



For Immediate Release, March 20, 2017

Wichita, Kansas – A Wichita car dealer has entered into a consent judgment with the Office of the District Attorney involving allegations of deceptive acts and practices involving car sales.

The agreement between Star Motors LLC, 400 N. West St., and the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division called for Star Motors to pay a \$12,000 civil penalty, provide a three-year service contract on a vehicle purchased by one consumer, and addressed \$2,500 compensation provided to another consumer. The District Attorney alleged that Star Motors failed to disclose safety recalls in the two cars, the existence of "engine sludge" in one, not displaying the proper Buyers Guide, and using an unlicensed salesperson at the time of a sale.

Also as part of the agreement, Star Motors will perform an audit back to January 1, 2016, to identify any other cars it sold which, at the time of the sale/lease, had an active safety recall about which Star Motors did not notify the consumer at the time of the sale/lease. Star Motors agreed that every vehicle identified will trigger a mailed notification to consumers telling them:

1. The nature of the recall(s) including a copy of the recall report;
2. How to address the recall(s) with the appropriate manufacturer/dealership;
3. That consumers should contact Star Motors to collect compensation they may be entitled to for the lack of disclosure;
4. That consumers have 60 days from the date listed on the notice to contact Star Motors to claim their compensation; and
5. That if a dispute arises, consumers can contact the Office of the District Attorney, Consumer Protection Division at 316-660-3653.

In Kansas, automobile suppliers cannot willfully fail to state material facts, nor willfully conceal, suppress or omit material facts in connection with a consumer transaction. The disclosure of specific defects provides equal bargaining power between suppliers and consumers.

The consent judgment also alleged the use of Buyers Guides that did not conform with Kansas law. Buyers Guides are forms, available from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), that give consumers important purchasing and warranty information and must be

displayed on the used vehicle being sold by a dealer. Kansas dealerships are prohibited from selling cars “As Is” and the Buyers Guide must reflect that fact. Star Motors will perform a second audit to identify any car sold that included a Buyers Guide that could suggest the car was sold “As Is” and then notify consumers of the error.

When the consent judgment was filed in Sedgwick County District Court on March 17, 2017, Star Motors agreed to refrain from deceptive or unconscionable acts or practices. Star Motors also agreed that, following the consent judgment, Star Motors will check every vehicle for safety recalls with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), prior to sale or lease to a consumer. Star Motors will not sell or lease any additional vehicles with safety recalls unless a copy of the NHTSA recall report is provided to the consumer(s) prior to the sale or lease of the vehicle.

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas

CONTACT: DAN DILLON, MEDIA COORDINATOR
316-660-3707 Dan.Dillon@SEDGWICK.GOV