	Case 2:20-cv-04517 Document 1 Filed 05/19	/20 Page 1 of 18 Page ID #:1	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Lori E. Andrus (SBN 205816) <u>lori@andrusanderson.com</u> Jennie Lee Anderson (SBN 203586) <u>jennie@andrusanderson.com</u> Audrey C. Siegel (SBN 286771) <u>audrey.siegel@andrusanderson.com</u> ANDRUS ANDERSON LLP 155 Montgomery Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94104 Telephone: (415) 986-1400 Facsimile: (415) 986-1474 <i>Attorneys for Plaintiff</i> UNITED STATES D FOR THE CENTRAL DIST	lori@andrusanderson.com         Jennie Lee Anderson (SBN 203586)         jennie@andrusanderson.com         Audrey C. Siegel (SBN 286771)         audrey.siegel@andrusanderson.com         ANDRUS ANDERSON LLP         155 Montgomery Street, Suite 900         San Francisco, CA 94104         Telephone: (415) 986-1400         Facsimile: (415) 986-1474         Attorneys for Plaintiff         UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT         FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA         WESTERN DIVISION         O.T., through her guardian ad litem,         Plaintiff,         VS.	
	<u>Statement regarding jurisdiction pursuant to Local Rule 8-1</u> : This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (diversity of citizenship), and has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims contained herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) given that all of the claims are so related that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.		

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# INTRODUCTION

1. In 2012, Natalie Del Real-Trujillo ("Guardian Natalie") used a dangerously defective BabyBjörn Original Baby Carrier (the "Baby Carrier") to 3 carry her daughter, O.T. ("Plaintiff O.T."),<sup>1</sup> which caused severe hip dysplasia in 4 the infant. As a result of this preventable injury, Plaintiff O.T. has suffered greatly, 6 having undergone three surgical procedures and months spent in full body casts.

7 2. The Baby Carrier is intended for parents to carry their infants for 8 extended periods of time. It is worn on the front of the parent, with straps over the parent's shoulders and around the parent's waist. A child can be positioned in the 9 10 Baby Carrier either facing the parent or facing away. In either direction, the 11 infant's legs hang straight down, in an unsafe position of extension and abduction. 12 Properly designed carriers have a wider, more structured bottom, which gives more 13 support for the infant's hips. The Baby Carrier that is the subject of this lawsuit is 14 defectively designed, however. It has a narrow bottom that provides insufficient 15 support of the infant's hips. As a result, the Baby Carrier presents a dangerous risk 16 of hip dysplasia, particularly with prolonged use.

17 3. From at least 2002, the manufacturers of the Baby Carrier were aware, 18 or should have been aware, that the Baby Carrier's design carried with it a 19 dangerous propensity to cause hip dysplasia in children. Perhaps finally 20 acknowledging the unacceptable risk of the Baby Carrier's design, Defendants 21 ceased selling the defective Baby Carriers just a few months ago.

# PARTIES

23 4. Plaintiff O.T. is a minor who, at all applicable times, resided, and still resides, in Compton, California. 24

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26 <sup>1</sup> Concurrently with the filing of the Complaint, Guardian Natalie has petitioned the 27 Court to be recognized as Plaintiff O.T.'s guardian *ad litem* pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(c)(1). 28

# -2-COMPLAINT

5. Defendant BabyBjörn Inc. is a private corporation. BabyBjörn Inc.
 conducts business throughout the United States, including in California, where it is
 registered with the California Secretary of State. BabyBjörn Inc. maintains its
 principal place of business in New York, New York.

5 6. Defendant BabyBjörn AB is a private Swedish corporation, and is the
6 parent company of BabyBjörn Inc.

7 7. Defendant BabyBjörn Holding AB is a private Swedish corporation,
8 and is the parent company of BabyBjörn AB.

- 9 8. Defendant Lillemor Design AB is a private Swedish corporation, and
  10 is the ultimate parent company of the other Defendants.
- 9. Unless necessary to distinguish between them, herein the Defendantswill collectively be referred to as "BabyBjörn."
- 13 At all times herein mentioned, there existed (and still exists) a unity of 10 14 interest between each and all of the Defendants such that any individuality and 15 separateness between them has ceased. Defendants are the alter egos of each and 16 all of the others, and exerted control over the other Defendants. Each of them 17 controlled their subsidiaries to such a degree and in such a manner as to render 18 them mere business units and to make them merely an agency, instrumentality, 19 adjunct or alter ego of the parent company(ies). Adherence to the fiction of the separate existence of Defendants as entities distinct from the others will permit an 20 21 abuse of the corporate privilege, sanction a fraud, and/or promote injustice.
- 11. Each of the Defendants expressly or impliedly agreed to work with and
  assist each other Defendant, and unnamed parties, toward the common purpose of
  designing, testing, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, and selling the Baby
  Carrier, and toward the common interest of collective pecuniary gain.
- 26 12. Each of the Defendants performed the acts and omissions described
  27 herein in concert with the other Defendants and/or pursuant to a common design
  28 with the other Defendants.

#### -3-COMPLAINT

13. Each of the Defendants knew the acts and omission of the others
 constituted a breach of the duty owed to Plaintiff, and yet, each Defendant provided
 each other Defendant substantial assistance and/or encouragement in breach of that
 duty. Each of the Defendants provided substantial assistance to the other
 Defendants in accomplishing the conduct described herein, and each Defendant's
 conduct, even when separately considered, constitutes a breach of duties owed to
 Plaintiff.

8 14. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were each fully informed of
9 the actions of their agents, representatives, contractors, and/or employees, and
10 thereafter, no officer, director or managing agent repudiated those actions. The
11 failure to repudiate constituted adoption and approval of said actions, and all
12 Defendants, and each of them, thereby ratified those actions.

13 15. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was engaged in
the business of and/or was a successor in interest to and/or affiliated with/associated
with/indistinguishable from entities engaged in the business of researching,
designing, formulating, testing, manufacturing, producing, assembling, inspecting,
distributing, marketing, labeling, promoting, packaging, advertising for sale, and/or
selling the Baby Carrier for use by Plaintiff. As such, each of the Defendants is
individually, as well as jointly and severally, liable to the Plaintiff for her damages.

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# JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants and this action pursuant to
 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between
 Plaintiff and Defendants. Defendants are all either incorporated and/or have their
 principal places of business outside of the state in which Plaintiff resides.

25 17. The amount in controversy between Plaintiff and Defendants exceeds
26 \$75,000, exclusive of interest and cost.

27 18. The Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
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COMPLAINT

1 19. Venue is proper within this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 in 2 that a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to these claims 3 occurred within this district. Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this 4 district. Until recently, and within the statutory time period, Defendants sold, 5 marketed, and/or distributed the Baby Carriers within the Central District of 6 California. Having systematically and purposefully directed products to the State 7 of California, which products gave rise to Plaintiff's causes of actions herein, 8 Defendants are subject to the personal jurisdiction of this Court.

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# FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

20. BabyBjörn designed, manufactured, labeled, marketed, sold and
distributed the Baby Carrier giving rise to the Plaintiff's causes of action herein.

12 21. Guardian Natalie carried Plaintiff O.T. in the Baby Carrier beginning
13 in 2012, from the time she was approximately six weeks old on a daily basis, often
14 multiple times per day, and often for extended periods of time during each use, until
15 Plaintiff O.T. was approximately 6 months old.

16 22. Guardian Natalie's use of the Baby Carrier was consistent with the17 intended use for which it was designed, marketed, and sold.

18 23. Despite Guardian Natalie's use of the Baby Carrier in the manner
19 intended by BabyBjörn and reasonably foreseeable by BabyBjörn, the Baby Carrier
20 caused Plaintiff O.T. to develop hip dysplasia. Plaintiff O.T. has experienced and
21 will continue to suffer on an ongoing basis significant mental and physical pain and
22 suffering, and permanent injury, which have required or may require corrective
23 surgery.

24 24. As a result of the hip dysplasia, Plaintiff O.T. had to undergo a
25 surgical procedure to be put into a body cast at one year of age. She was confined
26 to that body cast for three months. Then, she had a pelvic osteotomy (shaving of
27 the left hip bone), and was hospitalized for three days. She was put in another body

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1	cast for six weeks, then a body brace for another six weeks. Finally, she endured a		
2	third surgery to remove the plate and screws.		
3	25. As a result of her confinement, in addition to other sequelae of hip		
4	dysplasia, Plaintiff O.T. suffered delayed development of her fine motor skills,		
5	including delayed speech.		
6	The Founding of BabyBjörn		
7	26. BabyBjörn AB was founded in 1961 by Björn Jakobson. To this day,		
8	Jakobson remains the CEO of BabyBjörn AB.		

BabyBjörn holds itself out as a family-owned company that develops 9 27. safe products and provides parents information about child-rearing.<sup>2</sup> 10

Jakobson believes that the first three months of a baby's life are the 11 28 most important to the child's development.<sup>3</sup> 12

13 29 Jakobson has said, "The most important [thing] is not that you make money. The most important [thing] is that you are together with your family or 14 children."4 15

Jakobson claims that one of BabyBjörn's core values is safety. "My 16 30. 17 obligation is to change the safety of BabyBjörn products, and to see that we never sell a product that could harm a baby, or parents, or anybody else."<sup>5</sup> 18

Jakobson's sentiments are echoed by David Thalén, a Baby Carrier 19 31. 20 Product Developer at BabyBjörn: "[s]afety is always important, so we always strive 21 for perfection, and to have the highest possible quality, and the highest possible safety in our products."6 22

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<sup>2</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAohhejgplc&list=PLA4A8C618AFD667F6. <sup>3</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAohhejgplc&list=PLA4A8C618AFD667F6.  $^{4}$  Id.

26 <sup>5</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6qaG4sBsBk&list=PLA4A8C618AFD667F 27 6&index=3.

<sup>6</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY9ygVrMKZ8&list=PLA4A8C618AFD667 28 F6&index=4.

#### -6-COMPLAINT

# The Creation of the Baby Carrier Original

2 32. BabyBjörn reports that its design of the Baby Carrier Original was 3 inspired by pediatricians whom Jakobson encountered in the 1960s. They 4 encouraged parents to hold babies close to promote bonding early in the infant's 5 life.

6 33. BabyBjörn maintains that the Baby Carrier Original was developed in 7 close cooperation with medical experts, specifically pediatric orthopedists.<sup>7</sup>

According to BabyBjörn, the company worked with a variety of 8 34. 9 medical experts to develop the Baby Carrier Original to ensure that the Baby 10 Carrier's design was correct.

BabyBjörn formally began development in the early 1970's. The Baby 11 35. 12 Carrier Original was released for sale to the public in 1973. It was called the 13 Hjartenara ("Close to the Heart") Baby Carrier. The carrier is now known as the 14 Baby Carrier Original and it is the product that made BabyBjörn a household name.<sup>8</sup> 15

16 36. In recent years, BabyBjörn has acknowledged that it is "important for 17 the baby to sit in a natural, wide-legged position during their early months."<sup>9</sup> In the 18 early 2010's, BabyBjörn developed other versions of its baby carrier design, such 19 as the BabyBjörn Miracle Carrier. These later models had updated designs with added support for the infant's hips. Despite these safer designs, the design of the 20 21 Baby Carrier Original has not changed since its 1973 introduction.

22 Until earlier this year, the Baby Carrier Original was marketed 37. specifically to parents of newborn infants.<sup>10</sup> 23

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<sup>7</sup> www.babybjorn.com/children-and-safety.

26 <sup>8</sup> https://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/01/magazine/who-made-that-baby-bjorn.html.

27 <sup>9</sup> https://care.babybjorn.com/en/support/solutions/articles/36000050609-why-is-the-

baby-s-position-in-a-baby-carrier-so-important-. 28

<sup>10</sup> https://babycarrierhq.com/reviews-of-top-5-best-selling-babyjorn-baby-carriers/. -7-

## Advertising

38. BabyBjörn maintains in its marketing that the Baby Carrier Original "was the first baby carrier on the market, and [is] still the gold standard for baby wearing."

39. Jakobson maintains that all of BabyBjörn's products comply with
applicable safety standards, and claims that "every parent ought to use a BabyBjörn
carrier for their newborn babies."<sup>11</sup>

40. The Owner's Manual for the Baby Carrier Original focuses on
ensuring that infants do not fall out of the Baby Carrier, and are not smothered
while in the Baby Carrier.<sup>12</sup> Parents of newborn infants are advised to "make sure
the infant's legs are straddling the seat and that their arms are placed through the
armholes," and to "make sure there is enough room around your baby's face to
provide a clear source of air."<sup>13</sup>

14 41. The Owner's Manual also claims that the "BabyBjörn Baby Carrier
15 Original meets the safety requirements for baby carriers. (ASTM F2236-13)."<sup>14</sup>
16 However those standards deal solely with design elements that prevent falls and
17 suffocation. They do not comment on the correct positioning of an infant's hips.

42. BabyBjörn's advertising materials for the Baby Carrier Original claim
that the Baby Carrier Original has been tested and is safe for use. Specifically,
BabyBjörn claims that the Baby Carrier Original complies with both European and
United States safety standards for baby carriers.<sup>15</sup>

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- 24  $\frac{11 \text{ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CCswlHHkq8&list=PLA4A8C618AFD66}}{7F6&index=7}$

<sup>12</sup> <u>https://www.babybjorn.com/app/uploads/2016/04/bc-original-om-us-version-9-</u>
 <u>201612-hr.pdf</u>.

<sup>13</sup> <u>https://www.babybjorn.com/app/uploads/2016/04/bc-original-om-us-version-9-</u>
 <u>201612-hr.pdf</u>, pp. 7-8.

28 <sup>14</sup> *Id.*, p. 12. <sup>15</sup> https://www.babybjorn.com/baby-carriers/original/.

> -8-COMPLAINT

- "Our product developers collaborate closely with pediatricians and 1 43. 2 medical experts throughout the entire development process - both when developing a completely new product and when refining an existing one."<sup>16</sup> 3
- 4 44. BabyBjörn touts the fact that "[y]ou can pack your baby carrier in your 5 hospital bag. You can use a baby carrier as soon as your baby is born!"<sup>17</sup>

6 45. BabyBjörn acknowledges that hip dysplasia is a serious medical 7 problem, but denies that there is any connection between hip problems and modern 8 baby carriers.<sup>18</sup> BabyBjörn's website addresses the question of whether baby carriers cause hip problems in its "Frequently Asked Questions." BabyBjörn 9 inaccurately states that "[h]ip dysplasia cannot be caused by a baby carrier."<sup>19</sup> 10

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# What BabyBjörn Knew or Should Have Known

46. 12 Baby-carrying is an ancient practice. For baby-carrying to be safe, infants must be carried in a particular way. The thighs must be supported, and the 13 hips must be bent into an "M" position.<sup>20</sup> Abduction of 35 to 40 degrees and 14 flexion of 90 to 120 degrees is the ideal position of an infant's hips for optimal 15 development.<sup>21</sup> 16

17 If an infant's hips are forced into a straight, stretched-out position too 47. 18 early, there is a risk that the ball of the hips may deform the edges of the socket, or 19 slip out of the socket altogether. The risk of developing these disorders is greatest in the first six months of an infant's life.<sup>22</sup> To prevent this, the International Hip 20

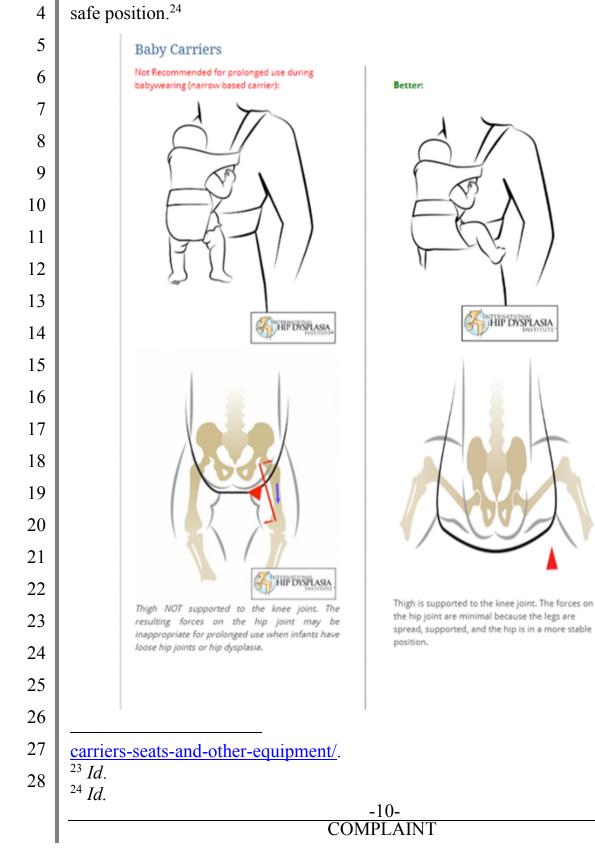
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- 22 <sup>17</sup> https://www.babybjorn.com/when-is-it-safe-to-start-using-a-baby-carrier/.
- 23 <sup>18</sup> https://www.babybjorn.com/children-and-safety/.
- <sup>19</sup> https://care.babybjorn.com/en/support/solutions/articles/36000050612-can-24 carriers-cause-hip-problems-in-babies-
- 25 <sup>20</sup> <u>https://hipdysplasia.org/developmental-dysplasia-of-the-hip/prevention/baby-</u> carriers-seats-and-other-equipment/. 26
- <sup>21</sup> See Regine A. Schon, & Maarit Silven, Natural Parenting--Back to Basics in 27 Infant Care, 5(1) Evolutionary Psychology 102, 118 (2007).
- 28 <sup>22</sup> https://hipdysplasia.org/developmental-dysplasia-of-the-hip/prevention/baby--9-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://www.babybjorn.com/children-and-safety/.

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Dysplasia Institute advises that "[w]hen babies are carried, especially for prolonged
 periods of time, the hips should be allowed to spread apart with the thighs
 supported and the hips bent."<sup>23</sup> The diagram below illustrates the problem, and the



48. According to Dr. Charles Price from the International Hip Dysplasia
 Institute, "The first six months of life is the only time that [hip dysplasia] can be
 easily prevented. Numerous research studies have shown that positioning of the
 baby's hips during this time has tremendous influence on hip development.
 Incorrect positioning can prevent natural improvement or even cause the hips to
 dislocate. Straightening the legs and binding them together can cause serious
 harm."<sup>25</sup>

8 49. The International Hip Dysplasia Institute notes that: "[t]here is 9 evidence that carrying a baby on the mother's body (or father's body) is likely to 10 influence hip development during the first six months of life when the baby is carried for many hours each day for purposes of bonding, or infant care."<sup>26</sup> Given 11 the known propensity for infants to develop hip dysplasia if not carried in a safe 12 manner, the International Hip Dysplasia Institute has acknowledged certain models 13 of baby carriers as "hip healthy."<sup>27</sup> Notably, the BabyBjörn Baby Carrier is not a 14 "hip healthy" product. However, BabyBjörn has three other baby carrier designs 15 that have been deemed "hip healthy,"<sup>28</sup> confirming the company's knowledge of 16 safer alternative designs than the Baby Carrier that caused Plaintiff's injuries. 17

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF NEGLIGENCE – NEGLIGENT DESIGN

20 50. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and realleges each and every preceding
21 paragraph of this Complaint as if the same were set forth at length herein.
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24 25 <u>https://boba.com/blogs/boba-reads/an-interview-with-dr-charles-price-from-the-international-hip-dysplasia-institute.</u>
 26 <u>https://hipdysplasia.org/developmental-dysplasia-of-the-hip/prevention/baby-</u>

carriers-seats-and-other-equipment/.

- 27 <u>https://hipdysplasia.org/developmental-dysplasia-of-the-hip/prevention/baby-</u>
   28 <u>carriers-seats-and-other-equipment/hip-healthy-products/</u>.
  - <sup>28</sup> Id.

-11-COMPLAINT 51. BabyBjörn had a duty to individuals, including Plaintiff, to use
 reasonable care in designing, testing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling,
 packaging, and selling the Baby Carrier.

4 52. BabyBjörn's duty of care to Plaintiff O.T. was heightened since she is
5 a child.

53. BabyBjörn was negligent in failing to use reasonable care in designing,
testing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling the Baby Carrier.

8 54. BabyBjörn was negligent in failing to use reasonable care to see that
9 the Baby Carrier was safe for its intended use.

10 55. BabyBjörn knew or had reason to know that the Baby Carrier was
11 dangerous when put to the use for which it was made.

12 56. BabyBjörn knew or had reason to know that those for whose use the13 Baby Carrier was made would not realize the danger.

14 57. BabyBjörn failed to use the amount of care in designing the Baby
15 Carrier that a reasonably careful designer/manufacturer would use in similar
16 circumstances to avoid exposing others to a foreseeable risk of harm.

17 58. BabyBjörn's negligence was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's18 harm.

19 59. As a direct and proximate cause of BabyBjörn's negligence, Plaintiff
20 has suffered and in the future will continue to suffer on an ongoing basis severe
21 personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or
22 economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and
23 expenses, lost income and earning capacity, and other damages.

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### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF NEGLIGENCE – NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN

26 60. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and realleges each and every preceding
27 paragraph of this Complaint as if the same were set forth at length herein.
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-12-COMPLAINT

C	ase 2:20-cv-04517 Document 1 Filed 05/19/20 Page 13 of 18 Page ID #:13				
1	61. BabyBjörn had a duty to individuals, including Plaintiff, to warn users				
2	of the dangerous propensity of the Baby Carriers.				
3	62. BabyBjörn's duty of care to Plaintiff O.T. was heightened since she is				
4	a child.				
5	63. BabyBjörn failed to warn reasonably foreseeable users that the Baby				
6	Carrier was dangerous when put to the use for which it was made.				
7	64. BabyBjörn knew or had reason to know that the Baby Carrier was				
8	dangerous when put to the use for which it was made.				
9	65. BabyBjörn knew or had reason to know that those for whose use the				
10	Baby Carrier was made would not realize the danger.				
11	66. Had BabyBjörn warned of the danger of hip dysplasia, Guardian				
12	Natalie and Plaintiff would not have used the product.				
13	67. BabyBjörn's negligence was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's				
14	harm.				
15	68. As a direct and proximate cause of BabyBjörn's negligence, Plaintiff				
16	has suffered and in the future will continue to suffer on an ongoing basis severe				
17	personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or				
18	economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and				
19	expenses, lost income and earning capacity, and other damages.				
20	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF				
21	<b>NEGLIGENCE – NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS</b>				
22	69. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and realleges each and every preceding				
23	paragraph of this Complaint as if the same were set forth at length herein.				
24	70. BabyBjörn had a duty to exercise reasonable care in designing,				
25	developing, formulating, manufacturing, testing, packaging, promoting, labeling,				
26	advertising, marketing, instructing on, warning about, distributing, supplying and/or				
27	selling the Baby Carrier, including a duty to ensure that the product did not pose a				
28	significantly increased risk of bodily harm.				
	-13- COMPLAINT				

1	71. BabyBjörn failed to exercise such reasonable care, in that BabyBjörn		
2	knew or should have known that the Baby Carrier posed a significantly increased		
3	risk of hip dysplasia and was not safe for use by consumers, but BabyBjörn		
4	continued to design, develop, formulate, manufacture, test, package, promote, label,		
5	advertise, market, instruct on, warn about, distribute, supply and/or sell the product		
6	without adequate labeling and/or adequate warnings.		
7	72. BabyBjörn knew or should have known that consumers, such as		
8	Plaintiff, would foreseeably suffer injury as a result of BabyBjörn's failure to		
9	exercise reasonable care.		
10	73. As a direct and proximate result of BabyBjörn's negligence, Plaintiff		
11	was in the zone of physical danger, suffered physical injury and emotional distress,		
12	and will continue to suffer such emotional harm in the future.		
13	FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF STRICT LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT		
14	STRICT LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT		
15	74. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and realleges each and every preceding		
16	paragraph of this Complaint as if the same were set forth at length herein.		
17	75. At the time the Baby Carrier left BabyBjörn's control, the Baby		
18	Carrier was defective in design and unreasonably dangerous for its intended use, for		
19	any reasonably foreseeable use, and it created a risk of harm that would not be		
20	contemplated by any foreseeable user.		
21	76. The harm caused by the Baby Carrier far outweighed any benefit,		
22	rendering BabyBjörn's product dangerous to an extent beyond that which an		
23	ordinary consumer would contemplate. The Baby Carrier was and is more		
24	dangerous than alternative products, and BabyBjörn could have designed the Baby		
25	Carrier to make it less dangerous. At the time BabyBjörn designed, marketed, and		
26	sold the Baby Carrier, the state of the industry's knowledge was such that a less		
27	risky design or formulation was attainable.		
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## -14-COMPLAINT

77. 1 The Baby Carrier's design was defective because the Baby Carrier did 2 not perform as safely as an ordinary consumer would have expected it to perform 3 when it was used in an intended or reasonably foreseeable way.

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78. At the time the Baby Carrier left BabyBjörn's control, there was a practical, technically feasible and safer alternative design that would have prevented the harm to Plaintiff without substantially impairing the reasonably anticipated or intended function of the Baby Carrier.

The benefits of the Baby Carrier's design are outweighed by the risks 8 79. 9 of the design. The gravity of the potential harm resulting from the use of the Baby 10 Carrier is great, and the likelihood that this harm would occur is significant. At the 11 time of manufacture, there existed feasible, alternative, safer designs that were not 12 overly costly and did not have disadvantages.

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80. The Baby Carrier's design and/or its failure to perform safely was a 14 substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

15 81. As a direct and proximate result of the Baby Carrier's design defects, Plaintiff has suffered and in the future will continue to suffer on an ongoing basis 16 17 severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or 18 economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and 19 expenses, lost income and earning capacity, and other damages.

20 82. BabyBjörn is strictly liable to Plaintiff for designing, testing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling a defective Baby Carrier. 21

# FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF **STRICT LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN**

24 83. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and realleges each and every preceding 25 paragraph of this Complaint as if the same were set forth at length herein.

26 84. The Baby Carrier was not accompanied by sufficient warnings to 27 inform users, such as Guardian Natalie and Plaintiff, of the risks of harm not readily 28 recognizable while using the Baby Carrier in a reasonably foreseeable manner.

85. At the time of manufacture, BabyBjörn could have provided warnings
 or instructions regarding the full and complete risks of the Baby Carrier, because
 BabyBjörn knew or should have known of the unreasonable risks of harm
 associated with the use of the product.

5 86. The known risks presented a substantial danger to Plaintiff when the6 Baby Carrier was used in an intended or foreseeable way.

87. Plaintiff could not have reasonably discovered the defects and risks
associated with the Baby Carrier prior to or at the time of use. Guardian Natalie
and Plaintiff relied upon the skill, expertise, and judgment of BabyBjörn.

10 88. Had BabyBjörn provided adequate warnings and instructions and
 11 properly disclosed and disseminated the risk associated with the Baby Carrier,
 12 Plaintiff could have avoided the risk of developing injuries and could have obtained
 13 or used an alternative product.

14 89. BabyBjörn's failure to warn Plaintiff was a substantial factor in
15 causing Plaintiff's harm.

90. As a direct and proximate result of the Baby Carrier's defects, Plaintiff
has suffered and in the future will continue to suffer on an ongoing basis severe
personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or
economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and
expenses, lost income and earning capacity, and other damages.

91. BabyBjörn is strictly liable to Plaintiff for designing, testing,
manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling the defective Baby
Carrier.

-16-COMPLAINT

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ç	Case 2:20-cv-04517 Document 1 Filed 05/19/20 Page 17 of 18 Page ID #:17					
1	PRAYER FOR RELIEF					
2	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants and, as					
3	appropriate to each cause of action, as follows:					
4	1. compensatory damages, including but not limited to, pain, suffering,					
5	emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-economic damages, in					
6	an amount to be determined at trial;					
7	2. economic damages in the form of medical expenses, cost of future					
8	medical care, out of pocket expenses, lost earnings and earning capacity, and other					
9	economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial;					
10	3. restitution and/or disgorgement;					
11	4. an award of costs;					
12	4. pre-judgment interest;					
13	5. post-judgment interest; and					
14	6. any other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.					
15						
16	DATE: May 4, 2020 ANDRUS ANDERSON LLP					
17	By: <u>Jan Unders</u>					
18	Lori E. Andrus					
19	Lori E. Andrus (SBN 205816) lori@andrusanderson.com					
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24	Attorneys for Plaintiff					
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	COMPLAINT					

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1	DEM					
1		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Plaintiff demands a jury trial in this action for all claims so triable.				
2 3	Plaintin demands a jury		on for an claims so thable.			
4	DATE: May14, 2020		ANDRUS ANDERSON LLP			
5	DATE: May <u>,</u> 2020					
6			By: Lori E. Andrus			
7			Lori E. Andrus (SBN 205816)			
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