be found online at *Serial killer's sole survivor tells story after 19 years*, Oroville Mercury-Register, Sept. 17, 2009 http://www.orovillemr.com/ci_13356070. The Chico Enterprise Record ran the exact same article the same day. This story and an image of plaintiff Slagle is the 2nd

search result when one searches Google for "Happy Face Killer survivor."

- D. PLAINTIFF SLAGLE LEARNS THAT LIFETIME IS MAKING "HAPPY FACE KILLER" IN 2013 AND CONTACTS THE NETWORK TO OFFER HER VERSION OF JESPERSON'S ATTACK AGAINST HER BEFORE THE MOVIE IS MADE OR BROADCAST TO THE PUBLIC
- 66. After the appearance on Oprah in 2009 to refute the false information about her attack that Jesperson had made public, plaintiff went back to living life as a private person.
- 67. Plaintiff Slagle made a brief appearance on "The Devil You Know," an Investigation Discovery Channel show, and in 2013 an Australian television show ran a story "The Secret Life of Serial Killers" which featured a brief segment about Jesperson's attack against her. The Australian show was called "Sunday Night at 7."
- 68. But plaintiff Slagle has otherwise avoided publicity and the media and has turned down appearances on major nationally broadcast shows like 20/20 and Dr. Phil that wanted to air features on her incident and survival. She has never sought to bring notoriety or attention to herself pertaining to the Jesperson murders other than to refute previously published false accounts of herself and/or to ensure an accurate account of the event by appearing herself and telling her story firsthand, so no one else could take license and depict her in a false or defamatory manner.
- 69. In late 2013, plaintiff learned from Melissa Moore that Lifetime was making a movie about Jesperson called "Happy Face Killer." Upon learning this, plaintiff immediately reached out to Lifetime to ensure that if her incident was used in the movie that it was properly portrayed. Plaintiff emailed Lifetime on October 29, 2013. Plaintiff sent her email to lmn@lifetime.com and webmail@lifetimetv.com.
- 70. In her email, plaintiff explained she was the only survivor of Jesperson and the significance of her incident in the broader story of Jesperson. Plaintiff referenced a book on

Jesperson called, "I" The Creation of a Serial Killer, by Jack Olsen, and explained how it does not give a fair or accurate description of the brutal attack and sexual assault Jesperson perpetrated against her. Plaintiff advised Lifetime that she had been on the Oprah Winfrey show and that she would be glad to serve as a resource to Lifetime so they would have an accurate factual version of events as to the attack she was subjected to on April 13, 1990. Plaintiff was not seeking money or publicity by reaching out to Lifetime; she only wanted to ensure the truth of her attack would be told if the movie used her incident in the docudrama. Lifetime did not respond to plaintiff's correspondence.

- 71. At no point before, during or after the making of "Happy Face Killer" have any of the defendants contacted plaintiff to obtain her version of the attack or to obtain a release from her.
 - E. A&E AND LIFETIME ADVERTISE AND MARKET "HAPPY FACE KILLER" AS THE "TRUE STORY SO SHOCKING AND TWISTED" THAT IT "WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN HOUR-LONG OPRAH AND COVERED IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA."
- 72. Defendants deliberately and or recklessly advertised and promoted "Happy Face Killer" as the "true story" of Keith Jesperson.
- 73. This advertising and promotion strategy led reasonable viewers to falsely believe that the depiction of plaintiff Slagle in "Happy Face Killer" was true and accurate.
- 74. On the Lifetime website, www.mylifetime.com, there is a "Happy Face Killer" section devoted to the promotion and streaming of the movie. On the website page where people were able to stream the movie, the description reads: "This Lifetime Original Movie is based on the true story so shocking and twisted that it was the subject of an hour-long Oprah and covered in the national media." The A&E/Lifetime website site also states: "This Lifetime Original Movie is based on the shocking true story of serial killer Keith Hunter Jesperson and the

police hunt to bring him to justice." The above representations were made by A&E/Lifetime on the www.mylifetime.com website.

- 75. The A&E/Lifetime website also prominently labels "Happy Face Killer" under the genres "True Story" and "True Crime."
- 76. On information and belief, defendants provided advertising and promotional content to Xfinity. In March 2014 on the Xfinity/Comcast website, "Happy Face Killer" was promoted and represented to be: "This Lifetime Original Movie follows the grisly true-crime story of a truck driver who, during his work travels across the country, kills numerous women and leaves a confession of each murder with a scrawled happy face as cryptic evidence of his crime." These representations were made to the public on xfinity's website at xfinityty.comcast.net.
- 77. A reasonable person looking at defendants' online advertising and promotion would be led to believe that "Happy Face Killer" is a "true story," which credibility was further enhanced by being featured on one of the most trusted, respected and viewed shows in America, Oprah.

F. "HAPPY FACE KILLER" IS BROADCAST

- 78. A&E and Lifetime's first national television broadcast of "Happy Face Killer" was on March 1, 2014. They broadcast it again on March 15, 2014. Thereafter, A&E and Lifetime broadcast the movie several more times in March and have broadcast it nationally multiple other times in June and July of 2014.
- 79. As of August 2013, according to Nielsen U.S. Cable channel coverage estimates, the Lifetime Movie Network Channel is received in 83,933,000 households (73.5% of the U.S.). The well know website which monitors television viewership, "The Futon Critic," indicated that over 2 million viewers watched the premiere of the Happy Face Killer. The show has aired a

number of times since this premiere, estimating additional viewership well into the multimillions.

- 80. In March of 2014, Lifetime allowed its cable subscribers to stream the movie directly from the Lifetime website, where a whole section of the site was devoted to promoting and advertising "Happy Face Killer."
- 81. "Happy Face Killer" was also made available to A&E and Lifetime subscribers on other websites with streaming capability such as Xfinity.com.
- 82. The movie's director, defendant Rick Bota, personally published and broadcast "Happy Face Killer" on his professional Vimeo.com account, searchable on Google and available for anyone to watch at no cost.
- 83. Currently, distribution has increased to availability on-demand through such providers as Amazon, VUDU and youtube, and will likely expand into other areas of domestic media, as well as through international outlets.
 - G. THE LIKENESS OF DAUN SLAGLE AND "CANDY SMITH" IN "HAPPY FACE KILLER" AND DEFAMATION OF PLAINTIFF SLAGLE
- 84. Plaintiff is portrayed in the "Happy Face Killer" movie as "Candy Smith," the lone survivor of Keith Hunter Jesperson.
- 85. "Happy Face Killer" tells the story of the serial killer Keith Hunter Jesperson, who murdered at least eight women over the course of five years.
- 86. Plaintiff Slagle is the only person who has survived one of Jesperson's murderous attacks.
- 87. Lifetime's "Happy Face Killer" depicts nearly all of Jesperson's murders in detail, with a special focus on the one survivor who lived to tell the truth of Jesperson's violence. As advertised, the movie purported to be a "shocking true story," but "Happy Face Killer" was false

88. Plaintiff believes the following similarities between Plaintiff Slagle and "Candy Smith" establish a likeness sufficient to demonstrate that any reasonable person would conclude that Plaintiff is "Candy Smith" in the movie:

"Candy" in "Happy Face Killer"	Real Life Daun Slagle Incident With						
	Jesperson						
"Candy Smith" is the sole survivor of	Daun Slagle is the only know survivor of						
Jesperson's murder spree in "Happy Face Killer."	Jesperson in real life.						
"Candy Smith" is with an infant child in the	Daun Slagle was with her 4 month old infant						
movie.	when Jesperson approached her.						
"Candy" is a woman in her early twenties.	Daun Slagle was 21 when Jesperson attacked her.						
"Candy" is an attractive young woman.	Daun Slagle was an attractive young woman.						
"Candy" is holding her infant child when she	Daun Slagle was holding her infant child when						
encounters Jesperson.	Jesperson approached her.						
"Candy" gets into Jesperson's vehicle.	Daun Slagle was convinced by Jesperson to get into his vehicle.						
Jesperson chokes Candy in his vehicle.	Jesperson choked Daun Slagle in his vehicle.						
Jesperson stops choking "Candy" because the	Jesperson stops trying to choke Daun Slagle						
infant child is crying.	and break her neck because her infant child was crying.						
"Candy" is attacked in Mr. Ruskin, California ¹ .	Daun Slagle was attacked in Mt. Shasta, California.						
"Candy" promises Jesperson that she "won't	Daun Slagle told Jesperson she would not tell						
tell anyone" if Jesperson let's her live.	anyone of the attack or go to police if he let her						
	go.						
"Candy" speaks with police about Jesperson."	Daun Slagle went to police and filed a police						
80 Plaintiff has been approached by	report after the incident.						

89. Plaintiff has been approached by people who have watched "Happy Faced Killer"

since its airing. Just with respect to her family members and friends, Plaintiff has felt a change

¹ Mount Ruskin is mentioned in the third scene with "Candy" when she is being interviewed by the detective. Interestingly, out of 482 cities/municipalities in the State of California, Mt. Shasta, California is the only city/municipality with "Mt." or "Mount" in the name of the city/municipality.

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in her relationships with many of them. Those who have approached her having watched the movie all understand and tell her they know that "Candy Smith" is plaintiff Slagle in the movie, and that the scenes involving "Candy Smith" relate to plaintiff Slagle's actual interactions with Jesperson and Jesperson's attack against her in real life.

- 90. Plaintiff herself became physically ill as she watched the false portrayal of her in "Happy Face Killer," and had to turn the movie off on the night of the premiere after the scene was shown with her voluntarily orally copulating Jesperson in front of her infant child. Plaintiff has since been able to stomach getting through the entire movie, but it leaves her physically ill and mentally distressed and distracted. Plaintiff cannot understand why the defendants did this to her and her life, especially since the truth of her incident was easily available and she offered to serve as a resource to defendants when she was informed by Jesperson's daughter that the movie was being made.
- 91. The defamatory and false portrayal of Plaintiff in "Happy Face Killer" has caused people to believe she was a prostitute or unfit mother, and many of her relatives and friends to question her truthful version of Jesperson's vicious attack against her. Seeds of doubt if not outright disbelief as to plaintiff's truthful version of Jesperson's attack against her are now felt, and in some instances have been stated. Plaintiff Slagle has been thoroughly embarrassed and humiliated by "Happy Face Killer."

H. DEFAMATORY MATERIAL IN "HAPPY FACE KILLER"

92. Plaintiff Slagle is defamed and falsely portrayed in at least four (4) scenes of the "Happy Face Killer" movie. The involved defamatory scenes are false and misleading. In all scenes, plaintiff Slagle is portrayed as a woman named "Candy Smith" who is the mother of an infant child. The scenes described below and approximate times the material and scenes were broadcast is based on the Lifetime internet version of the movie.

- 93. At approximately minute 27:50 of the movie plaintiff is first shown in a truck stop during day time, dressed provocatively, holding her baby and flirting with truckers. "Candy" spots Jesperson as he is walking to his truck and approaches him. She compliments Jesperson on his "nice rig" and says she needs to get to the market to get formula for her baby. Jesperson says "the least he can do is give a mother a lift." In response, "Candy" says "that's sweet" and introduces herself. The scene closes as "Candy" looks intimately at Jesperson and seductively bites her bottom lip as he smiles back at her, suggesting that she is willing to perform sexual acts in exchange for his help. A reasonable viewer would believe "Candy" was a prostitute from this scene.
- 94. This is all false and defamatory. In truth, Jesperson approached plaintiff as she was holding her infant child after leaving her home to avoid a likely confrontation with her husband who had been drinking heavily that night. Plaintiff Slagle was wary of Jesperson, but Jesperson kept talking to her about his children and convinced her he was safe. Jesperson then told plaintiff that she should get into his car because the baby would get cold outside and his vehicle was warmer. Plaintiff was not dressed provocatively on the night Jesperson attacked her and not a prostitute.
- 95. At approximately minute 30:57 of "Happy Face Killer," the second scene involving "Candy" begins with an exterior shot of Jesperson's vehicle parked outside a roadside restaurant. During that shot, Jesperson is heard breathing heavily and having an orgasm inside the cab of the truck. "Candy" is at face level with Jesperson's penis. The next shot focuses on plaintiff's baby, lying in the cab next to Jesperson and "Candy" while Jesperson's heavy breathing continues. Jesperson is then shown zipping up his pants after ejaculating from the oral copulation. "Candy's" shirt is open, exposing her shoulders and part of her breasts, and part of her red bra is showing as she is wiping her mouth and cleaning off Jesperson's ejaculated semen.

	96.	Once "	Candy" has voluntarily finished performing oral sex on Jesperson, the
follow	ving dial	logue oc	curs:
	CANE	OY:	"One hundred fifty sound about right?"
	JESPE	ERSON:	"I just offered to take you to the market. I didn't ask you to do that [give
			him oral sex]."
	CANE	OY:	"It made you feel good and now you are making me feel bad."
	JESPE	ERSON:	"How about this? I give you twenty dollars so you can buy formula for
			your baby and you get out of my truck."
	CANE	OY:	"I know what I am worth. I am good at what I do [prostitute]. I am
			calling the cops and telling them you raped me you loser. Are you going
			to pay me or not you freak?"
	JESPE	ERSON:	[Hits Candy in the face and chokes her].
	CHILI	D:	[Infant child begins crying loudly].
	CANE	OY:	[While choking and grasping for air] "Oh my god. I won't tell anyone.
	CHILI	D:	[Infant continues crying loudly]
	CANE	OY:	"Please don't hurt me."
	JESPE	ERSON:	[Looks at the child several times, then stops choking Candy]. Jesperson
			then says to Candy, "Leave."
	CANE	OY:	[Frantically grabs her child and exits the vehicle.]
	97.	This sc	eene is entirely false and defamatory.
	98.	Plainti	ff never voluntarily orally copulated Jesperson on the night of the incident
Rathe	er, Jespei	rson sex	ually assaulted, sexually battered and attempted to choke plaintiff Slagle
and b	reak her	neck. N	Notably, Jesperson told the Mt. Shasta Police Department that he told
plaint	iff Slagl	e to give	e him head and that she refused to do so. This is consistent with plaintiff

Slagle who has stated that Jesperson told her to "suck my dick" and that when she refused he attempted to force her to orally copulate him and when she resisted he began choking her and trying to break her neck.

- 99. Plaintiff Slagle is not a prostitute and was not a prostitute when attacked by Jesperson. Rather plaintiff was a married mother with 3 children. Notably Jesperson has never stated in any public statement about his attack against plaintiff that plaintiff Slagle was a prostitute. The Mt. Shasta Police Department police reports make no mention that plaintiff Slagle was a prostitute. The Siskiyou County District Attorney has never charged plaintiff with prostitution. The Siskiyou County court documents pertaining to the criminal case against Jesperson do not make any reference that plaintiff was a prostitute.
- 100. Plaintiff Slagle did not immediately agree to get in Jesperson's vehicle as portrayed in the movie. Rather, Jesperson spoke to plaintiff for a while as she was outside in the parking lot with her child about how he was a father and recently divorced so he could understand her home situation. Jesperson emphasized that they should go to his car because it would keep plaintiff's child warm.
- 101. Plaintiff never asked Jesperson for money on the night he attacked her, let alone \$150.00 after voluntarily providing a blow job to Jesperson. The police reports, court documents and even Jesperson's public statements about his attack on plaintiff Slagle do not support this in any respect.
- 102. Jesperson never said "I didn't ask you to do that" after receiving voluntary oral copulation. Rather, the attempted oral copulation was admittedly not consensual and violent with force by Jesperson's own admission to the Mt. Shasta Police Department. Moreover, the Siskiyou County District Attorney charged Jesperson with sexual assault and sexual battery under California Penal Code §243.4 for his attack on plaintiff Slagle.

- 103. Plaintiff Slagle never told Jesperson: "It made you feel good and now you are making me feel bad." As set forth above, there was no consensual sex on April 13, 1990, and Jesperson never maintains that plaintiff Slagle said anything like this in any of the statements he has made about his attack on plaintiff.
- 104. Jesperson never told plaintiff that he would give her \$20.00 for formula for her baby. Rather while attempting to force plaintiff to orally copulate him and while choking and attempting to strangle her, Jesperson knocked plaintiff's infant on the floor and was stomping on the infant as he perpetrated his attack on plaintiff.
- 105. Jesperson never asked plaintiff to leave his vehicle after offering her money to buy food for her infant child. Rather Jesperson was intent on keeping plaintiff in his vehicle and trying to force her to orally copulate him. When she resisted, Jesperson tried to choke plaintiff and break her neck.
- 106. Plaintiff Slagle never told Jesperson that she knew "what she was worth," and "good at what I do" as a prostitute. No conversation or comment of this nature was ever made on the night Jesperson sexually assaulted plaintiff and attempted to kill her. This statement in the movie is not supported in any law enforcement documents and Jesperson himself has never maintained that plaintiff was a prostitute.
- 107. Plaintiff Slagle never threatened to call cops or extort Jesperson by threatening to file a false rape charge against Jesperson if he did not pay her after orally copulating him. This never happened. In truth, while negotiating to save her life, plaintiff Slagle actually told Jesperson that she would not go to law enforcement or file a police report if he let her and her infant child live.
- 108. Plaintiff did not provoke the sexual assault, sexual battery and attempted murder against her by Jesperson as implied by "Happy Face Killer." The movie falsely depicts a

situation where "Candy" provokes Jesperson by threatening to file a false police charge of rape against Jesperson and taunting him as a "freak" and "loser." In reality, plaintiff did absolutely nothing to provoke the violent attack Jesperson perpetrated against her. Law enforcement documents and even Jesperson's police interview reflect this.

- 109. Jesperson never told plaintiff to leave the vehicle. Rather, Jesperson seemed to be reflecting on what to do with plaintiff and her infant after pulling over to the side of the road after trying to force plaintiff to orally copulate him and trying to choke and break her neck. As he was thinking, plaintiff opened the door and ran for her life with her child.
- 110. The third scene of "Happy Face Killer" that defames plaintiff and places her in a false light is at approximately minute 55:13 of the movie. In that scene, "Candy" is sitting in a restaurant with a law enforcement officer, describing her encounter with Jesperson. "Candy" says, "I met him in a truck stop in Mt. Ruskin, I was with my baby." "Candy" then states: "Me and him were going to party in his rig." Meaning that she intended to prostitute herself in the cab of Jesperson's truck while her infant child was present. The officer asks "Candy" if her baby is alright and she responds in an ashamed manner: "Other than having me for a mother? She is fine." The officer then tries to convince "Candy" to press assault charges against Jesperson, insinuating to the viewer that Plaintiff had been afraid to go to police after the attack because she is a prostitute.
 - 111. Once again, this scene is entirely false.
- 112. Plaintiff Slagle has never been a prostitute, and was not going to have a sex "party" with Jesperson.
- 113. Plaintiff Slagle never told law enforcement officers that she was a poor or unfit mother. No statement along the lines of "other than having me for a mother? She is fine" was ever made by plaintiff Slagle. Such a statement is defamatory as it indicates plaintiff Slagle was

admitting she was a poor and unfit mother.

- 114. Plaintiff never had to be convinced to go to law enforcement officials to file a complaint against Jesperson. In truth, plaintiff ran immediately to the Mt. Shasta Police Department the night of April 14, 1990 when she escaped Jesperson. As such, there was no delay or hesitation by plaintiff Slagle in filing a criminal complaint against Jesperson in any respect.
- 115. The movie again insinuates that plaintiff Slagle is a prostitute by having a scene where law enforcement officials have to track plaintiff down and convince her to do a public service and file a criminal charge. This is truly offensive to plaintiff Slagle. The first thing plaintiff did when she luckily escaped death was go to the police.
- 116. The fourth defamatory scene occurs when law enforcement interviews Jesperson about certain crimes including his encounter with "Candy" in "Mt. Ruskin." The following exchange occurs between the law enforcement officer and Jesperson in the "Happy Face Killer" at about 1 hour and 27 minutes into the Lifetime television version of the movie:
 - OFFICER: "Do you recall meeting a woman named "Candy?" She had a baby at the

 Mt. Ruskin truck stop. Candy claims you tried to sexually assault her and
 tried to kill her."
 - JESPERSON: "So that's what this is about? Look I'm no angel but Candy is a working girl and we got together, that's it. She wants to press charges against me?

 Do you think anyone is going to believe some lot lizard whore in court?

JESPERSON: [laughs dismissively]

JESPERSON: "Good luck."

JESPERSON: [sighs tssssss]

117. This scene is false and defamatory and places plaintiff in a false light.

- 118. Plaintiff Slagle is defamed by being called a prostitute (i.e. "a working girl" and "whore").
- 119. Plaintiff Slagle is defamed by the assertion that she voluntarily had sex with Jesperson and "got together" with him. In reality plaintiff was sexually assaulted and sexually battered by Jesperson.
- 120. The scene is also defamatory in that it implies plaintiff Slagle is a liar and that she would never be believed in court.
 - I. DEFENDANTS' ACTIONS WERE DELIBERATE AND/OR RECKLESS IN THE FACE OF PREVIOUSLY PRODUCED AND KNOWN SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THE TRUTH OF PLAINTIFF'S ORDEAL
- 121. Defendants intentionally and/or recklessly ignored their own source information as well as public information to which they were specifically aware when they chose to depict plaintiff as they did. In addition, defendants failed to follow-up on known sources that were easily accessible and would have established without a doubt that their portrayal of plaintiff Slagle/"Candy" was entirely false.
- 122. Defendants referenced the Oprah Winfrey segment which had earlier aired plaintiff's true version of events, yet chose to ignore the true facts behind her attack. Defendants ignored efforts by plaintiff to be a direct source for the movie regarding her involvement.

 Defendants ignored publicly available police reports from the Shasta County Police Department and court documents from the Siskiyou County court docket for the criminal case against Jesperson pertaining to his crimes against plaintiff Slagle.
- 123. Within this, Oprah's producers encountered no difficulty in obtaining the actual police reports and Siskiyou County Court documents pertaining to the criminal case against Jesperson for his attack against plaintiff Slagle. Moreover, they demanded to see that information before permitting plaintiff to be on the Oprah show.

- 124. Based on: (1) the September 17, 2009 Oprah episode with plaintiff Slagle to which defendants' reference; (2) plaintiff's direct efforts to contact defendants; (3) the Mt. Shasta Police Department's records, (4) the Siskiyou County District Attorney Office's records, (5) the Siskiyou County Superior Court records, and (6) basic internet searches about plaintiff, Jesperson or Happy Face Killer, defendants either intentionally chose to ignore and/or recklessly disregarded facts that demonstrated the truth behind plaintiff's ordeal, and chose to produce and broadcast Plaintiff in a defamatory, vulgar, offensive and outrageous light.
- 125. The devastating impact of ridicule by family, friends and society in general when a member of a person's family is accused or convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude may be best explained by Jesperson's daughter. A CNN article about Melissa Moore stated in relevant part: "Soon after her father's arrest, Moore's friends started making excuses not to hang out with her. She later found out that their parents instructed them to avoid her."
- 126. Plaintiff Slagle is unfortunately presently experiencing the same impact from "Happy Face Killer." People who have viewed and/or heard of the "Happy Face Killer" movie, including but not limited to family members, friends, and former co-workers, shun her or otherwise avoid her now believing she was a prostitute and otherwise deserving and responsible for the brutal sexual assault, sexual battery and attempt on her life by Jesperson on April 13, 1990 and into the early morning of April 14, 1990.
 - J. DEFENDANTS REPUBLISH AND CONTINUE TO BROADCAST "HAPPY FACE KILLER" DESPITE PLAINTIFF'S RETRACTION REQUEST
- 127. On March 19, 2014, counsel for plaintiff Slagle sent A&E, Lifetime, Front Street Pictures and Richard Matheson a formal, written request for retraction of the false and defamatory portrayal of plaintiff Slagle in the "Happy Face Killer" movie. The correspondence was sent by facsimile where possible and overnight mail to all.

- 128. Plaintiff received no response from any of the defendants who received the retraction request.
- 129. Moreover, even after the retraction request, defendants persisted in continuing to broadcast "Happy Face Killer" on the Lifetime Movie Network and make the movie available online.
- 130. Defendants were put on direct and formal notice as of March 19, 2014 that they were defaming plaintiff and placing her in a false light, yet took profits over plaintiff's reputation and kept broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" and collecting advertising revenue, licensing fees, royalty fees and/or other revenue associated with each broadcast.
- 131. The portrayal of plaintiff Daun Slagle in the "Happy Face Killer" movie is undeniable in real life. Followers of the story, including but not limited to plaintiff's family, friends and former co-workers, all recognize and understand that "Candy Smith" is plaintiff Slagle. Some say they support her, some shun her, and others offer weak support that is indicative of believing the worst that the "Happy Face Killer" portrayal of plaintiff Slagle as a prostitute is the truth.
- 132. Plaintiff has been devastated by defendants' false and defamatory portrayal of her, and likely will be for life.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Defamation Per Se – Private Figure)

- 133. Plaintiff Slagle incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though set forth fully herein.
- 134. Plaintiff never went public with facts pertaining to Jesperson's attack against her for over 19 years. From April 14, 1990 until September 17, 2009, plaintiff was silent and kept the facts about her attack to herself. Plaintiff had no desire to place her life at risk further and

deliberately tried to live a life under the radar. This was more than reasonable given that after his conviction, Jesperson stated to a law enforcement officer that he would kill plaintiff if he ever got out of jail. In addition, plaintiff wasn't sure about the ability of Jesperson to have someone on the outside come after her. To the extent plaintiff has made the few limited media appearances that she did, such were reactionary to dispute false information about her attack from Jesperson that was published in the media.

- 135. Defendants published numerous false statements about plaintiff Slagle to the public by broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" on television and making it available through the internet.
- 136. A reasonable person would understand the defamatory statements detailed in this complaint were about plaintiff Slagle.
- 137. Viewers watching "Happy Face Killer" would reasonably believe that plaintiff Slagle/"Candy Smith" was a prostitute, that she solicited money after performing sexual services, that she sought to extort money from Jesperson, and that she was intent on filing a false police report and false charge of rape against Jesperson. Each of the above constitutes a crime under California law.
- 138. Moreover, viewers would reasonably believe after watching "Happy Face Killer" that plaintiff was reluctant to file a criminal complaint against Jesperson because she was a prostitute; that she was an unfit mother; that she initiated contact with Jesperson; that she provoked the violent and vicious sexual assault and battery/choking to which she was subjected; and that she voluntarily orally copulated a serial killer in front of her infant child.
 - 139. All statements and inferences are false.
- 140. None of the above defamatory material detailed in this complaint requires any explanation to a reasonable viewer and on its face constitutes defamation per se and libel per se.
- 141. Portraying plaintiff Slagle in the manner that defendants did necessarily exposed and continues to expose her to hatred, contempt and ridicule, and has caused her to be shunned and avoided and has injured her in her occupation.

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- 142. Defendants knew the defamatory statements and inferences they made about plaintiff Slagle were false and/or recklessly disregarded the truth of the defamatory statements, yet went forward with their false portrayal of plaintiff Slagle in "Happy Face Killer" in pursuit of their own agenda in writing, producing and realizing the profits from Lifetime's "Happy Face Killer" movie.
- 143. In the alternative, and at the very least, Defendants failed to use reasonable care to determine the truth or falsity of the actionable defamatory statements and inferences.
- 144. Although defendants were fully aware of the defamation against plaintiff Slagle prior to filming and broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" on March 1, 2014, they became formally aware after plaintiff's counsel sent a retraction demand to all defendants by letter dated March 19, 2014. Yet defendants persist in re-broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" to this day most recently on the Lifetime Network on June 22, 2014, June 29, 2014 and July 12, 2014 (and potential other dates), and currently available on Amazon, VUDU and youtube.
- 145. As a result of the defamation per se committed by defendants, plaintiff Slagle has suffered harm to her business, trade, profession and occupation, harm to her reputation and shame, mortification and hurt feelings. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer extreme emotional distress from defendants' defamation per se against her. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be embarrassed and humiliated by the false statements and implications and be shunned, avoided and subjected to ridicule. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer severe harm to her personal and professional reputation inside and outside her community.
- 146. In addition, defendants, and each of them, acted maliciously, oppressively, and without regard to the rights, interests or feelings of plaintiff, so as to entitle plaintiff to exemplary and punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof at the time of trial. Consequently, plaintiff Slagle is entitled to general, special, actual, presumed, punitive/exemplary and all other damages appropriate under law according to proof at trial for the defamation per se perpetrated against her.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Defamation Per Se – Limited Public Figure)

- 147. Plaintiff Slagle incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though set forth fully herein.
- 148. Defendants published numerous statements about plaintiff Slagle to the public by broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" on television and making it available through the internet.
- 149. A reasonable person would understand the defamatory statements detailed in this complaint were about plaintiff Slagle.
- 150. Viewers watching "Happy Face Killer" would reasonably believe that plaintiff Slagle/"Candy Smith" was a prostitute, that she solicited money after performing sexual services, that she sought to extort money from Jesperson, and that she was intent on filing a false police report and false charge of rape against Jesperson. Each of the above constitutes a crime under California law.
- 151. Moreover, viewers would reasonably believe after watching "Happy Face Killer" that plaintiff was reluctant to file a criminal complaint against Jesperson because she was a prostitute; that she was an unfit mother; that she initiated contact with Jesperson; that she provoked the violent and vicious sexual assault and battery/choking to which she was subjected; and that she voluntarily orally copulated a serial killer in front of her infant child.
 - 152. All statements and inferences are false.
- 153. None of the above defamatory material detailed in this complaint requires any explanation to a reasonable viewer and on its face constitutes defamation per se and libel per se.
- 154. Portraying plaintiff Slagle in the manner that defendants did necessarily exposed and continues to expose her to hatred, contempt and ridicule, and has caused her to be shunned and avoided and has injured her in her occupation.
- 155. Defendants knew the defamatory statements and inferences they made about plaintiff Slagle were false and/or recklessly disregarded the truth of the defamatory statements, yet went forward with their false portrayal of plaintiff Slagle in "Happy Face Killer" in pursuit of their own agenda in writing, producing and realizing the profits from Lifetime's "Happy Face

156. Although defendants were fully aware of the defamation against plaintiff Slagle prior to filming and broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" on March 1, 2014, they became formally aware after Plaintiff's counsel sent a retraction demand to all defendants by letter dated March 19, 2014. Yet defendants persist in re-broadcasting "Happy Face Killer" to this day – most recently on the Lifetime Network on June 22, 2014, June 29, 2014 and July 12, 2014 (and potential other dates), and currently available on Amazon, VUDU and youtube.

- 157. As a result of the defamation per se committed by defendants, plaintiff Slagle has suffered harm to her business, trade, profession and occupation, harm to her reputation and shame, mortification and hurt feelings. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer extreme emotional distress from defendants' defamation per se against her. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be embarrassed and humiliated by the false statements and implications and be shunned, avoided and subjected to ridicule. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer severe harm to her personal and professional reputation inside and outside her community.
- 158. In addition, defendants, and each of them, acted maliciously, oppressively, and without regard to the rights, interests or feelings of plaintiff, so as to entitle plaintiff to exemplary and punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof at the time of trial.
- 159. Consequently, plaintiff Slagle is entitled to general, special, actual, presumed, punitive/exemplary and all other damages appropriate under law according to proof at trial for the defamation per se perpetrated against her.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (False Light Invasion of Privacy)

- 160. Plaintiff Slagle incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though set forth fully herein.
- 161. Defendants produced and broadcast an allegedly "true story" movie depiction of a deeply personal and painful private moment in plaintiff's life to a national television audience without consulting or warning plaintiff. Defendant gave publicity to matters concerning plaintiff

that placed her in a false right and violates her right of privacy.

- 162. Reasonable viewers watching "Happy Face Killer" would reasonably believe that plaintiff Slagle/"Candy Smith" was a prostitute, that she solicited money after performing sexual services, that she sought to extort money from Jesperson, and that she was intent on filing a false police report and false charge of rape against Jesperson. Each of the above constitutes a crime under California law.
- 163. Moreover, viewers would reasonably believe after watching "Happy Face Killer" that plaintiff was reluctant to file a criminal complaint against Jesperson because she was a prostitute; that she was an unfit mother; that she initiated contact with Jesperson; that she provoked the violent and vicious sexual assault and battery/choking to which she was subjected; and that she voluntarily orally copulated a serial killer in front of her infant child.
- 164. The false light and false portrayals of plaintiff Slagle detailed in this complaint would be highly offensive if not outrageous to a reasonable person in plaintiff Slagle's position.
- 165. Defendants knew of the falsity of the publicized matters and the false impression it would create about plaintiff Slagle and/or otherwise acted with reckless disregard for the truth of the matters it publicized about plaintiff and/or were negligent in determining the truth of the information or whether a false impression would be created by publication of the material that placed plaintiff Slagle in a false light.
- 166. As a result of defendants' broadcast of false statements, placement of plaintiff in a false light and invasion of privacy, plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer extreme emotional distress. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be embarrassed and humiliated by the false statements and implications and will continue to be shunned, avoided and subjected to ridicule. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer severe harm to her personal and professional reputation inside and outside her community.
- 167. In addition, defendants, and each of them, acted maliciously, oppressively, and without regard to the rights, interests or feelings of plaintiff, so as to entitle plaintiff to exemplary

and punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof at the time of trial.

168. Consequently, plaintiff Slagle is entitled to general, special, actual, presumed, punitive/exemplary and all other damages appropriate under law according to proof at trial for the defamation per se perpetrated against her.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)

- 169. Plaintiff Slagle incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though set forth fully herein.
- 170. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein has caused plaintiff Slagle to suffer severe emotional distress.
 - 171. Defendants' conduct as alleged in this complaint was outrageous.
- 172. Defendants, and each of them, intended to cause plaintiff emotional distress and/or acted with reckless disregard to the probability that plaintiff Slagle would suffer severe emotional distress.
- 173. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein was a substantial factor in causing plaintiff severe emotional distress, severe humiliation, mental anguish, physical distress, injuries to plaintiff's reputation, public humiliation, loss of sleep, stress and anxiety.
- 174. In addition, defendants, and each of them, acted maliciously, oppressively, and without regard to the rights, interests or feelings of plaintiff, so as to entitle plaintiff to exemplary and punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof at the time of trial.
- 175. Consequently, plaintiff Slagle is entitled to general, special, actual, punitive/exemplary and all other damages appropriate under law according to proof at trial for the defamation per se perpetrated against her.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Misappropriation)

- 176. Plaintiff Slagle incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though set forth fully herein.
- 177. Plaintiff Slagle is a central and recognizable figure in the Keith Jesperson story. She was the sole survivor of Jesperson's killing spree, and had alerted authorities early on to his criminal and violent behavior. She has been identified, discussed and/or portrayed in various articles, stories and television shows pertaining to the serial murderer.
- 178. Through the character of "Candy," Defendants misappropriated Plaintiff's likeness for their own commercial purposes and benefits. As set forth above, the similarities between the character of "Candy" and plaintiff's likeness leave no doubt that this character was based on and intended to depict plaintiff and represent her role in the Happy Face Killer saga.
 - 179. At no time did Plaintiff ever impliedly or expressly consent to such appropriation.
- 180. Defendants knew their usage of Plaintiff's likeness and inferences they made about plaintiff Slagle were false and/or recklessly disregarded the truth of the actual facts surrounding plaintiff Slagle's depiction, yet went forward with their false portrayal of plaintiff Slagle in "Happy Face Killer" in pursuit of their own agenda in writing, producing and realizing the profits from Lifetime's "Happy Face Killer" movie.
- 181. As a result of the the misappropriation of plaintiff's likeness, plaintiff Slagle has suffered harm to her business, trade, profession and occupation, harm to her reputation and shame, mortification and hurt feelings. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer extreme emotional distress from defendants' usage of her likeness. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be embarrassed and humiliated by the false portrayal and implications and be shunned, avoided and subjected to ridicule. Notwithstanding, defendants have benefitted and reaped commercial gain directly linked to their usage of plaintiff's likeness.
- 182. In addition, defendants, and each of them, acted maliciously, oppressively, and without regard to the rights, interests or feelings of plaintiff, so as to entitle plaintiff to exemplary

and punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to proof at the time of trial.

183. Consequently, plaintiff Slagle is entitled to general, special, actual, punitive/exemplary and all other damages appropriate under law according to proof at trial for the defamation per se perpetrated against her.

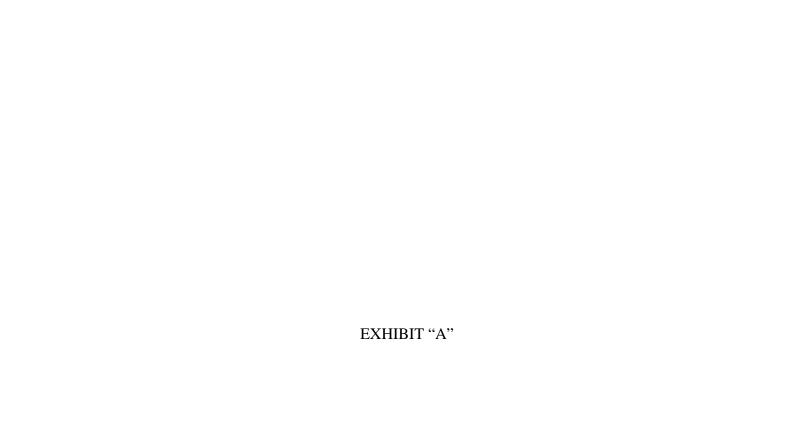
SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Injunctive Relief)

- 184. Plaintiff Slagle incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though set forth fully herein.
- 185. "Happy Face Killer" is currently being aired on cable television as well as "on demand" networks such as Amazon, VUDU and youtube in the United States.
- 186. Based on information and belief, plaintiff believes this "true story" docudrama will be distributed by defendants through additional domestic media outlets, as well as for world-wide exhibition in various media, including but not limited to movie theatres, home video, cable, television and through the internet.
- 187. Even after receipt of plaintiff's retraction request, defendants persist in airing "Happy Face Killer." Plaintiff is defamed each and every time "Happy Face Killer" is broadcast.
- 188. Given that distribution, future broadcasts and exploitation of the movie will continue indefinitely, plaintiff will continue to be defamed each and every time it is shown, purchased, rented, viewed or broadcast. As a result, any monetary recovery will be an inadequate remedy to defendants' conduct.
- 189. It will be extremely difficult to ascertain the amount of compensation which would afford adequate relief in light of continuing publication and re-broadcast of "Happy Face Killer" in perpetuity.
- 190. As a result of this unfortunate reality and continuing harm, plaintiff Slagle is entitled to injunctive relief in the form of enjoining future distribution, display, viewing, sales or broadcasting of "Happy Face Killer" in any and all media, distribution channels and markets for sale.

2.7

1	191.	Defendants should be required to recall all (1) hard-version formats (i.e.
2	CD's/DVDs, (2	2) broadcast formats (i.e. television/internet exploitation), (3) prints from any
3	theaters which	currently or in the future shall display the documentary domestically and/or
4	internationally,	and (4) any such other format used for cable, television, internet, theater or other
5	exploitation for	purposes of re-editing "Happy Face Killer" and removing all references to
6	"Candy"/Slagle	e. Only after the scenes involving "Candy"/Slagle have been edited and removed
7	from the final v	version should defendants be able to further broadcast, stream on the internet, sell
8	DVDs, or other	wise exploit "Happy Face Killer" in any respect.
9		PRAYER FOR RELIEF
10	WHER	EFORE, Plaintiff Slagle prays for the following relief:
11		General damages according to proof;
12		Special damages according to proof;
13		Presumed damages under principles of defamation per se;
14		Actual and/or compensatory damages according to proof;
15		Damages for intentional infliction of emotional distress;
16		Punitive and/or exemplary damages;
17	7.	An injunction preventing defendants' from further distributing, marketing,
18	1	broadcasting or selling "Happy Face Killer;"
19		Prejudgment interest at the maxim legal rate;
20	9.	Cost of suit;
21	10.	Cost of the proceedings herein;
22	11.	Reasonable attorneys' fees as permitted by law;
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- 1		
1	12. All	other further relief as the Court may deem appropriate in the interests of
2	jus	tice.
3		
4	A grown	
5	DATED:	THE VERESCHAGIN LAW FIRM, P.C. THE LOVELL FIRM, P.C.
6		$\mathcal{A}\mathcal{A}$
7		By Mr.
8		TRE LOVELL Attorneys for Plaintiff DAUN SLAGLE
9		
10		
11	1	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
12 13	Plaintiff SI	lagle hereby demands trial by jury of her claims raised herein.
13		
15	DATED:	THE VERESCHAGIN LAW FIRM, P.C.
16		THE LOVELL FIRM, P.C.
17		
18		By TRE LOVELL
19		Attorneys for Plaintiff DAUN SLAGLE
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	COMPLAINT	Slagle v. A&E Television Networks, LLC.



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CASE # 5978 ATTEMPT ORAL COPULATION

COMPLAINT: 04-14-90 0102hrs. Dawn Cochran came into the P.D. to report an attack on her.

INVESTIGATION: Daun Cochran dob. 07-05-68, was very hysterical, but stated some man had tried to make her give him a blow job. Cochran wanted a ride home for herself and her baby. On the way from the P.D. to her residence, Cochran said she had a fight with her husband and was out walking with her baby. She further stated she was in the shopping center talking to some guy. This man in a bronze colored Nova (one of the older big ones), said get in the car so you can warm up. Cochran got in the car, then the suspect suggested they drive around for awhile. Cochran said the suspect pulled his dick out and said suck my dick, Cochran refused. The suspect then grabbed Cochran around the neck and tried to force her. In the struggle, Cochran dropped her baby on the console (the baby was not injured). Cochran told the suspect "I'll do anything you want, just don't hurt my baby". The suspect let go of Cochran and Cochran started yelling "take me back". The suspect drove Cockran to the area of Morgan Way and W. Lake St. let Cochran out, then got on I-5 N/B. Cochran stated that she did not have sexual contact with the

suspect.

Cochran said the suspects name was Keith, 6'6" and heavy, with

short brown hair. The suspect told her he was going to Sacramento for a job. He also said he was from the Seattle area.

CASE # 5978 ATTEMPT ORAL COPULATION

0116 hrs. A BOLO was put out for a late 70's Chev. Nova 2 dr. bronze in color, possibly with Wash. plates. The driver, 6'6", heavy build, short brown hair, and name of Keith.

0117 hrs. I had Cochran wake her husband. I told Kevin Cochran what had happened and that with his wife being so upset, that myself or another officer would talk with her later.

0340 hrs. Corning P.D. stopped the vehicle.

0432 hrs. I spoke with Sgt. Cardenas of Corning P.D. Cardenas said he had a taped statement from the suspect. Suspect was identified as Keith Hunter Jesperson dob. 04-06-55, Wash. DL. # JESPEKH458JF. Cardenas said he was sending the suspect back to Mt. Shasta on his own agreement to return and clear this matter up. Cardenas said he would send the taped statement to me at M.S.P.D.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE: None.

SUSPECT: Keith Hunter Jesperson dob. 04-06-55, WMA., 6'6", 210 lbs. Brn. Blu.

Add. 691 32nd St. #25, Washougal, Wash.

WITNESSES: None.

RECOMMENDATION: Case turned over to Siskiyou Co. S.O.

S.O. case #90-977

J. CARDEN 1107 M.S.P.D.

CASE # 5978 ATTEMPT ORAL COPULATION ATTACHMENTS: None.

DISPOSITION: Exceptionally cleared.

SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATION 243.4 PC SEXUAL BATTERY

ON 4-14-90 I CONDUCTED AN INTERVIEW WITH KEITH JESPERSON (SUSPEC IN THE 243.4 PC.) KEITH STATED HE HAD BEEN PARKED IN THE M SHASTA MALL PARKING LOT SOUTH OF THE SHASTA FAMILY RESTAURANT WHEN HE CONTACTED DAUN (VICTIM) AND HER YOUNG BABY. KEIT STATED THEY TALKED FOR A COUPLE HOURS ABOUT SEX, AND " WHAT GET THEM OFF. " (WALKED FROM THE MALL TO SPORTS AND SPIRITS TO B A SIX PACK OF BEER, WALKED BACK TO MALL AND DRANK ONE APIECE.) DAUN SAID SHE HAD TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AND TOLD KEITH TO DRIV HER SOMEWHERE. DAUN THEN GAVE HIM DIRECTIONS WHERE TO GO. LATER DETERMINED TO BE 1.15 MILES SOUTH ON W A BAR RD FROM TH INTER SECTION AT REAM.)

KEITH STATED THEY PARKED AT THAT LOCATION FOR ABOUT THREE HRS. AND HAD ANOTHER BEER APIECE AND TALKED ABOUT SEX. KEITH THE TOOK HIS EPECT PENIS OUT OF HIS PANTS AND PLAYED WITH LT. KEIT THEN PUT HIS RIGHT ARM AROUND DAUNS NECK AND HIS LEFT HAN BETWEEN HER LEGS. DAUN THEN JUMPED UP KNOCKING THE BABY OUT O HER LAP. KIETH THEN ASKED DAUN, " TO GIVE HIM HEAD". SHE REPLIE NO AND ATTEMPTING TO EXIT THE VEHICLE, KEITH THEN TIGHTENED HI ARM UP AROUND DAUNS NECK PREVENTING HER FROM EXITING THE VEHICLE KEITH THEN TOOK DAUN BACK TO THE MT SHASTA MALL AND DROPPED HE