



July 6, 2009

MADIGAN SUES CHICAGO FURNITURE RETAILER

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed a lawsuit today in Cook County Circuit Court against a Chicago furniture retailer for failing to deliver furniture and for refusing to refund consumers' down payments.

The defendant, Ziyad Suleiman, operates District Furniture, Inc., Express Furniture Gallery, Inc., Export Furniture, Inc., and US Furniture, Inc, at various locations in Chicago, Bedford Park, Burbank and Chicago Ridge, Ill. The Attorney General's complaint alleges that Suleiman fails to deliver the home furnishings purchased by customers and refuses to provide refunds, directly in violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

"The defendants' repeated failure to deliver promised goods demonstrates a clear pattern of fraudulent and deceptive practices," Madigan said. "My office is fully committed to enforcing Illinois' law to protect the interests of consumers who have been victimized."

As a result of the defendant's deceptive business practices, 54 consumer complaints have been lodged against Suleiman's companies accounting for more than \$62,000 losses.

Attorney General Madigan's lawsuit asks the court to prohibit the defendant from engaging in the business of selling furniture and from further violating Illinois' consumer protection laws. The lawsuit seeks restitution to consumers as well as investigative and court costs. In addition, Attorney General Madigan's suit seeks a civil penalty of \$50,000 and additional penalties of \$50,000 for each violation found to have been committed by the defendant with the intent to defraud.

Consumers who believe that they may be the victim of consumer fraud can download a consumer complaint form at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers or call the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline at one of the following numbers:

Chicago 1-800-386-5438

Springfield 1-800-243-0618

Carbondale: 1-800-243-0607

Spanish-language Hotline: 1-866-310-8398

Assistant Attorney General Sarah Alipourian Poulimas is handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

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