

[Press Releases](#)

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ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN SUES CHICAGO-AREA FURNITURE STORE

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court against a Chicago-area furniture store owner for failing to deliver furniture already paid for by consumers, a violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act.

Attorney General Madigan's complaint alleges the Bedford Park-based Paris Furniture and its owner Akram Maali, of Burbank, didn't deliver furniture as promised after customers paid for items in his store. From January to May 2010, the short time Paris Furniture was open for business, the store accepted nearly \$22,000 for furniture it never delivered, the suit alleges.

"The defendants' deceived consumers and refused to deliver the furniture or return their money," Madigan said. "This lawsuit seeks to hold the defendants accountable and recover money for defrauded consumers."

Madigan's complaint also alleges consumers never received refunds for their purchases. In the instances Paris Furniture did issue a refund check, the checks were not honored and returned by the bank for insufficient funds. To date, 23 consumers have filed complaints against the store with the Attorney General's Office.

The Attorney General is asking the court to permanently enjoin the defendants from engaging in deceptive and unfair acts and practices. Madigan is also seeking to have the defendants pay restitution to consumers, a civil penalty of \$50,000 for each violation of the act, additional penalties of \$50,000 for each violation committed with the intent to defraud and all prosecution costs.

Assistant Attorney General Christine Nielsen is handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

-30-

[Return to October 2010 Press Releases](#)

