

FEB 21, 2023 10:49 AM


Danielle F. Forté, Clerk
Muscogee County, Georgia

IN THE STATE COURT OF MUSCOGEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

JASON L. CRAWFORD,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC., d/b/a
FACEBOOK,

Defendant.

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Civil Action No. SC2022CV001070

FINAL DEFAULT JUDGMENT SETTING DAMAGES

The above-captioned matter came before this Court for a hearing on damages on February 21, 2023. Plaintiff Jason L. Crawford was present and represented by his counsel; Defendant was not present nor did any other representatives of the Defendant make an appearance.

On 21 Feb., 2023, this Court entered a default judgment as to the issue of liability against the Defendant in this matter; therefore, the issue of Defendant's liability has been resolved. However, since the Plaintiff's action is one *ex delicto* and involves unliquidated damages, this hearing was set to establish the amount of damages proximately caused by the Defendant's negligence.

Plaintiff, having been duly sworn, provided testimony to the Court concerning, *inter alia*, the occurrence at issue; the injuries he sustained as a result of the occurrence; the mental pain and suffering he has endured as a result of his injuries; and the impact his injuries have had upon the quality of his life since the occurrence.

The Court has also reviewed and considered the entire record and all documents on file with the Clerk of this Court.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Court hereby makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

Plaintiff Jason L. Crawford is a 53-year-old male, and the Court has heard his testimony regarding his injuries and damages.

In or around August of 2022, Defendant terminated Plaintiff's Facebook account for no valid reason. Defendant failed to allow Plaintiff to obtain an explanation for the termination, except for vague pieces of information purportedly accusing Plaintiff of some sort of exploitative behavior on the site. This behavior never occurred, and Facebook's conduct was undertaken in violation of the site's duty to exercise ordinary care towards its customers. This is specifically true since Facebook knows that it is often the repository of large amounts of data, in the form of photographs, videos and narrative content. Plaintiff had much of the data documenting his life for the last thirteen years on his Facebook page.

Defendant failed to do a reasonable job of training its employees or programming its algorithms in order to fairly assess whether users actually violated Facebook's terms of service. Facebook likewise failed to do a reasonable job of allowing users to question and/or appeal the seemingly random, but definitely unsupported, findings of Facebook's algorithms. Consequently, Plaintiff has been denied access to photographs, data, and content documenting the last decade-plus of his life.

Plaintiff has suffered damages, including mental distress associated with the loss of much of the materials that make up his memories, including memories of his children, between 2009 and 2022.

Defendant was properly served with process in this action in accordance with Georgia law and O.C.G.A. 9-11-4. Defendant has failed to respond thereto as required by law; this action

has automatically become in default; Defendant has failed to open the default as a matter of right within 15 days of the day of each Defendant's default; and default judgment is demanded against Defendant.

Plaintiff's injuries and damages, as hereinabove described, were directly and proximately caused by the negligence of Defendant. The Court concludes that Plaintiff has endured great mental pain since Facebook unjustifiably and unreasonably shut down his account and that his pain and suffering will likely continue. The Court further concludes that Plaintiff is entitled to just and adequate compensation for his injuries and for his past and future damages.

JUDGMENT

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Plaintiff Jason L. Crawford have and recover judgment against Defendant damages in the sum of \$50,000.⁰⁰, as damages to compensate him for his injuries, including past and future mental pain and suffering. Costs of bringing this action are hereby assessed against Defendant.

SO ORDERED this 21 day of Feb, 2023.



The Honorable Andrew Prather
Judge, State Court of Muscogee County, Georgia

Counsel for Plaintiff willing to compromise by explaining why Plaintiff was denied access to his Facebook account, return of his Facebook images and alphanumeric and text data or access thereto.