

NOTICE OF PENDING CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

**Was your vehicle towed as a result of parking in
the BP Gas Station parking lot located at
1829 West Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15226?
A pending class action lawsuit may affect your rights.**

*A court authorized this notice.
This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.*

- Plaintiffs William J. Schneider, Casey Bruce, Diane Docchio, and Margaret Cusick (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all persons similarly situated, have sued Defendants Om Ansh Enterprise, Inc. (“Om Ansh”) and Brian Haenze d/b/a Auto Galley & Accessories and as TAG Towing and Collision (“TAG Towing”) (and together with Om Ansh, “Defendants”) alleging that they were charged more than the amount permitted under law when their vehicles were nonconsensually towed from the BP Gas Station parking lot located at 1829 West Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15226 (“the Parking Lot”).
- The Court has certified this lawsuit to proceed as a class action on behalf of a class of the following individuals:
All individuals who were charged and paid a fee in excess of the limits set by 5 Pittsburgh Code § 525.05, identified below, for release or return of any passenger cars, light trucks, motorcycles, and scooters that were nonconsensually towed from the Parking Lot after September 17, 2012.
- The limits set by 5 Pittsburgh Code § 525.05, are:
 - o For vehicles towed before December 14, 2015, an amount in excess of \$110.00, exclusive of any “storage fees” but inclusive of any other fees, charges, or costs; and
 - o For vehicles towed after December 15, 2015, an amount in excess of \$135.00, exclusive of any “storage fees” but inclusive of any other fees, charges, or costs.
- Class Members include BOTH individuals who paid for the return of a vehicle after it was towed from the Parking Lot to TAG Towing’s impound lot AND individuals who paid for release of a vehicle after it was connected to a tow truck but before it was taken to TAG Towing’s impound lot (this is sometimes referred to as a “drop fee”).
- This notice applies only to Class Members. The definition of Class Members can be found in Questions 10-12 below.
- The Court has not decided whether the Defendants have done anything wrong. No trial date has been set yet. However, your legal rights are affected, and you have a choice to make now:

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS LAWSUIT	
DO NOTHING	<p>Stay in this lawsuit. Await the outcome.</p> <p>By doing nothing, you keep the possibility of getting money or benefits that may come from a trial or a settlement. But you give up any rights to sue the Defendants separately about the same legal claims in this lawsuit.</p>
ASK TO BE EXCLUDED	<p>Take action to remove yourself from this Class Action, get no benefits or money if the lawsuit settles or is successful, but keep certain rights.</p> <p>If you ask to be excluded and money or benefits are later awarded, you won’t share in the recovery from settlement or trial. But you keep any rights to sue the Defendants separately about the same legal claims in this lawsuit.</p>

- Your options and other basic information are explained in this Notice. To ask to be excluded, you must act before **December 18, 2023**.
- Lawyers must prove the claims against the Defendants. If money or benefits are obtained from the Defendants, you will be notified about how to ask for your share.
- **Any questions? Read on and visit www.OmAnshTAGTowingclassaction.com.**

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BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this notice?

This notice explains that the Court has allowed, or “certified,” a class action lawsuit that may affect you. You have legal rights and options that you may exercise before the Court holds a trial. Judge Philip A. Ignelzi of the Court of Common Pleas for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, is overseeing this class action. The lawsuit is known as *Schneider et al. v. Countrywide Petroleum Co. et al.*, and is identified by case number GD-18-012296.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

Plaintiffs William J. Schneider, Casey Bruce, Diane Docchio, and Margaret Cusick brought this class action against the Defendants, including the operator of the Parking Lot (Om Ansh) and TAG Towing, alleging that Defendants unlawfully towed vehicles from the Parking Lot and unlawfully charged people whose vehicles were towed without their permission from the Parking Lot more money for the tows than allowed by law.

3. What is a class action and who is involved?

In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called “Class Representative(s)” (in this case William J. Schneider, Casey Bruce, Diane Docchio, and Margaret Cusick) sue on behalf of themselves and other people who have similar claims, together called a “Class” or “Class Members.” The individuals who brought this suit, along with all the Class Members, are called “Plaintiffs.” The people and companies being sued (in this case sued Om Ansh Enterprise, Inc. and Brian Haenze d/b/a Auto Galley & Accessories and as TAG Towing and Collision) are called “Defendants.” One court resolves the issues for everyone in the Class—except for those people who choose to exclude themselves from the Class.

4. Why is this lawsuit a class action?

The Court decided that this lawsuit can be a class action and move towards a trial because it meets the requirements of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure, Chapter 1700, which governs class actions in Pennsylvania courts. Specifically, the Court found that:

- There were likely to be a sufficient number of individuals in the Class to warrant proceeding as a class action.
- There are legal questions and questions of fact that are common to each of the Class Members;
- Plaintiffs’ claims are typical of the claims of the Class;
- Plaintiffs’ and the lawyers representing them will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the members of the Class;
- The common legal questions and questions of fact predominate over any individual questions; and
- The class action will be more efficient than having many individual lawsuits.

More information, including the operative Class Action Complaint and the Court’s decision certifying this case as a class action, is available at: www.OmAnshTAGTowingclassaction.com.

THE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT

5. What does the lawsuit complain about?

Plaintiffs William J. Schneider, Casey Bruce, Diane Docchio, and Margaret Cusick brought this class action against the Defendants, including the property operator of the Parking Lot and TAG Towing, alleging that Defendants unlawfully towed vehicles and charged people whose vehicles were towed without their permission from the Parking Lot more money for the tows than allowed by law.

Plaintiffs allege that 5 Pittsburgh Code § 525.05 sets a limit for what can be charge for a nonconsensual tow in the City of Pittsburgh. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants charged more than the maximum amount permitted when they towed Plaintiffs and the Class. You can read Plaintiffs’ operative Class Action Complaint at www.OmAnshTAGTowingclassaction.com.

6. How do the Defendants answer?

The Defendants deny that they did anything wrong. TAG Towing alleges that the towing fees it charged for non-consensual tows from the Parking Lot were within the legal limits. Om Ansh alleges that it was not involved in the non-consensual tows and had no part in setting the fee for the tows.

7. Has the Court decided who is right?

The Court hasn't decided whether the Defendants or the Plaintiffs are correct. By establishing the Class and issuing this Notice, the Court is not suggesting that the Plaintiffs will win or lose this case. The Plaintiffs must prove their claims at trial. See "The Trial" below on Page 6.

8. What are the Plaintiffs asking for?

The Plaintiffs are asking that the Defendants pay the Class Members back for any amount they were charged over the amount permitted by law, and/or pay Class Members the minimum \$100 in statutory damages available under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices Act, and/or pay the Class Members treble (or three times) the amount they were overcharged pursuant to the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices Act, and to pay punitive damages in an amount to be determined, and to pay for all attorneys' fees and costs incurred by Plaintiffs in bringing and prosecuting this action. Plaintiffs are also asking that the Defendants be required to change their policies to ensure that they no longer charge more than the maximum permitted by law.

9. Is there any money available now?

No money or benefits are available now because the Court has not yet decided whether the Defendants did anything wrong, and the two sides have not settled the case. There is no guarantee that money or benefits will ever be obtained. If a monetary recovery is obtained through settlement or verdict, you will be notified about how to ask for your share.

WHO IS IN THE CLASS?

You need to decide whether you are affected by this lawsuit.

10. Am I part of this Class?

Judge Ignelzi decided that all individuals who were charged and paid a fee in excess of the limits then set by 5 Pittsburgh Code § 525.05 for release or return of any passenger cars, light trucks, motorcycles, and scooters that were non-consensually towed from the Parking Lot anytime after September 21, 2012 are Class Members.

For vehicles towed **before December 14, 2015**, you are a Class Member if you were charged an amount **in excess of \$110.00**, exclusive of any "storage fees" but inclusive of any other fees, charges, or costs. For vehicles towed **after December 15, 2015**, you are Class Member if you were charged an amount **in excess of \$135.00**, exclusive of any "storage fees" but inclusive of any other fees, charges, or costs.

11. Who is not included in the Class?

If you did not pay a towing fee as a result of parking in the Parking Lot, you are NOT a Class Member. If you requested to have your vehicle towed, you are NOT a Class Member. If you did not pay a fee in excess of the amounts identified in question 10, above, you are NOT a Class Member. If you were towed from a different Parking Lot, you are NOT a Class Member.

12. I'm still not sure if I am included in the Class.

If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can get more information at www.OmAnshTAGTowingclassaction.com or by calling or writing to the lawyers in this case, at the phone number or address listed in question 22.

YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

You have to decide whether to stay in the Class or ask to be excluded before the trial, and you have to decide this now.

13. What happens if I do nothing at all?

You don't have to do anything now if you want to keep the possibility of getting money or benefits from this lawsuit. By doing nothing you are staying in the Class. If you stay in the Class and the Plaintiffs obtain money or benefits, either as a result of a trial or a settlement, you will be notified about how to apply for your share (or how to ask to be excluded from any settlement). Keep in mind that if you do nothing now, regardless of whether Plaintiffs win or lose the trial, you will not be able to sue, or continue to sue, the Defendants—as part of any lawsuit—about the same legal claims that are the subject of this lawsuit. You will also be legally bound by all the Orders the Court issues and judgments the Court makes in this class action.

14. Why would I ask to be excluded?

If you already have or had your own lawsuit against the Defendants for towing your vehicle without a license or for overcharging for a nonconsensual tow from the Parking Lot and want to continue with it, you need to ask to be excluded from the Class. If you exclude yourself from the Class—which also means to remove yourself from the Class, and is sometimes call “opting out” of the Class—you won't get any money or benefits from this lawsuit even if the Plaintiffs obtain them as a result of a trial or from any settlement (that may or may not be reached) between the Defendants and the Plaintiffs. However, you may then be able to sue or continue to sue the Defendants for overcharging for a nonconsensual tow from the Parking Lot. If you exclude yourself, you will not be legally bound by the Court's judgments in this class action.

If you start your own lawsuit against any of the Defendants for a nonconsensual tow from the Parking Lot after you exclude yourself, you'll have to hire and pay your own lawyer for that lawsuit, and you'll have to prove your claims. If you do exclude yourself so you can start or continue your own lawsuit against the Defendants, you should talk to your own lawyer soon, because your claims may be subject to a statute of limitations.

Note that if you exclude yourself from this lawsuit and in the future you park in the Parking Lot, the changes made to the Defendants' policies and practices regarding the fee charged for towing vehicles would still apply to you.

15. How do I ask the Court to exclude me from the Class?

To ask to be excluded, you must send an “Exclusion Request” (also called an “Opt-Out Request”) in the form of a letter sent by mail, stating that you want to be excluded from the *Schneider v. Countrywide Petroleum Company* class action. Be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number and the letter must be signed by you. You must mail your Exclusion Request to Om Ansh Opt-Outs, Lynch Carpenter, LLP, Elizabeth Pollock-Avery, 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Your Exclusion Request must be postmarked by **December 18, 2023**.

You may get more information on making an Exclusion Request from the website www.OmAnshTAGTowingclassaction.com.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

16. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Court decided that Elizabeth Pollock-Avery, of the law firm Lynch Carpenter, LLP, and Joshua P. Ward, of the law firm J.P. Ward and Associates, LLC, are qualified to represent you and all Class Members. Together these attorneys and their firms are called “Class Counsel.” They are experienced in handling similar cases against other companies and individuals. More information about these law firms, their practices, and their lawyers' experience is available at lcllp.com and jpward.com.

17. Should I get my own lawyer?

You do not need to hire your own lawyer because Class Counsel is working on your behalf as a Class Member. If you want your own lawyer, you may hire one, but you will have to pay that lawyer. For example, you could ask him or her to appear in Court for you if you want someone other than Class Counsel to speak for you.

18. How will the lawyers be paid?

If Class Counsel succeeds in obtaining a recovery of money or other benefits for the Class, Class Counsel may ask the Court for fees and expenses. You won't have to pay these fees and expenses. If the Court grants Class Counsel's request, the fees and expenses would either be deducted from any money obtained for the Class or paid separately by the Defendants.

THE TRIAL

19. How and when will the Court decide who is right?

As long as the case is not resolved by settlement or otherwise, Class Counsel will have to prove the Plaintiffs' claims at trial. The trial has not yet been scheduled. During the trial, a Jury or the Judge will hear all of the evidence to help them reach a decision about whether the Plaintiffs or Defendants are right about the claims in the lawsuit and determine what money or benefits, if any, should be paid to the Class. There is no guarantee that the Plaintiffs will win, or that they will get any money for the Class.

20. Do I have to come to the trial?

You do not need to attend the trial. Class Counsel will present the case for the Plaintiffs, and the Defendants will present their defenses. You or your own lawyer are welcome to come at your own expense.

21. Will I get money after the trial?

If the Plaintiffs recover money or benefits as a result of a trial or settlement, you will be notified about how to participate. We do not know how long this will take.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

22. Are more details available?

Visit the website, www.OmAnshTAGTowingclassaction.com, where you will find more information, including the Court's Order Certifying the Class, the operative Class Action Complaint that the Plaintiffs submitted, and the Defendants' Answers to the Complaint.

You may also speak to one of the lawyers by calling (412) 322-9243 or by writing to: Om Ansh Class Action, Lynch Carpenter, LLP, Attn: Elizabeth Pollock-Avery, 1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.