

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

DEZINE SIX, LLC D/B/A	:	
COSMO BLEU	:	
PLAINTIFF,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.
v.	:	
	:	
FITCHBURG MUTUAL INSURANCE	:	
COMPANY; AND	:	
THE NORFOLK & DEDHAM GROUP	:	COMPLAINT
DEFENDANT.	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF’S COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Dezine Six, LLC d/b/a Cosmo Bleu, by way of Complaint, brings this action against Defendants, Fitchburg Mutual Insurance Company and The Norfolk & Dedham Group, and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. Plaintiff owns and operates Dezine Six, LLC d/b/a Cosmo Bleu, a hair and beauty salon in Princeton, New Jersey.
2. To protect the business from property damage and the loss of income in the event of a sudden suspension of operations for reasons outside of its control, Plaintiff purchased commercial multiple peril insurance from Defendants, including specialty property coverage. A copy of the policy is attached as Exhibit 1.
3. Plaintiff’s insurance policy is an “all-risk” policy that provides coverage for all non-excluded business losses.
4. The policy expressly includes “Business Income” coverage which promises to pay for loss due to the necessary suspension of operations following loss to property and “Civil

Authority” coverage which promises to pay for losses caused by a civil or governmental authority that prohibits access to the covered property.

5. The policy also provides “Extra Expense” coverage which promises to pay for expenses incurred to minimize losses during the suspension of business operations.

6. On or about March 19, 2020, Plaintiff was forced to suspend or reduce business operations in response to orders by state and local authorities mandating the closure of all non-life sustaining businesses in the State of New Jersey in an effort to protect the public from the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, a highly contagious respiratory virus that has upended daily life and infected more than 2,000,000 people throughout the United States.

7. Having faithfully paid the policy premiums, Plaintiff made a claim for business interruption, civil authority and/or extra expense coverage to recoup substantial, ongoing financial losses directly attributed to a series of COVID-19 closure orders.

8. By letter dated March 25, 2020, Defendant wrongfully denied Plaintiff’s claim. The letter is attached as Exhibit 2.

9. Through this action, Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201 that the subject policy covers Plaintiff’s financial losses. Plaintiff further seeks damages for breach of contract on the basis that Defendant’s denial of coverage runs afoul of the language of the policy and/or the public policy of the State of New Jersey.

THE PARTIES

10. Plaintiff, Dezine Six, LLC d/b/a Cosmo Bleu (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is a professional corporation, organized and existing under the laws of New Jersey with a physical address and/or principal place of business at 170 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

11. Defendant, Fitchburg Mutual Insurance Company, a Massachusetts corporation, maintained a principal place of business at 222 Ames Street, Dedham, Massachusetts, 02026.

12. Defendant, The Norfolk & Dedham Group, a Massachusetts corporation, maintained a principal place of business at 222 Ames Street, Dedham, Massachusetts, 02026.

13. Defendants, Fitchburg Mutual Insurance Company and The Norfolk & Dedham Group, are collectively referred to herein as “Defendant” and/or “Defendants”.

JURISDICTION

14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 because a complete diversity of citizenship exists between Plaintiff and Defendants and the amount in controversy is greater than \$75,000.

15. Plaintiff is a citizen of New Jersey.

16. Defendants are a citizens of Massachusetts.

17. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because at all relevant times Defendants engaged in substantial business activities in and derived substantial revenue from business activities within the State of New Jersey, including soliciting, transacting and conducting insurance business (including the subject policy) and administering claims within the State. Defendants purposely availed themselves of the privilege of conducting business in this forum by maintaining continuous and systematic contacts with this forum.

18. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(2) because a substantial portion of the acts which gave rise to this lawsuit occurred in this District. Venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(3) because Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A. PLAINTIFF'S INSURANCE COVERAGE

19. On or about November 1, 2019, Defendant entered into a contract of insurance with the Plaintiff, whereby Plaintiff agreed to make payments to Defendant in exchange for Defendant's promise to indemnify the Plaintiff for losses, including, but not limited to, business income losses at 170 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (the "Covered Property"), which is owned, managed, and/or controlled by the Plaintiff.

20. The Covered Property is insured under Policy number V0300123, issued by Defendant (hereinafter the "Policy"), during the policy period of December 10, 2019 through December 10, 2020.

21. Plaintiff did not participate in the drafting or negotiation of the words used in the Policy.

22. As the insured, Plaintiff had no leverage or bargaining power to alter or negotiate the terms of the Policy.

23. The Policy provides (among other things) property, business personal property, business income and extra expense, civil authority order, and additional coverages.

24. Plaintiff faithfully paid the policy premiums and reasonably expected that the business interruption, extra expense and/or civil authority coverage provided by Defendant would protect against losses in the event that state or local officials ordered the closure of its business due to public safety concerns.

25. The Policy is an all-risk policy.

26. Defendant agreed to "pay for direct physical loss of or damage to Covered Property . . . caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss." Ex. 1, p. 1 of 52, Section I.A.

27. The policy defines Covered Causes of Loss as “direct physical loss unless the loss is excluded or limited” by the Policy. Ex. 1, p. 2 of 53, Section I.A3.

28. The COVID-19 virus and restrictions on the use of Plaintiff’s Property are tantamount to “direct physical loss.”

29. In the Business Income (and Extra Expense) Coverage Form (BP 00 03 07 13), Defendant agreed to pay for Plaintiff’s actual loss of Business Income sustained due to the necessary suspension of its operations during the “period of restoration” caused by direct physical loss or damage. Ex. 1, p. 6 of 53, Section I.A.5f.

30. A “slowdown or cessation” of business activities at the Covered Property is a “suspension” under the policy, for which Defendant agreed to pay for loss of Business Income during the “period of restoration” that begins at the time of direct physical loss or damage. Ex. 1, p. 7 of 53, Section I.A.5f(3).

31. “Business income” means net income (profit or loss) before tax that Plaintiff would have earned if no physical loss or damage had occurred as well as continuing normal operating expenses incurred.

32. In the Business Income (and Extra Expense) Coverage Form, Defendant also agreed to pay necessary Extra Expense that Plaintiff incurred during the “period of restoration” that the insureds would not have incurred if there had been no direct physical loss or damage to the Covered Property.

33. “Extra expense” includes expenses to avoid or minimize the suspension of business, continue operations, and to repair or replace property.

34. In the Business Income (and Extra Expense) Coverage Form, Defendant also agreed to “pay for the actual loss of Business Income” that Plaintiff sustains when access to the Covered Property is “prohibited by order of a civil authority”. Ex. 1, p. 9 of 53, Section I.A.5i.

35. Within the insurance industry, and unknown to Plaintiff, the word “loss” and the word “damage” have a customary usage more expansive than “loss” and “damage” as used in policy, and “loss” and “damage” includes “contamination”.

36. The words “loss” and/or “damage” are not defined in the policy, are used for different purposes within the policy, and have more than one potential meaning.

37. “Loss” and/or “damage” are not synonymous.

38. In this policy “damage” is used with the disjunctive “or” when paired with “loss” and therefore must have a different meaning than “loss”.

39. The words “loss” and “damage” are ambiguous as used by Defendant.

40. The word “damage” should be interpreted to have its normal and ordinary meaning-physical harm that impairs the value, usefulness or normal function of something.¹

41. The COVID-19 virus causes direct physical damage, as well as indirect non-physical damage, as that word is commonly used.

42. The word “loss” should be interpreted to have its normal and ordinary meaning.

43. Loss has been defined as follows:

- a. Loss is the fact of no longer having something or having less of it than before.²
- b. Loss is the disadvantage you suffer when a valuable and useful thing is taken away.³

¹ <https://www.lexico.com/definition/damage>

² <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/loss>

³ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/loss>

- c. Decrease in amount, magnitude or degree.⁴
- d. The amount of an insured's financial detriment by death or damage that the insurer is liable for.⁵

44. Loss, as that word is commonly used, need neither be direct nor physical.

45. The Business Income, Extra Expense and Civil Authority provisions of the Policy were triggered by damage and loss caused by COVID-19, the related closure orders issued by local, state and federal authorities, and Plaintiff's inability to use and/or restricted use of the Covered Property.

B. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

46. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

47. COVID-19 is a cause of real physical loss and damage to Covered Property.

48. COVID-19 is a physical substance.

49. COVID-19 remains stable and transmittable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel.⁶

50. The ability of the deadly virus to physically infect and remain on surfaces of objects or materials, i.e. "fomites," for up to twenty-eight (28) days has prompted health officials in countries like China, Italy, France and Spain to disinfect and fumigate public areas before reopening them.

⁴ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/loss>

⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/loss>

⁶ See e.g. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces> (last accessed May 23, 2020).

51. To avoid the increased risk of contracting the virus in congregate environments, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) advised against gatherings of more than 10 people.

C. THE COVERED CAUSE OF LOSS

1. Physical Loss

52. Losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic are a Covered Cause of Loss under the Policy.

53. The presence of virus or disease can constitute physical damage to property, as the insurance industry has recognized since at least 2006. When preparing so-called “virus” exclusions to be placed in some policies, but not others, the insurance industry’s drafting arm, Insurance Services Office, Inc. (“ISO”), circulated a statement to state insurance regulators that stated as follows:

Disease-causing agents may render a product impure (change its quality or substance), or enable the spread of disease by their presence on interior building surfaces or the surfaces of personal property. When disease-causing viral or bacterial contamination occurs, potential claims involve the cost of replacement of property (for example, the milk), cost of decontamination (for example, interior building surfaces), and business interruption (time element) losses. Although building and personal property could arguably become contaminated (often temporarily) by such viruses and bacteria, the nature of the property itself would have a bearing on whether there is actual property damage.

54. The COVID-19 pandemic caused direct physical loss of or damage to the Covered Property under the Policy.

55. The COVID-19 pandemic renders the Covered Property unsafe, uninhabitable, or otherwise unfit for its intended use, which constitutes direct physical loss.

56. Plaintiff’s loss of use of the Covered Property also constitutes direct physical loss.

57. Plaintiff’s business income loss coverage within the Policy was triggered.

2. Civil Authority Orders

58. The presence of COVID-19 has prompted civil authorities throughout the country to issue orders mandating the suspension of non-essential businesses across a wide range of industries, including civil authorities with jurisdiction over Plaintiff's business.

59. On March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order No. 103, declaring a State of Emergency in New Jersey as a result of COVID-19. Order 103 attached as Exhibit 3.

60. Governor Murphy declared: "It shall be the duty of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State ... to cooperate fully with the State Director of Emergency Management and the Commissioner of DOH in all matters concerning this state of emergency." Ex. 3.

61. On March 16, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 104, declaring it "necessary to limit the unnecessary movement of individuals in and around their communities and person-to-person interactions." Order 104 attached as Exhibit 4.

62. On March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy issued a "stay at home" order, ordering all New Jersey residents to stay at home except for necessary travel. He ordered that all non-essential businesses close until further notice. Order 107 attached as Exhibit 5.

63. On March 23, 2020, telling of the severity of the situation, Governor Murphy ordered the suspension of all elective surgeries and/or invasive procedures, whether medical or dental. Order 109 attached as Exhibit 6.

64. By of May 5, 2020, there were over 130,000 positive cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with at least 8,244 of those cases having resulted in death. There were positive cases of

COVID-19 in every county in New Jersey, and there have been deaths relating to COVID-19 in every county in New Jersey. Order 138 attached as Exhibit 7.

65. On May 6, 2020, Governor Murphy ordered that emergency measures the State had taken to address COVID-19 must continue, and the prior Executive Orders would remain in full force and effect. Ex. 7.

66. “[T]he spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey constitutes an ongoing public health hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of one or more municipalities or counties of the State, and it is necessary and appropriate to take action against this public health hazard to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey residents...” Ex. 9.

67. These Orders, as they related to the closure of all “non-essential businesses”, evidence awareness on the part of both state and local governments that COVID-19 causes damage vis-à-vis contamination to property. This is particularly true in places such as Plaintiff’s business where the requisite contact and interaction causes a heightened risk of the property becoming contaminated by COVID-19.

68. Plaintiff’s business income loss was triggered with each restrictive civil authority action and order which prohibited access to the Covered Property.

69. Further, Plaintiff’s Covered Property suffered “direct physical loss or damage” due to the Governor’s Order (and other local governmental orders) mandating that Plaintiff discontinue its primary use of the Covered Property. The Governor’s Order, in and of itself, constitutes a Covered Cause of Loss within the meaning of the Policy.

3. The Virus Exclusion

70. The Policy contains a coverage exclusion for viruses which provides “We will not pay for loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by...any virus, bacterium or other microorganism that induces or is capable of inducing physical distress, illness or disease.” (The Virus Exclusion) Form BP 00 03 07 13 p. 17 of 53,.Section B1.j.

71. The Virus Exclusion does not preclude coverage for Plaintiff’s claim under the Policy.

72. To the extent that the governmental orders, in and of themselves, constitute direct physical loss of or damage to Plaintiff’s Covered Property, and/or preclusion of access to the Covered Property because of a Civil Authority order related to damage to nearby properties, the Virus Exclusion simply does not apply.

73. The insurance industry, through the ISO, and including Defendant, understood that the presence of a virus caused damage to property which would trigger coverage under the business income or Civil Authority coverage forms.

74. Nevertheless, through the ISO, the industry represented to the Insurance Department that there was no coverage for damage caused by viruses under the ISO policies, and therefore, the virus exclusion did not change the policy or reduce coverage. No premium reduction was associated with the addition of the virus exclusion.

75. Plaintiff did not negotiate for the inclusion of the Virus Exclusion.

76. Plaintiff did not receive any premium reduction for the inclusion of the Virus Exclusion.

77. Plaintiff did not receive any benefit or consideration for the inclusion of the Virus Exclusion.

78. Plaintiff did not receive the benefit of any bargain related to the Virus Exclusion.

79. Defendant received the unilateral benefit of excluding coverage for a risk while also receiving the same or even greater premium for the lesser coverage.

80. A business and/or property owner who was even aware of the virus exclusion would conclude that the exclusion related to liability claims against the insured for transmitting the virus, not property damage claims.

81. Defendant should be estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion, on principles of regulatory estoppel, as well as general public policy.

82. In 2006, two insurance industry trade groups, Insurance Services Office, Inc. (“ISO”) and the American Association of Insurance Services (“AAIS”), represented hundreds of insurers in a national effort to seek approval from state insurance regulators for the adoption of the Virus Exclusion.

83. In their filings with the various state regulators, on behalf of the insurers, ISO and AAIS represented that the adoption of the Virus Exclusion was only meant to “clarify” that coverage for “disease-causing agents” has never been in effect, and was never intended to be included, in the property policies.

84. Specifically, in its “ISO Circular” dated July 6, 2006 and entitled “New Endorsements Filed to Address Exclusion of Loss Due to Virus or Bacteria,” ISO represented to the state regulatory bodies that:

While property policies have not been a source of recovery for losses involving contamination by disease-causing agents, the specter of pandemic or hitherto unorthodox transmission of infectious material raises the concern that insurers employing such policies may face claims in which there are efforts to expand coverage to create sources of recovery for such losses, contrary to policy intent.

85. Similarly, AAIS, in its “Filing Memorandum” in support of the Virus Exclusion, represented:

Property policies have not been, nor were they intended to be, a source of recovery for loss, cost or expense caused by disease-causing agents. With the possibility of a pandemic, there is concern that claims may result in efforts to expand coverage to create recovery for loss where no coverage was originally intended . . .

This endorsement clarifies that loss, cost, or expense caused by, resulting from, or relating to any virus, bacterium, or other microorganism that causes disease, illness, or physical distress or that is capable of causing disease, illness, or physical distress is excluded...

86. The foregoing representations made by the insurance industry were false.

87. By 2006, the time of the state applications to approve the Virus Exclusion, courts had repeatedly found that property insurance policies covered claims involving disease-causing agents, and had held on numerous occasions that any condition making it impossible to use property for its intended use constituted “physical loss or damage to such property.”

88. Upon information and belief, the insurance department relied on the industry's and Defendant's representation when the department approved the Virus Exclusion for inclusion in standard comprehensive policies without a reduction in premiums to balance a reduction in coverage.

89. The foregoing assertions by the insurance industry (including Defendant), made to obtain regulatory approval of the Virus Exclusion, were misrepresentations and for this reason, among other public policy concerns, Defendant should now be estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion to avoid coverage of claims related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

90. In securing approval for the adoption of the Virus Exclusion by misrepresenting to the state regulators that the Virus Exclusion would not change the scope of coverage, Defendant

effectively narrowed the scope of the insuring agreement without a commensurate reduction in premiums charged.

91. Defendant's Form 40 93 07 05 Virus Exclusion is essentially the same exclusion as the exclusion promoted by ISO and AAIS.

92. Under the doctrine of regulatory estoppel, the Court should not permit Defendant to benefit from this type of duplicitous conduct before the state regulators.

93. Upon information and belief, Defendant has denied, or will deny, all claims for coverage under their "all-risk" property damage policies issued by Defendant.

94. Defendant's denial of lost business income claims left Plaintiff and similarly situated business without vital coverage acquired to ensure the survival of their business during the suspension of operations.

95. Meanwhile, Defendant receives the benefit of an exclusion for which Plaintiff and similarly situated insureds received no bargain, reduction of premiums or any benefit whatsoever.

D. IMPACT ON PLAINTIFF

96. On or about March 19, 2020, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and closure Orders referenced herein, Plaintiff was forced to close the doors of its "non-life sustaining" business.

97. Because people—employees, patients and others—frequent all areas of Plaintiff's property, there is an ever-present risk that the Covered Property is contaminated and would continue to be contaminated if the business remained open to the public.

98. As a beauty salon, Plaintiff operates in a close environment where clients and employees are directly next to each other, and are using tools, instruments and surfaces which must be free from contaminants.

99. Because business is conducted in an enclosed building, the Covered Property is more susceptible to being or becoming contaminated, as respiratory droplets are more likely to remain in the air or infect surfaces within the Covered Property for far longer or with significantly increased frequency as compared to facilities with open-air ventilation.

100. Plaintiff's business is also highly susceptible to rapid person-to-property transmission of the virus, and vice-versa, because the activities of the employees and clients require them to interact in close proximity to the property and to one another.

101. The virus is physically impacting the Covered Property. Any effort by the Defendants to deny the reality that the virus has caused physical loss and damage would constitute a false and potentially fraudulent misrepresentation that could endanger the Plaintiff and the public.

102. As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Closure Orders, Plaintiff has incurred, and continues to incur, among other things, a substantial loss of business income and additional expenses covered under the Policy.

103. The covered losses incurred by Plaintiff and owed under the Policy increase daily.

104. Plaintiff submitted a claim to Defendant under the Policy for Plaintiff's losses.

105. On March 25, 2020, Defendant wrongfully denied Plaintiff's claim.

106. A declaratory judgment that the Policy provides coverage will ensure that Plaintiff's reasonable expectations of coverage are met and prevent Plaintiff from being left without vital coverage acquired to ensure the survival of the business.

107. A declaratory judgment that the Policy provides coverage will also further the public policy of the State of New Jersey.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I
DECLARATORY RELIEF

108. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

109. The Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a), provides that in “a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction . . . any court of the United States . . . may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought.” 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a).

110. Declaratory relief is intended to minimize “the danger of avoidable loss and unnecessary accrual of damages.” 10B Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller & Mary Kay Kane, *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 2751 (3d ed. 1998).

111. Plaintiff requests a Declaratory Judgment to affirm that the Policy provides business income coverage because of losses attributable to civil authority actions, and because the denial violates public policy.

112. Plaintiff further requests a Declaratory Judgment that the Exclusion of Loss Due to Virus or Bacteria does not apply to the business income losses incurred by Plaintiff, and that Defendant is estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion.

113. Plaintiff’s interest in the Policy and the declaratory relief sought is direct, substantial, quantifiable, and immediate.

114. An actual controversy has arisen between Plaintiff and Defendant as to the rights, duties, responsibilities and obligations of the parties under the Policy to reimburse Plaintiff for its business income loss. Plaintiff contends and, upon information and belief, Defendant disputes and deny that:

- a. Plaintiff sustained direct physical loss of or damage to the Covered Property under the Policy;
- b. The Plaintiff is entitled to coverage for business income loss and extra expense;
- c. The Policy provides business income coverage in the event that COVID-19 directly or indirectly caused a loss and/or damage at the Covered Property or immediate area of the Covered Property;
- d. The closure Orders described herein constitute a prohibition of access to the Covered Property;
- e. The prohibition of access by the closure Orders described herein has specifically prohibited access as defined in the Policy;
- f. The closure Orders described herein trigger coverage;
- g. The Policy provides coverage to Plaintiff for any current and future closures due to physical loss or damage directly or indirectly resulting from COVID-19 under the Civil Authority Coverage;
- h. The Virus Exclusion is void as against public policy as it pertains to the closure Orders described herein;
- i. The Virus Exclusion does not apply to business income loss or losses from an Order of a civil authority; and
- j. Defendant is estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion.

115. Resolution of the duties, responsibilities and obligations of the Parties is necessary as no adequate remedy at law exists and a judicial declaration is required to resolve the dispute and controversy.

COUNT II
BREACH OF CONTRACT - COMPENSATORY RELIEF

116. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

117. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff was an insured under the Policy with Defendants.

118. Plaintiff purchased, elected and paid premiums to Defendant for the property, business income and extra expense, civil authority and additional coverages applicable to the losses claimed in this action.

119. All the information regarding the insured's business and risks thereof was known to Defendant when the Policy was issued.

120. Plaintiff is entitled to recover all losses caused by COVID-19 and/or civil authority orders.

121. Defendant was advised of Plaintiff's claims and demand for coverage under the Policy.

122. Plaintiff complied with all requirements of the Policy.

123. Defendant is duty bound and obligated to act in good faith towards the insured under the Policy to make fair and reasonable efforts and offers to resolve Plaintiff's claim.

124. Defendant breached the terms and provisions of the Policy by denying the claims of Plaintiff for all losses caused by COVID-19 and the civil authority orders.

125. The breach of the indemnification obligations under the Policy by Defendant has caused Plaintiff to suffer loss and harm.

126. Defendant is required to pay Plaintiff all covered losses caused by COVID-19 and civil authority orders including business income, extra expense, contamination civil authority and other coverages under the Policy.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment against the Defendant and declare, as a matter of law, the following:

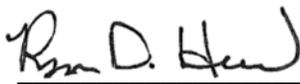
- a. The civil authority orders prohibit access to Plaintiff's Covered Property;
- b. The civil authority orders "prohibit access" as defined in the Policy;
- c. The civil authority coverage applies to Plaintiff due to physical loss or damage at the Covered Property or other premises in the immediate area of the Covered Property;
- d. The Plaintiff is entitled to coverage for business income loss;
- e. Plaintiff sustained direct physical loss of or damage to the Covered Property under the Policy;
- f. The Virus Exclusion is void as against public policy as it pertains to the closure Orders described herein;
- g. The Virus Exclusion does not apply to business income loss or losses from an Order of a civil authority;
- h. Defendant is estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion;
- i. The inability to use the Covered Property amounts to a physical loss or damage as defined in the Policy;
- j. Defendants' denial of coverage for losses caused by the referenced civil authority orders violates public policy; and
- k. Defendant's denial of coverage for losses caused by the referenced civil authority orders amounts to a breach of contract.

Plaintiff further seeks an Order requiring Defendant to pay Plaintiff all covered losses caused by loss of access to the Covered Property, including business income, extra expense, contamination, civil authority and other coverages under the Policy; and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: June 29, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
Gregory S. Spizer, Esquire
NJ I.D. NO: 043091998
Ryan D. Hurd, Esquire
NJ I.D. NO: 022402007
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Counsel for Plaintiff

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

DEZINE SIX, LLC D/B/A COSMO BLEU

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff MERCER (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Anapol Weiss, One Logan Square, 130 N. 18th Street, Suite 1600, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 735-1130

DEFENDANTS

FITCHBURG MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY; AND THE NORFOLK & DEDHAM GROUP

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant NORFOLK (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, BANKRUPTCY, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. §1332

Brief description of cause: Declaratory Action/Breach of Contract

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

06/30/2020

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Handwritten signature: Ron D. Hew

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
- United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.