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11	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
12	COUNTY OF EOSTAVOLLES			
13	DAPHNA CARDINALE and ALEXANDER CARDINALE,	Case No.		
14	Plaintiffs,	COMPLAINT		
15	VS.	(1) BREACH OF CONTRACT		
16	CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR	(2) BREACH OF IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR		
17	REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH; ELIRAN MOR; IN VITROTECH LABS, INC.;	DEALING (3) MEDICAL MALPRACTICE		
18 19	BEVERLY SUNSET SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC; and DOES 1 THROUGH 10, inclusive,	(4) NEGLIGENCE (5) CONVERSION		
20	Defendants.	(6) FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT (7) VIOLATION OF UNFAIR		
21	2 010110011101	COMPETITION LAW (8) NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF		
22		EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (9) BATTERY		
23		(10) VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE § 367g		
24		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
25		DEMINISTORUSKI IIMID		
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COMPLAINT

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. Daphna and Alexander Cardinale were customers of California Center for Reproductive Health ("CCRH") and Dr. Eliran Mor. They entrusted CCRH and Dr. Mor with their dreams of having a child, as well as with their most sensitive and important property: their embryos.
- CCRH and the other defendants violated that trust in a shocking manner. During an IVF procedure, CCRH purportedly transferred Daphna and Alexander's embryo to Daphna, who consequently became pregnant and gave birth to a healthy daughter. After the birth, however, Alexander was confused and dismayed by the fact that she didn't resemble either of her parents. Two months after the birth, a DNA test confirmed Alexander's worst fear: the child was not related to the Cardinales.
- 3. CCRH implanted a stranger's embryo into Daphna, and thus Daphna became an unwilling and unknowing surrogate for an unknown couple whose child Daphna and Alexander were forced to raise. The Cardinales, including their young daughter, fell in love with this child, and were terrified she would be taken away from them. All the while, Alexander and Daphna did not know the whereabouts of their own embryo, and thus were terrified that another woman had been pregnant with their child—and their child was out in the world somewhere without them.
- 4. Daphna and Alexander alerted CCRH. In the coming weeks, Alexander and Daphna learned that CCRH outsourced the handling of their embryo to In VitroTech Labs, Inc., a third-party embryology lab, and its parent company, Beverly Sunset Surgical Associates, LLC. Not only that, but the lab chosen (without Alexander and Daphna's knowledge) and its parent company were both owned by Dr. Mor and had a sordid history of allegedly mixing up, mislabeling, and/or outright losing clients' genetic material.
- 5. It was Dr. Mor's lab, In VitroTech, that mixed up Alexander and Daphna's embryo with one from the other couple ("Couple Two"). Both embryos were inserted into the wrong women. In other words, Daphna was surgically implanted—against her will or knowledge—with the sperm and egg of a man and woman who were complete strangers to her. Meanwhile, Daphna and Alexander's embryo was transferred to that same couple, Couple Two, a few weeks after Daphna's transfer procedure. Couple Two carried to term and gave birth to a baby girl—Alexander and Daphna's biological child—and raised her for months before Defendants' mistakes were uncovered and proven.

- 6. As a result of Defendants' multiple errors, Daphna and Alexander did not even know of their biological daughter's existence until she was three months old. Another month passed before they would finally bring her home for good. Meanwhile, they were forced to give up forever the daughter whom Daphna carried to term and to whom their whole family had irrevocably bonded. The long-term consequences of this baby swap continue to haunt their entire family.
- 7. Daphna and Alexander's pain and fear have not abated with their reunion with their daughter. This is something they will live with for the rest of their lives. Both they and their older daughter have suffered life-changing emotional damages, necessitating continuing mental-health treatment. Daphna and Alexander's distress has manifested in severe physical-health problems, too, with which they continue to struggle.
- 8. Additionally, this is the rare embryo-disaster case that involves very significant economic harm. Both Daphna and Alexander suffered substantial setbacks in their respective careers that are directly and proximately caused by this incident. Alexander, an emerging recording artist who was signed by Atlantic Records at the time, needed to postpone all plans to promote his then-hot music single. Not being able to fulfill any touring or radio promotion thus killed any further radio play and halted the success of the already charting single. This ultimately led to Atlantic Records' dropping him from its roster, and effectively stalling his career. Over a decade of hard work had culminated to this kind of once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, only to have it all fall apart at the goal line.
- 9. For her part, Daphna was unable to see clients while dealing with the fallout of Defendants' terrible mistakes, and thus lost all but a few of her therapy clients, effectively wiping out the practice she spent years building.
- 10. Defendants promised to safeguard and protect the Plaintiffs' frozen embryos, vouching to maximize their opportunity to become pregnant with their own child. Despite their agreement to maintain this position of extreme trust and fidelity, Defendants recklessly, negligently, and/or knowingly lost or actively decided to give Plaintiffs' embryos to another couple, while implanting the wrong embryo in Daphna.

PARTIES

11. Plaintiff DAPHNA CARDINALE is an individual who is now, and at all relevant times

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mentioned in this Complaint was, a citizen of Los Angeles County, California.

- 12. Plaintiff ALEXANDER CARDINALE is an individual who is now, and at all relevant times mentioned in this Complaint was, a citizen of Los Angeles County, California.
- 13. At all times relevant herein, Defendant CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ("CCRH") was and is a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business in Los Angeles, California. CCRH was and is in the business of providing various fertility-related services to the public. Such services include performing in vitro fertilization ("IVF") retrieval cycles and transfer procedures.
- 14. At all times relevant herein, Defendant IN VITROTECH LABS, INC. ("In VitroTech") was and is a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business in Los Angeles, California. In VitroTech was and is in the business of providing various fertility-related services to the public. Such services include fertilizing, cryopreserving, and storing embryos and sperm for IVF, as well as taking biopsies from embryos to be sent for genetic testing prior to the embryos being used in IVF services.
- 15. On information and belief, at all times relevant herein, BEVERLY SUNSET SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC ("BSSA") was and is a limited liability company, organized and existing under the law of the State of California, with its principal place of business in Los Angeles, California. On information and belief, BSSA is owned by Defendant Eliran Mor, is the parent company of In VitroTech, and is responsible for overseeing the protocols, procedures, and operations of In VitroTech.
- 16. Defendant ELIRAN MOR ("Mor"), at all times relevant herein, was and is an owner, employee, and Medical Director of CCRH, as well as an owner of In VitroTech and BSSA. Dr. Mor was the fertility specialist for both the Cardinales and Couple Two. Dr. Mor transferred Couple Two's embryo to Daphna and transferred Plaintiffs' embryo to Couple Two, among other misconduct.
- 17. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 thought 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs, who therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each of said fictitious Defendants caused injury and damages to Plaintiffs.
 - 18. At all times relevant herein, the Defendants, and each of them, were the agents, servants,

partners, aider and abettors, conspirators, employees, and joint venturers of each other. At all times relevant herein, each and all of the Defendants were operating and acting within the course and scope of their respective agency, service, employment, partnership, conspiracy, and joint venture relationships, and rendered substantial assistance and encouragement to each of the other Defendants, knowing that their conduct constituted a breach of duty to the Plaintiffs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 19. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the defendants because Defendants are residents and/or do business in the State of California.
- 20. Venue is proper in this Court because the Defendants reside in Los Angeles County and the injury occurred in Los Angeles County.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Beginning

- 21. Daphna and Alexander met in 2002 and married in June 2006. Throughout their courtship, they agreed that conceiving, delivering, and raising children together was one of their most cherished dreams. They planned to have two kids. To that end, they started trying to get pregnant roughly five years after their marriage. After several years of trying, they conceived naturally and had a daughter in April 2014. They waited two years to start trying again, after being prompted by their daughter's frequent and impassioned pleas for a little sister.
- 22. Unfortunately, this time around they did not have success conceiving naturally. Instead, they suffered heartbreaking years of trying with no luck. On Daphna's fortieth birthday, when they learned their most recent efforts had again failed, they decided to seek professional help and began investigating assisted reproductive technology. On a recommendation from a friend, they ultimately sought out the assistance of CCRH and Dr. Mor.
- 23. Before proceeding further, Daphna and Alexander reviewed Dr. Mor and CCRH's website and other materials, and they relied upon the representations set forth therein regarding Dr. Mor and CCRH's purportedly high standards of care, treatment, and technology, as well as their reportedly high success rates. CCRH's website touts CCRH as "one of the top fertility clinics in the US," which prides itself on "proven high success rates year after year, thanks to personalized fertility care, using innovation

and employing safe and proven fertility treatments to achieve a successful outcome." The website further boasts that Dr. Mor "is constantly striving to stay on the cutting-edge of fertility treatments and human reproduction" and that his "[i]nvolvement in every aspect of your fertility care and complete micromanagement of your treatment makes Dr. Mor your ideal partner in your path to becoming pregnant." Ultimately, when the Cardinales met with Dr. Mor, he assured them of all of the above verbally, noted that everything was done "in house," and stated that he would be overseeing every aspect of the process for them.

- 24. After meeting with Dr. Mor in the summer of 2018, Daphna and Alexander decided to follow his advice to try IVF at CCRH to build their family. IVF is an invasive and technical process. The first step for IVF involves several weeks of drug therapy designed to hyper-stimulate the woman's reproductive system into producing multiple eggs as part of her monthly cycle. These eggs are retrieved surgically and then fertilized with sperm in a laboratory. The resulting embryos can be frozen for later use.
- 25. Daphna and Alexander clearly and unequivocally communicated their instruction for Defendants to retrieve Daphna's eggs and fertilize them with Alexander's sperm, and then later to have their resulting embryo(s) transferred to Daphna. Daphna and Alexander were clear that Daphna would carry any children they conceived through this process. At no point did Defendants disclose a risk that they would transfer Daphna and Alexander's embryo to a stranger without their consent. Nor did any Defendant disclose to the Cardinales that Defendants might place someone else's embryo into Daphna's uterus without her consent.

The IVF Services

- 26. IVF is an expensive and arduous process, subjecting prospective parents, including Daphna, to substantial physical and emotional strain. To prepare for the procedure, Daphna and Alexander attended many appointments over the course of several months. During these visits, Daphna underwent numerous ultrasounds and blood tests.
- 27. To increase the chance for success, Daphna was prescribed drugs to stimulate egg development and ovulation. The drugs were administered daily by needle for a little over two to three weeks, thereby stimulating the ovaries to increase production from the usual one egg to perhaps twenty

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27 28 eggs per month. During this time period, Daphna went to CCRH nearly every other day for follow-up examinations and blood tests.

- 28. Added to this inconvenience, the physical and emotional side effects of this hormone treatment were horrible. Daphna and Alexander gave Daphna up to five different injections per day. The shots were painful and caused unnatural stomach bloating and sharp mood swings. Daphna felt like she was on an emotional rollercoaster during this time.
- 29. On the day of the egg-retrieval surgery, several eggs were extracted from Daphna. Following the retrieval procedure, Daphna was in terrible pain and could not get out of bed for several days.
- 30. Acting on their own initiative—and without seeking the consent of Daphna and Alexander—CCRH and Mor used a third-party fertility lab, In VitroTech, and its parent company BSSA, to fertilize the eggs with Alexander's sperm, leading to one viable chromosomally normal embryo that the lab cryo-preserved for later transfer. Daphna and Alexander used their frozen embryo in a transfer in October 2018. Daphna and Alexander were devastated to learn that the transfer was unsuccessful.
- 31. Discouraged by the failure but still eager to build their family, and relying on CCRH's and Dr. Mor's expertise, Daphna and Alexander returned to CCRH in the winter of 2018 for a second round of IVF. Given the extreme pain she endured during the first retrieval, it was mentally difficult for Daphna to work up the strength to participate in the second cycle. However, she felt it was worth enduring further pain to complete her family and give their daughter the little sister or brother she wanted so badly. Once again, despite having promised that all lab work would take place "in house" and under his direct supervision, Dr. Mor and CCRH again surreptitiously used In VitroTech and BSSA to handle the lab work and fertilization associated with this cycle, without Daphna and Alexander's informed consent or knowledge.
- 32. The retrieval resulted in a single chromosomally normal embryo, a female. Dr. Mor purportedly transferred this embryo to Daphna on January 2, 2019.
- 33. As Daphna and Alexander later learned, however, their embryo was not actually transferred to Daphna. Unbeknownst to them at the time, the embryo transferred into Daphna's uterus by CCRH and Dr. Mor belonged to another couple using CCRH to get pregnant, "Couple Two." Meanwhile,

Daphna's transfer procedure. The wrongful transfer of Daphna and Alexander's embryo to Couple Two was similarly carried out under the direction and care of CCRH.

In VitroTech

34. Unlike many fertility labs, CCRH does not perform embryology services itself, but rather farms out its embryology services to In VitroTech, a third-party lab owned by Dr. Mor. In addition to failing to inform Daphna and Alexander that he was self-dealing by outsourcing these services to his own lab, Dr. Mor and CCRH furthermore failed to tell Daphna and Alexander of the lab's allegedly extremely checkered past, including that they had previously failed to properly label embryology materials, lost or switched genetic material, and created a substantial risk of mixed-up genetic material. Had Daphna and Alexander known of this history, they never would have consented to use CCRH or Dr. Mor's services, much less allow them to hand over their single usable embryo to In VitroTech.

Daphna and Alexander's embryo was transferred to Couple Two approximately two weeks after

The Pregnancy

- 35. Following the transfer, Daphna, Alexander, and their daughter were overjoyed to learn that Daphna was pregnant. They spent the next nine months preparing for their new family member. Daphna relished the pregnancy, knowing it would be her last, and took special consideration with her prenatal care to ensure that her daughter would have the best start possible to life. Much like her parents, their daughter spent the pregnancy talking to her new little sister in the womb, promising to love and care for her.
- 36. For all their joy, however, the pregnancy was not easy. Daphna was very nauseous during the first trimester and extremely uncomfortable during the remaining two trimesters. She had nearly constant, severe Braxton-Hicks contractions throughout the final trimester, which were worse at night, making sleep nearly impossible. She also experienced constant numbness in her arms and legs. The difficulty of this pregnancy only served to bond Daphna more to this baby she was carrying, and she felt strongly that she would do anything and everything for this child.

Warning Bells and Red Flags

37. On September 24, 2019, Daphna gave birth to a baby girl ("Birth Daughter"). From the very moment of birth, Alexander felt something was wrong, though he could not initially put a name to

his disquiet. He recalls being very surprised by their Birth Daughter's appearance. He expected to see a fair child, much like their older daughter. Instead, their Birth Daughter came out with much darker skin and jet-black hair. It was so jarring that Alexander actually took several steps away from the birthing table, backing up against the wall.

- 38. Over the following weeks, Alexander couldn't stop thinking about their Birth Daughter's surprising appearance. She looked to be of a different race, which made no sense in light of Daphna and Alexander's respective backgrounds. He was not the only one to have these thoughts. Family and friends began discreetly telling him how surprised they were by their Birth Daughter's appearance—some even asking if they used a donated embryo. Adding to this bizarre state of affairs, several weeks after their Birth Daughter was born, Dr. Mor's office manager contacted Daphna and Alexander out of the blue and requested a photograph of the baby. To cover his growing feelings of discomfort, Alexander began joking that maybe she was not his daughter.
- 39. Daphna was confused and dismayed by Alexander's increasingly frequent statements of concern that their Birth Daughter was not their child. She convinced herself that their Birth Daughter looked like she did an infant, since Daphna also had straight, jet-black hair at birth. She did, however, spend a great deal of time experiencing dissociation, looking in the mirror and trying to see their Birth Daughter's features in her own. After four or five weeks, fed up with Alexander's comments, Daphna bought a home DNA test.
- 40. Alexander's deep concern about their Birth Daughter led to disconnect between the couple. Several weeks after ordering the test, Daphna learned from Alexander's close friend that Alexander did not know how to discuss this issue with Daphna. Alexander was worried that Daphna was in denial and felt like he could not leave her and their Birth Daughter alone until this was resolved, notwithstanding his incredibly pressing need to leave for an extended work trip that was the culmination of his life-long efforts to become a globally-recognized musician.
- 41. Alexander was so upset that he was staying up at night, staring at their newborn child, wondering if she was truly theirs. After learning this, Daphna insisted they take the DNA test, expecting that the results would put everyone's mind at ease.

The DNA Tests

- 42. Daphna, Alexander, and their Birth Daughter took a DNA test approximately seven weeks after the birth. Roughly a week later, the testing company called to say that the results were inconclusive and sent a new test. Daphna and Alexander sent in the new specimens. On November 22, 2019, the DNA testing company called and said that the results were "strange." They asked Daphna if she was the mother. When she explained that this was part of what they were trying to determine, they promised to reprocess the results. That afternoon they confirmed that their Birth Daughter was not related to either Daphna or Alexander.
- 43. The Cardinales did not know how to process this information. Daphna was so upset she began experiencing blackouts. Panic and confusion overwhelmed her.
- 44. Daphna and Alexander did not know what to do. On the one hand, they loved their baby and didn't want to lose her; on the other, they were haunted by the idea that they may have a biological child who was alive, and they needed to find her. Ultimately, Daphna and Alexander contacted an attorney who reached out to CCRH and Dr. Mor. The Tuesday after Thanksgiving, their attorney called to say that CCRH thought that the embryos had gotten mixed up when an embryology lab, In VitroTech, was taking biopsies to send in for genetic testing.
- 45. The next several months were a non-stop nightmare for Daphna and Alexander. At a time when they should have been enjoying and chronicling their newborn's latest accomplishments and milestones, they instead were spending days talking to lawyers and sleepless nights wondering if their family would be ripped apart. Every time the doorbell rang, Daphna's heart would stop, so afraid someone would come and take her baby.
- 46. Compounding this pain was the difficulty in hiding these major developments from their five-year-old. While Daphna and Alexander felt that their older daughter had a right to know what was going on, they also realized it was not fair to worry her until they knew what was going to happen. At the same time, they worried as they watched their daughter bonding and falling deeper in love with their Birth Daughter, the little sister she had dreamed of for years. Daphna and Alexander struggled to keep their emotions and fears under wraps all day long until the kids went to bed, and then completely fell apart every night.

- 47. During this time, Daphna and Alexander's attorney informed that CCRH had found a couple that was perhaps their Birth Daughter's biological parents. That couple also had given birth to a baby girl, but that was all the lawyer knew at the time. Daphna and Alexander thus did not know if the other baby was healthy, or even if she was related to them. They did know that the clinic no longer had Daphna and Alexander's embryo, but at this point that was all they could say. Their lawyer cautioned that they should not expect to receive another baby, though they might lose their Birth Daughter.
- 48. Later during this period, the attorney reported that, based on the other baby's coloring and the similar appearance of their older daughter, the second couple's child looked like it might be related to Daphna and Alexander. This piecemeal parceling of information was torture to the Cardinales. Their anxiety was unbearable.
- 49. Defendants arranged to do additional genetic testing on both sets of parents and kids. On December 16, 2019, a nurse came to the Cardinale's home and took samples from the adults and their Birth Daughter. Eight days later, on Christmas Eve, the Cardinales learned that the testing had confirmed that the Cardinales had given birth to Couple Two's child, and vice versa.

Meeting and Exchanging the Babies

- 50. On December 26, 2019, Daphna and Alexander reached out to Couple Two for the first time. The couples then met at a lawyer's office, without the babies. Daphna and Alexander finally got to learn about their biological daughter ("Biological Daughter"). The meeting was terribly uncomfortable for everyone involved.
- 51. On December 31, the Cardinales and Couple Two met each other with the babies. This was the first time either couple had seen or held their biological babies.
- 52. On January 1, 2020, Daphna and Alexander finally told their older daughter about what had happened. She was crushed and terrified of losing her birth sister. She begged her parents not to switch the babies. The following day, exactly one year after Daphna's transfer procedure, their older daughter met the Biological Daughter for the first time.
- 53. Over the next few weeks, the Cardinales and Couple Two met up nearly every day, spending time with one another and exchanging the babies for brief visits. Each day was a strain that wore on the adults and their children alike. On the evening of January 16, 2020, the babies had their first

overnight stays with their new families. The following morning, the Cardinales and Couple Two decided that the constant switching was just too hard emotionally, especially on the older children, and the babies would stay in their new homes for good.

- 54. Life was exceedingly difficult after the switch. In fact, the Cardinales feel that January through March of 2020 was possibly the darkest time of their lives. Their older daughter began to have serious breakdowns—her sense of trust in her parents deeply shaken. Though she did her best to bond with their Biological Daughter, she missed their Birth Daughter constantly. For their part, Daphna and Alexander also missed their Birth Daughter every day and felt terrible guilt that they had "given away" their baby. During the ensuing COVID quarantine, they didn't get to see their Birth Daughter for six weeks. They struggled to bond with their Biological Daughter, which was incredibly hard. Daphna cried herself to sleep for nearly a year.
- 55. In the midst of this emotional turmoil, the Cardinales and Couple Two had to resort to the court system to obtain legal custody over their own children. They ultimately signed lengthy gestational carrier contracts to formalize the exchange. This was not the idyllic picture of parenthood sold by Defendants.

Lasting Impact

- 56. Emotional Impact on Daphna and Alexander: The impact of Defendants' conduct has been substantial—causing trauma that will affect the Cardinale family for the rest of their lives.
- 57. Daphna and Alexander did not meet their child until a full year after transplant. Defendants' misconduct robbed Daphna of the ability to carry her child throughout her fetal development. Daphna never had the opportunity to grow and bond with her daughter during pregnancy, to feel her kick in utero, and to watch her in ultrasounds. Daphna and Alexander had no ability to ensure their daughter's health and well-being through prenatal and post-natal care and nutrition, and they will never know all the steps her birth mother took to protect and promote her development. Daphna and Alexander are devastated they could not experience the wonder of their daughter's birth and newborn months. They never saw their baby's entrance into the world or cuddled her in her first seconds of life—moments that other parents treasure for the rest of their lives. Instead of breastfeeding her own biological child, Daphna breastfed and bonded with a child she was forced to give away.

- 58. Daphna is plagued by the knowledge that she unknowingly carried a stranger's child inside her body. Every time she felt a kick—or spoke to her baby about her hopes for the future—it was someone else's baby. The horror of this situation cannot be understated. Alexander's and Daphna's memories of childbirth will always be corrupted and tainted by the sick reality that someone else had their child, and the child Daphna struggled to bring into the world was someone else's. They developed sincere love for their Birth Daughter, only to have to give her up forever. The daughter they bonded with was taken from them after months of love and affection, and though they still see her periodically, their Birth Daughter never warms up to Daphna during their visits. In fact, since the switch, Daphna and Alexander have watched their Birth Daughter morph from an incredibly happy newborn to an anxious baby—and they worry and feel constant guilt that the "switch" is to blame; that although they were giving her to her own family, they still effectively were forced to abandon her by removing her from the family, home, and life to which she had grown accustomed. This is one of the biggest things that haunts Daphna on a regular basis.
- 59. Daphna and Alexander's pain has not abated. They both suffer daily from symptoms of anxiety, depression, and PTSD. They continue to see mental-health professionals. They no longer trust anyone, and their guard is always up.
- Defendants' misconduct. Daphna has experienced chest and neck pain, panic attacks, and migraines, while Alexander has had an exceptionally fast heartrate, panic attacks, and chest pain resembling a heart attack. Alexander's attacks were so severe that he had to call 911, fearing for his life. They have both had to visit urgent care (Alexander twice) and sought cardiac treatment. Daphna also experienced excessive menstrual bleeding for over 6 months after learning of the baby switch, which her OBGYN also attributed to PTSD. She has been prescribed anxiety medication and hormone therapy to regulate that bleeding. She was also prescribed antidepressants for suicidality, which was a direct result of the trauma she and her family have experienced.
- 61. In short, the Cardinales' ordeal has not ended; it is just beginning. This will live with them for the rest of their lives.
 - 62. Professional Impact on Daphna: Daphna is a licensed therapist who had, as of the middle

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of 2019, a burgeoning and prosperous practice, with roughly 40 regular clients.

- 63. Prior to maternity leave, Daphna did a lot of planning and advance work with her clients to ensure that they would all remain with her practice. She planned to take only 6 weeks of leave, and that is exactly what she did. When she returned to practice, she had not lost a single client. Unfortunately, it was only a week later that Alexander and she took the first DNA test, throwing their lives upside down. Daphna tried to continue seeing clients during the turmoil but found it impossible—she was breaking down in tears between every session and having near-constant panic attacks. Ultimately, she was unable to work from November 2019 through February 2020, losing a substantial amount of income.
- 64. Making matters worse, the vast majority of Daphna's clients were unable to wait for her to return to practice—especially as she had only recently returned from maternity leave and could not predict how long she would be out—and thus found other therapists. When Daphna was emotionally recovered enough to return to her work, she only had six clients remaining, and four of those booked only half the regular sessions they had done previously. Her practice still has not come close to recovering, and it may never fully recover.
- 65. Professional Impact on Alexander: Due to unfortunate timing, the fallout from this event on Alexander's career has been even more catastrophic and irreversible. Alexander is a singer-songwriter who had been working for well over a decade to build a reputation in the music industry. He had early successes—including having a song in several high-profile television placements, such as One Tree Hill, Castle, and 90210. Then, in 2016, one of his singles was used in an international Coca-Cola advertisement, gaining it heavy rotation on SiriusXM and leading to a singles deal with Atlantic Records.
- 66. The culmination of these successes was supposed to occur in 2019 and early 2020, following the release of his single "Simple Things," with platinum-selling pop star Christina Perri. The plan for his single was to have Atlantic promote it until after Daphna gave birth, and then for Alexander go to New York for a PR tour—playing all the big media outlets, followed by a radio station tour around the country. This is typical practice in the music industry to get the various media outlets and stations to increase rotation of a popular single.
- 67. Alexander was scheduled to leave on his promotional tour two weeks after the birth. However, he was so deeply concerned about the lack of resemblance between himself and their Birth

Daughter, that he did not feel comfortable leaving and pushed off the trip. His manager and label did what they could to promote the single without him in the short term. However, when their Birth Daughter's DNA results came in, Alexander had to—and did—cancel all travel and promotion altogether.

- 68. Even without Alexander's participation in standard promotional activities, Simple Things hit 39 on the charts. It would have gone much higher if he had been able to tour/promote, as planned. Alexander's manager, a longstanding and well-respected music insider, concluded that Alexander likely would have been able to leverage his then-existing singles deal with Atlantic into a record and publishing deal. An extremely conservative estimate from his manager is that he then could have expected a million-dollar advance from the label and another million-dollar publishing advance. Moreover, had his single hit approximately 15 on the charts, which would have been likely during a PR tour, that would have led to further significant riches for Alexander.
- 69. Unfortunately, given the timing of everything that happened, Alexander missed out on his big chance with Simple Things. Moreover, by staying home and taking care of his family as it was being ripped apart by Defendants' misconduct, he came across to his industry contacts as unreliable and undependable—in short, a bad investment. This soured his connections in the industry, which infamously provides no second chances. Poised on the brink of having everything he had worked for, he had to watch helplessly as it was all taken away for reasons beyond his control. Alexander's manager estimates the likely economic losses to be many millions of dollars.
- 70. Alexander's song was expected to be the doorway to an extended, life-long music career. But that was ripped away. Fifteen years of building momentum gone. Alexander hasn't worked significantly in the music industry since.
- 71. *Impact on Older Daughter*: Daphna and Alexander have had to watch the incredible and terrible changes that this whole experience has had on their older daughter. Prior to learning about their Birth Daughter, Daphna and Alexander's older daughter was the happiest, lightest, and most wistful child. After losing her sister (Daphna and Alexander's Birth Daughter), she changed. Her world became too real, too scary, and too out of control. This was too much for a five-year-old to understand and process. Daphna and Alexander have watched their older daughter change before their eyes.
 - 72. Their older daughter also clearly harbors substantial anger toward Daphna and Alexander

for what happened. Where once they were her whole world, now she no longer trusts Daphna and Alexander, and she won't share any of her feelings or emotions with them. They have not been able to hug or kiss their little girl since the babies were switched. She is now on her second therapist since the switch, but won't fully participate in sessions and has become extremely secretive, angry, and fearful. She also has taken to watching online videos regarding pregnancy and has stated that she never wants to have her own children due to what happened.

73. Daphna and Alexander are heartbroken by the shift in their daughter's demeanor and personality. They mourn the closeness they've lost and wonder if their relationship will ever truly recover. They are also deeply concerned about how this trauma will impact their older daughter, and how she will navigate relationships with others for the rest of her life.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

BREACH OF CONTRACT

(All Plaintiffs Against Defendant CCRH)

- 74. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs by reference.
- 75. Plaintiffs entered into a contract with Defendant CCRH for various IVF services, including but not limited to embryo cryopreservation, storage, and safeguarding; and frozen embryo transfer of embryos created from Plaintiffs' biological material.
- 76. There was a meeting of the minds between Plaintiffs and Defendant that the services provided pursuant to this contract would be of the utmost quality and care, in accordance with all recognized standards in the IVF industry.
- 77. Some of the terms of this contract were memorialized in writing (albeit possessed, if at all, only by Defendants, not Plaintiffs). The remainder of the terms of the contract were formed orally.
- 78. Plaintiffs provided consideration for these services and upheld their end of the bargain by promptly paying all bills.
- 79. It was the intent of Plaintiffs and Defendant that all sides would be held to their end of the bargain, *i.e.*, that the parties had a binding legal contract.
- 80. Defendant had a contractual duty to perform all services as agreed upon and as memorialized in records, the parties' agreements, and stated intentions.

81. Defendant materially breached their obligations by negligently, recklessly, and/or
knowingly disregarding Plaintiffs' express instructions by improperly implanting Plaintiffs' precious
and irreplaceable embryo into a stranger, subjecting Plaintiffs' unborn child to an unreasonable amount
of danger, transferring an embryo of unknown origin into Daphna's uterus, failing to properly and
accurately inform Plaintiffs as to the true disposition of their embryo, and causing Daphna to carry, give
birth, and nurse another woman's baby.

- 82. Defendant furthermore exacerbated the damages caused by these breaches by failing to disclose the spotty backgrounds of In VitroTech and BSSA to Plaintiffs prior to assigning the embryology tasks to these third parties; failing to fully investigate the discrepancies associated with the transfers; and failing to fully apprise Plaintiffs of the true situation upon its first notification that Plaintiffs' embryo may have been transferred and born to another couple.
- 83. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the services to be provided under this contract, it was reasonably foreseeable to Defendant that its breach would result in substantial emotional damages.
- 84. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach, the Plaintiffs suffered extreme emotional, property, physical, and economic damages.
 - 85. Defendants' conduct caused Plaintiffs' harm.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

BREACH OF IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

(All Plaintiffs Against Defendant CCHR)

- 86. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs by reference.
- 87. In every contract there is an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing which encompasses any promise that a reasonable person would be justified in understanding was included in the contract.
- 88. Defendant's conduct, including but not limited to Defendant's failure to fully disclose all aspects of its breaches, constitutes a breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, which resulted in damages to Plaintiffs.
- 89. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach, the Plaintiffs suffered extreme emotional, property, physical, and economic damages.

malpractice more than non-medical negligence.

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<u>NEGLIGENCE</u>

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

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(All Plaintiffs Against all Defendants)

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99. The Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs by reference.

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cryopreserved embryos. Defendants furthermore had a duty to impose reasonable policies and

Defendants had a duty to use reasonable care in the storage and care of the Plaintiffs'

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procedures, as well as to carry out such policies and procedures, to ensure that their services were

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competently performed.

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- Defendants furthermore had a duty of care based on the fact that they voluntarily undertook to render cryopreservation and fertility services to the Plaintiffs, and therefore had a duty to perform these services with a reasonable degree of care. Defendants furthermore knew or should have known that failure to exercise such care increased the risk of harm to Plaintiffs. Moreover, to the extent that Defendants' undertaking to store the material constitutes a bailment for hire, which is hereby alleged, Defendants had a duty of care with respect to the bailed property.
- 102. Defendants had a basic duty and a duty based on voluntarily undertaking to oversee and render fertility services to the Plaintiffs, and therefore had a duty to perform these services with a reasonable degree of care. These defendants furthermore knew or should have known that failure to exercise such care increased the risk of harm to the Plaintiffs.
- 103. The Plaintiffs relied on all of the Defendants' aforementioned duties of care to them in placing their genetic material in Defendant CCRH and Mor's care.
- 104. Defendants breached these duties by negligently, recklessly, and/or knowingly using Plaintiffs' embryo in a transfer procedure with Couple Two, and by failing to have in place policies and procedures that would have prevented such negligent, reckless, and/or knowing improper use.
- 105. Defendants further breached these duties by negligently, recklessly, and/or knowingly using Couple Two's embryo in a transfer procedure with Daphna Cardinale, and by failing to have in place policies and procedures that would have prevented such negligent, reckless, and/or knowing improper use.

117. Defendants' misconduct caused Plaintiffs' harm.

emotional, physical, property, and economic damages.

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SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT

(All Plaintiffs Against Defendants CCRH and Mor)

- 118. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs by reference.
- 119. CCRH and Mor marketed and promoted their services and made representations to the public and to Plaintiffs regarding the quality of those services as described herein.
- 120. Defendants' representations were false, and Defendants either knew the truth or made the representations without regard for the truth. CCRH and Mor intended for Plaintiffs to rely on their representations and pay them to perform IVF services—and to allow CCRH and Mor to use In VitroTech to perform all necessary lab work—and Plaintiffs reasonably relied on these representations when purchasing such services. Moreover, had Plaintiffs been apprised of the deficiencies affecting the relevant systems and protocols, Plaintiffs would not have purchased or continued purchasing such services.
- 121. CCRH and Mor intentionally suppressed and concealed material facts concerning the services being provided at its partner-facility, In VitroTech, including but not limited to the fact that Mor was an owner, that Plaintiffs did not have to let CCRH use In VitroTech to perform necessary embryology lab work, that In VitroTech had a history of allegations of mislabeling and mixing up patients' material, and that there were serious questions regarding whether the correct embryos had been transferred to Plaintiffs and Couple Two. CCRH and Mor knew or reasonably should have known that CCRH's and In VitroTech's systems and processes were inadequate to protect against damage to Plaintiffs. CCRH and Mor intentionally failed to notify Plaintiffs of these risks and furthermore failed to inform them when questions arose about Daphna and Alexander's own transfer. The omission and concealment of these facts made CCRH and Mor's actual disclosures deception regarding CCRH and In VitroTech's systems and processes, the risks of the transfer, and the facts of Daphna and Alexander's own transfer.
- 122. Plaintiffs had no reasonable means of knowing that CCRH and In VitroTech's systems and processes were inadequate, or that CCRH and Mor's representations about such systems were incomplete, false, or misleading for failure to disclose such inadequacies. Plaintiffs did not and

questions about whether they had misused Plaintiffs' embryo(s) to the effect of impregnating another

couple with Plaintiffs' unborn child.

136. Defendants CCRH and Mor volunteered specific information to Plaintiffs through advertising, on the CCRH website, and in documents that Defendants' services were high quality with "proven high success rates year after year, thanks to personalized fertility care, using innovation and employing safe and proven fertility treatments to achieve a successful outcome." Defendants further volunteered specific information to Plaintiffs through conversations with Dr. Mor that everything was done "in house" by CCRH, and that Dr. Mor would be overseeing every aspect of this process for Plaintiffs.

- 137. Defendants made these specific representations despite knowing (and without disclosing) that Defendants' systems were inadequate to protect against damage to Plaintiffs' bodily well-being and embryos. Defendants' partial representations gave rise to an independent duty to disclose to Plaintiffs that the systems and processes in place at its facility were inadequate to protect against such damages.
- 138. Defendants had ample means and opportunities to alert Plaintiffs to the fact that their systems and processes were inadequate to protect against the damage described herein. However, Defendants did not disclose such inadequacies to Plaintiffs. Had Defendants disclosed such inadequacies to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs would not have continued purchasing Defendants' services and would have moved their embryos to a safer location.
- 139. Defendants were under a duty to disclose that their systems and processes were inadequate given Defendants' exclusive knowledge of the inadequacies and because they made partial representations about the services without disclosing the inadequacies.
- 140. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' UCL violations, Plaintiffs have suffered injuries in fact and seek appropriate relief under the UCL, including injunctive relief and restitution.
- 141. The requested injunction under the UCL will primarily benefit the interests of the general public. It will have the primary purpose and effect of prohibiting unlawful acts that threaten injury to members of the public who have placed, or who in the future will place, reproductive materials under Defendants' care.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

(All Plaintiffs Against all Defendants)

- 142. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs by reference.
- 143. Defendants negligently transferred an embryo into Plaintiff Daphna Cardinale that did not contain her genetic material. Defendants also negligently transferred Plaintiffs' embryo into someone other than Daphna. By these negligent acts, Defendants caused Plaintiffs to carry, birth, and bond with another couple's child while that same couple unknowingly carried, birthed, and bonded with Plaintiffs' child.
- 144. Defendants' negligent conduct was extreme and outrageous, and in a manner in which they knew, or should have known, would result in Plaintiff's severe emotional distress.
- 145. Plaintiff's injuries and damages are the direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct.
 - 146. Defendants' conduct caused Plaintiffs' harm.
- 147. As a result of Defendants' conduct Plaintiffs have and will continue to suffer severe emotional distress and associated financial damages.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

BATTERY / LACK OF INFORMED CONSENT

(Plaintiff Daphna Cardinale Against CCRH and Mor)

- 148. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs by reference.
- 149. Plaintiff Daphna Cardinale consented to the transfer into her uterus of an embryo comprised of genetic material from the Plaintiffs. She did not consent to the transfer into her body of any other embryos.
- 150. Defendants transferred an embryo into Daphna's body that was created from strangers' genetic material, without her consent.
- 151. Defendants' conduct in transferring this material to Daphna's body was made with the intent to harm her or with willful disregard for her rights.

knowingly failed to prevent this misuse, and additionally failed to institute policies that would prevent

1	such misuse. Acting as employee and agent of CCRH, Defendant Mor then knowingly inserted—and/or	
2	played a vital role into the insertion of—Couple Two's embryo into Daphna's uterus. At all times,	
3	Defendants, and each of them, knew that Daphna and Couple Two had not consented to have Couple	
4	Two's embryo transferred to Daphna Cardinale.	
5	160. As a result of Defendants' multiple violations of Penal Code 367g, Plaintiffs suffered	
6	damages, including but not limited to extreme emotional distress.	
7	161. Defendants' conduct caused Plaintiffs' harm.	
8	PRAYER FOR RELIEF	
9	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray for relief and judgment as follows:	
10	(a) Compensatory and property damages in an amount to be proven at trial;	
11	(b) Emotional damages in an amount to be proven at trial;	
12	(c) Costs of suit; and	
13	(d) Such further relief as this Court deems equitable, just, and proper.*	
14		
15	Date: November 8, 2021 Respectfully submitted,	
16		
17	Ad Wolf	
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26		
27	* 70.1.100.1.111111111111.	

^{*} Plaintiffs believe that discovery will support the imposition of punitive damages based on the misconduct described in this Complaint. Plaintiffs reserve the right to seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint to request punitive damages.

1 2 action so triable. 3 4 Date: November 8, 2021 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs Daphna Cardinale and Alexander Cardinale hereby demand a jury trial of all causes of

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM B. WOLF (Cal. Bar No. 215914)

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