



NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

1127 First Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559

Main: (707) 253-4211
Fax: (707) 253-4041
www.countyofnapa.org/da

ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE **CONSUMER PROTECTION SETTLEMENT REGARDING EHARMONY, INC.**

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today a settlement in a consumer protection action against eHarmony Inc. (“eHarmony”). The action was filed in Santa Cruz County and jointly prosecuted by the Napa, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Shasta County District Attorneys and the City Attorney of Santa Monica.

eHarmony is an online dating service for which consumers can sign up for limited-term contracts. The complaint alleges that eHarmony enrolled its customers in contracts that would automatically renew for a new term without clearly and conspicuously disclosing to the customers the fact that the contracts would automatically renew, the amount of the ongoing payments, or how to cancel the contracts. California law prohibits charging consumers for ongoing delivery of goods or services without the consumers’ explicit consent. The complaint also alleges that eHarmony failed to adequately inform its customers of their three-day right to cancel the contract under California’s Dating Service Contract law.

The Judgment includes injunctive provisions requiring eHarmony to make proper disclosures regarding automatically renewing charges and cancellation rights. The Judgment also forbids eHarmony from attempting to collect past due membership fees from its customers, if those fees were incurred prior to the filing of the Judgment.

eHarmony will pay up to \$1 million in restitution to its customers whose subscriptions automatically renewed and who were denied refunds when requested. It will also pay \$1.2 million in civil penalties.

Deputy District Attorney Patrick Collins said, “Automatically renewing charges are becoming more and more commonplace, especially in internet commerce. California law protects consumers by requiring companies to clearly disclose the amount of the charges, when the charges will renew, and how to cancel future charges. Consumers are entitled to know what they are agreeing to pay. Our office is committed to enforcing consumer protection laws and ensuring a level playing field for companies that comply with the law.” eHarmony cooperated in the investigation and resolution of the case, and has taken steps to correct its violations.