



For Immediate Release  
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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH DATING SERVICE:  
86 KANSANS TO RECEIVE RESTITUTION TOTALING \$215,000**

An Overland Park dating service sued for committing numerous alleged violations of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act will provide restitution to 86 Kansas consumers as part of a settlement agreement announced today by District Attorney Nola Foulston and Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline.

“Collaboration between this office and the Kansas Attorney General’s Office resulted in a settlement for consumers in Sedgwick County and other Kansas counties. This office welcomes other collaborative opportunities with the Attorney General’s Office to protect the consumer rights of citizens in this county and throughout Kansas,” District Attorney Foulston said.

Valentine Kansas City, LLC, d/b/a Great Expectations, one of its owners, Michael Holland, regional director Robert Rance, center directors Nikki Sade and Jody Johnson, and salespeople Christina Morgan and Jules Seelen were all named as defendants in the lawsuit filed in February 2004 in Sedgwick County District Court. The suit sought consumer restitution and civil fines and penalties for over one hundred alleged violations of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and the Kansas No-Call Act while Great Expectations solicited new clients.

Valentine Wichita, LLC, d/b/a Great Expectations, was also named in the suit but declared bankruptcy on December 10, 2004.

“I am pleased with this settlement not only because it provides restitution to those consumers who were deceived by the practices of this company, but also because it will help protect future customers from such practices,” Attorney General Kline said.

Under terms of the settlement agreement, Great Expectations admitted that they made misrepresentations to 84 consumers who had filed complaints with the Sedgwick County District Attorney’s office and Attorney General Phill Kline’s office. Specifically, the defendants admitted that they:

- Told potential members that the business did "criminal background checks" on members, when they knew that no such checks were performed;
- Misrepresented the number of members available to those consumers, and
- Over-promised the consumers that they would get dates with a certain type or quality of person.

Great Expectations also agreed to provide restitution totaling \$215,000 by March 29, 2005 to the consumers named in the suit. Those consumers will receive letters later this month telling them how to submit a claim for their share of the proceeds. Consumers should receive reimbursement for the initial cost of their membership and may receive part of any monthly fees paid as well, depending on the number of consumers who file a claim for restitution.

Great Expectations has also agreed to make significant changes in the way it does business. Under terms of the settlement, the company has agreed to:

- Post the number of current members at that location in a conspicuous place for current and potential customers to see,
- Continue recording all sales interviews and make those available to the Kansas Attorney General or Eighteenth Judicial District Attorney upon request,
- Refrain from making any promises as to particular outcome or assuring someone that they can find a date through the service.

The company will also start providing a separate written notice to consumers that will disclose the number of current active members and that no particular number of dates can be promised if they decide to join. They have also started to use an outside screening service that does check for criminal convictions of potential members but will disclose to potential members that this is only a limited criminal screening process.

“I applaud the excellent work done by the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division of this office and that of District Attorney Nola Foulston’s Consumer Fraud and Economic Crime Division,” Kline said. “This is another great example of what can be accomplished through multi-agency cooperation. I look forward to continuing the strong working relationship we have with District Attorney Foulston in the future.”

Attorney General Phill Kline’s Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division and Eighteenth Judicial District Attorney Nola Foulston’s Consumer Fraud and Economic Crime Division will be reimbursed a total of \$100,000 to cover the cost of the investigation, litigation, and distribution of consumer restitution.