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14 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
15 **COUNTY OF MARIN**

17 JOHN DOE 7004, an individual; JOHN DOE
7005, an individual; JANE DOE 7006, an
18 individual; and JANE DOE 7007, an
individual,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 LORRAINE GRACE, an individual;
22 SUNRISE CENTER, INC., a California
nonprofit public benefit corporation; and
23 DOES 1-20, inclusive,

24 Defendants.

Case No. **CIV 2002036**

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES;
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

- 1) Negligence
- 2) Negligent Supervision
- 3) Negligent Retention
- 4) Negligent Failure to Train, Warn or Educate
- 5) Sexual Battery
- 6) Sexual Harassment (Civ. Code, § 51.9)
- 7) Gender Violence (Civ. Code, § 52.4)

**Filed Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure
Section 340.1, as Amended by Assembly Bill
218**

Jury Trial Demanded

FILED

JUL 30 2020

JAMES M. KIM, Court Executive Officer
MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
By: J. Segura, Deputy

1 Plaintiffs John Doe 7004, John Doe 7005, Jane Doe 7006, and Jane Doe 7007 (together,
2 “Plaintiffs”) bring this action against Defendant Lorraine Grace (“Grace”), Sunrise Center, Inc.
3 (“Sunrise”), and Does 1-20 (together, “Defendants”), and based on information and belief allege as
4 follows:

5 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

6 1. Plaintiffs bring this action because they were routinely drugged and sexually
7 assaulted by Defendant Grace and members of her inner circle, many of them employees or
8 affiliates of Defendant Sunrise, when Plaintiffs were just 10 years old.

9 2. Over the course of a decade, Defendant Grace ingratiated herself with Plaintiffs’
10 family by exploiting their trauma, including their mother’s cancer diagnosis and rapid deterioration.
11 Defendant Grace held herself out as a guru, “Compassionate Communicator,” and body therapist,
12 employing various psychological grooming tactics to gain the trust of Plaintiffs and their parents.
13 Defendant Grace also relied on the legitimacy she was afforded as the founder and Executive
14 Director of Defendant Sunrise, as well as the services offered by Defendant Sunrise, to isolate
15 Plaintiffs from their parents and gain unfettered access to Plaintiffs.

16 3. Once Plaintiffs were isolated from their parents, Defendant Grace and her inner
17 circle drugged and sexually abused Plaintiffs. On information and belief, Defendants utilized such
18 tactics on countless other families to gain access to other children to abuse.

19 4. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
20 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
21 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a
22 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
23 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

24 5. Plaintiffs bring this action both to bring to light Defendants’ systemic and predatory
25 abuse and seek redress for the years of physical and emotional harm they suffered.

26 **PARTIES**

27 6. Plaintiffs are siblings. John Doe 7004 is an adult male currently residing in Orange
28 County, California. John Doe 7005 is an adult male currently residing in Orange County,

1 California. Jane Doe 7006 is an adult female currently residing in Orange County, California. Jane
2 Doe 7007 is an adult female currently residing in Orange County, California. During the periods of
3 child sexual assault alleged herein, Plaintiffs were residing in Marin County, California.

4 7. Plaintiffs were minors throughout the periods of child sexual assault alleged herein.
5 The names utilized by Plaintiffs in this Complaint are fictitious to protect Plaintiffs' privacy as
6 victims of child sexual assault and molestation. Plaintiffs bring this Complaint pursuant to Code of
7 Civil Procedure section 340.1, as amended by Assembly Bill 218, for the sexual assault they
8 suffered at the hands of Defendants. Plaintiffs' claims for damages suffered as a result of
9 childhood sexual assault are timely filed as this Complaint is filed within 22 years of the date
10 Plaintiffs attained the age of majority.

11 8. Defendant Grace is an adult individual who based on information and belief resides
12 in Marin County, California. Defendant Grace is the founder, Executive Director, Chief Executive
13 Officer, and President of Defendant Sunrise. Based on information and belief, Defendant Grace
14 holds a Masters of Arts degree in psychology, although she is not a licensed therapist.

15 9. Defendant Sunrise at all times relevant to this Complaint was and is a nonprofit
16 public benefit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of California with its principal
17 place of business in Marin County, California. Defendant Sunrise was incorporated under the laws
18 of the State of California as Sunrise Center, Inc. on or about December 12, 1975. According to its
19 website, Defendant Sunrise is active in two locations: an event center in Corte Madera, Marin
20 County, California, and Hale Akua Garden Farm and Eco-Retreat Center in Maui County, Hawaii.
21 On information and belief, Defendant Sunrise's staff provide unlicensed psychotherapy.

22 10. At its Corte Madera location, according to its website, Defendant Sunrise offers
23 classes and workshops to "support the dawn of a greener world" and "conscious, healthy
24 relationships with one another, including courses in Embodied Compassionate Communication
25 (NVC), tantra and sexual energetics and intimate communication and massage," as well as "healthy
26 lifestyle choices, near death experiences and afterlife communication." According to its website,
27 Defendant Sunrise's workshop program is called "Celebrations of Love," and is for "Those Who
28 Value Commitment & Safety" but have felt the "need to choose between your Wild Side and your

1 commitments” and “longed to adventure into sex or relationships while staying connected to
2 yourself and/or your partner.” At its Maui location, Defendant Sunrise offers “healing retreats,”
3 including Nonviolent Communication seminars, yoga, and organic farming.

4 11. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise
5 of Defendants named herein as Does 1 through 20, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiffs,
6 who therefore sue said Defendants Does 1 through 20 by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are
7 informed and believe that Does 1 through 20 are legally responsible in some manner for the events,
8 happenings, and/or tortious and unlawful conduct that caused the injuries and damages alleged in
9 this Complaint. Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities of the
10 Defendants designated herein as Does 1 through 20 when they have been ascertained.

11 12. On information and belief, at all times material hereto, Defendants were the agents,
12 representatives, servants, employees, partners, and/or joint venturers of each and every other
13 Defendant and were acting within the course and scope of said alternative capacity, identity,
14 agency, representation and/or employment and were within the scope of their authority, whether
15 actual or apparent. Each of the Defendants is responsible in some manner for one or more of the
16 events and happenings described herein. Each Defendant approved and/or ratified the conduct of
17 each other Defendant. Consequently, each Defendant is jointly and severally liable to Plaintiffs for
18 the damages sustained as a proximate result of his, her, or its conduct. Each of the Defendants
19 proximately caused the injuries and damages alleged.

20 13. Each of the Defendants aided and abetted each other Defendant. Each Defendant
21 knowingly gave substantial assistance to each other Defendant who performed the wrongful
22 conduct alleged herein. Accordingly, each Defendant is jointly and severally liable for the
23 damages proximately caused by each other Defendant’s wrongful conduct.

24 14. Whenever reference is made to “Defendants” in this Complaint, such allegation
25 shall be deemed to mean the acts of Defendants acting individually, jointly, and/or severally.
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1 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

2 **I. *Defendant Grace Ingratiates Herself With Plaintiffs Family Under The Guise of Offering***
3 ***Assistance Through Defendant Sunrise.***

4 15. In approximately 2000, Plaintiffs’ father and their older sibling met Defendant
5 Grace at Defendant Sunrise after researching coping mechanisms for Crohn’s disease. After this
6 initial meeting, Plaintiffs’ family received newsletters and other informational emails from
7 Defendant Sunrise.

8 16. In or about the fall of 2008, Plaintiffs’ mother was diagnosed with a rare and vicious
9 form of breast cancer. Plaintiffs’ family engaged in a desperate search for medical care to alleviate
10 her suffering and slow the cancer’s spread, chasing treatments as far away as New York.

11 17. At this time, Plaintiffs’ family received an email from Defendant Sunrise
12 announcing a special program for grief and crisis management. Plaintiffs’ parents submitted an
13 application for the program. Shortly thereafter, Defendant Grace contacted Plaintiffs’ family by
14 telephone. After a few phone calls, Defendant Grace informed Plaintiffs’ family that they may
15 qualify for a grant for “conscious living” which would teach the family about dealing with cancer.

16 18. Approximately one week later, Defendant Grace traveled to Orange County to meet
17 Plaintiffs’ family and evaluate their candidacy for the grant. Defendant Grace held herself out as a
18 grief counselor, specializing in assisting families dealing with chronic and serious illnesses. While
19 Defendant Grace’s biographies indicate that she holds a Master of Arts degree in psychology, on
20 information and belief, she is not a licensed therapist. Yet, Defendant Grace’s “Celebrations of
21 Love” online biography includes a “Private Practice Announcement,” which touts that Grace “is
22 trained to teach PET (Parent Effective Training) and has participated in numerous Family Camps,
23 including camps with a focus on NVC [Nonviolent Communication],” “has had much rich life
24 experience in communicating with parents and children,” and “maintains a private practice in
25 Marin, counseling couples, parents, blended families, teenagers and children.” On information and
26 belief, Defendant Grace offered this grief counseling both privately and through Defendant Sunrise.

27 19. Approximately ten days later, Defendant Grace met with Plaintiffs’ family a second
28 time in Orange County. This time, Defendant Grace discussed Defendant Sunrise and its ability to

1 provide counseling for Plaintiffs' family and assist in obtaining cancer treatments for Plaintiffs'
2 mother. Defendant Grace also discussed the need for Plaintiffs' family to move to Northern
3 California to attend programming at Defendant Sunrise, including healthy eating and nonviolent
4 communication workshops, should they be selected for the grant. In making her pitch, Defendant
5 Grace extensively discussed other individuals who used the program to slow the progression of
6 cancer or place the cancer in remission.

7 20. Approximately one week later, Defendant Grace called Plaintiffs' family to inform
8 them they had been selected to receive the grant from Defendant Sunrise. Defendant Grace also
9 informed Plaintiffs' family that she obtained a special scholarship for Plaintiffs to engage in after-
10 school activities and courses. Hopeful that Defendant Grace and Defendant Sunrise could provide
11 complementary treatment for Plaintiffs' mother's aggressive cancer, as well as much needed
12 assistance for the family in coping with the associated trauma, Plaintiffs' family accepted the grant.

13 21. Approximately two weeks after accepting the grant, Plaintiffs and their mother
14 moved to Marin County. At that time the relationship between Plaintiffs' mother and father was
15 strained, so he remained in Southern California. They first stayed at Defendant Sunrise's location
16 before moving into a residence at 10 Shepherd Way in Tiburon, California, which Defendant Grace
17 leased to Plaintiffs' mother. Defendant Grace leased the property to Plaintiffs' mother for \$1,000
18 per month, purportedly intending that Plaintiffs and their mother would live at the property while
19 Plaintiffs attended school in Tiburon and grief counseling at Defendant Sunrise. The home was
20 located approximately five minutes from Defendant Sunrise and was on the same street as
21 Defendant Grace's home.

22 22. Over the following months, Defendant Grace ingratiated herself with Plaintiffs'
23 family, positioning herself as a trusted confidant who was like family. Defendant Grace would
24 frequently go to Plaintiffs' home to visit with Plaintiffs and would take them on fun outings like
25 trips to museums and toy stores. She reinforced her role in Plaintiffs' lives as a trusted adult by
26 helping to seek out alternative treatments for Plaintiffs' mother and showering Plaintiffs and their
27 parents with gifts and attention. Unbeknownst to Plaintiffs or their parents, Defendant Grace was
28

1 building the family's trust and dependency upon her so that she could eventually separate Plaintiffs
2 from their parents and abuse them.

3 23. Defendants lodged with Defendant Grace the color of authority, by which she was
4 able to influence, direct, and assault Plaintiffs, and to act illegally, unreasonably, and without
5 respect for the person and safety of Plaintiffs.

6 24. As minor children attending activities at Defendant Sunrise, Plaintiffs were under
7 Defendant Grace's supervision, care, and control, thus creating a special relationship, fiduciary
8 relationship, and/or special care relationship with Defendants, and each of them.

9 25. As minor children under the custody, care, and control of Defendants, Defendants
10 stood *in loco parentis* with respect to Plaintiffs while they were living at Defendant Grace's home
11 and participating in activities and other functions through Defendant Sunrise. As the responsible
12 party and/or employer controlling Defendant Grace, Defendant Sunrise also was in a special
13 relationship with Plaintiffs and owed special duties to Plaintiffs.

14 26. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Sunrise was responsible for the supervision
15 of its employees' and agents' activities, including those of Defendant Grace, and assumed
16 responsibility for the well-being of the minor children in its care, including Plaintiffs.

17 27. As a therapist and with the endorsement of Defendant Sunrise, Defendant Grace
18 stood in a position of power, respect, confidence, trust, and authority amongst Plaintiffs.

19 **II. *Defendant Grace Isolates and Begins Drugging and Sexually Assaulting Plaintiffs.***

20 28. In approximately 2009, Defendant Grace began pressuring Plaintiffs' mother to
21 divorce her husband. On information and belief, Defendant Grace reached out to Plaintiffs'
22 mother's family to assist her in pressuring Plaintiffs' mother to divorce from Plaintiffs' father.

23 29. In or around 2009, Defendant Grace kicked Plaintiffs and their mother out of the
24 house after a disagreement with Plaintiffs' mother. Plaintiffs and their mother were able to avoid
25 being homeless due to the mercy of their neighbor, who offered them temporary housing so that
26 Plaintiffs could finish out the school year in Tiburon while Plaintiffs' mother acted as a caretaker
27 and assisted with accounting paperwork.

28

1 30. A few months later, Defendant Grace and Plaintiffs’ mother reconciled. Defendant
2 Grace suggested that one or more of the children move into her home under the guise that it would
3 ease the burden on Plaintiffs’ mother, who was still battling stage four cancer. Defendant Grace
4 touted her experience with “foster children”—children whose parents had supposedly asked
5 Defendant Grace for assistance in similar situations. Struggling to cope with the strain of raising
6 four children while battling a severe illness, and living hundreds of miles from her support network,
7 and family, and navigating a strained marital relationship, Plaintiffs’ mother agreed that John Doe
8 7005 could live with Defendant Grace.

9 31. Unbeknownst to Plaintiffs’ parents, Defendant Grace began giving John Doe 7005
10 drugs, which she informed him were doses of melatonin, to help him sleep. Defendant Grace
11 drugged John Doe 7005 almost every night, and as he fell asleep, Defendant Grace would often
12 massage or scratch John Doe 7005’s back. Defendant Grace told John Doe 7005 to keep the drugs
13 a secret because his mother would not be happy that he was taking them. John Doe 7005 trusted
14 Defendant Grace and followed her instruction.

15 32. Unsuccessful in separating Plaintiffs’ father from the family, in approximately
16 2010, Defendant Grace turned her focus to gaining control over the other Plaintiffs. As Plaintiffs’
17 mother’s condition worsened, she and John Doe 7004, Jane Doe 7006, and Jane Doe 7007 all
18 moved into Defendant Grace’s residence and Plaintiffs continued to receive services from
19 Defendant Sunrise. Defendant Grace lived in a large home, which comfortably housed Defendant
20 Grace, Plaintiffs’ mother, Plaintiffs, other children that Defendant Grace “fostered,” and other
21 adults. Defendant Sunrise was located in close proximity to Defendant Grace’s home, and
22 Plaintiffs, employees, and guests routinely frequented both locations. Defendant Grace’s residence
23 was set up as a children’s paradise, with an abundance of toys and video games. Plaintiffs Jane
24 Doe 7006 and Jane Doe 7007 stayed in a room with their mother. Plaintiffs’ mother spent the
25 majority of her time asleep and was often unable to leave her bed. Plaintiffs John Doe 7004 and
26 John Doe 7005 stayed in a separate room with the other children who were living at Defendant
27 Grace’s home.

28

1 33. Once all Plaintiffs lived at her home, Defendant Grace began drugging them with
2 the alleged melatonin and sexually assaulting Plaintiffs, unbeknownst to Plaintiffs’ parents. On
3 numerous occasions, Defendant Grace removed Jane Doe 7007 from her room while she was
4 drugged and sexually assaulted her. Jane Doe 7007 sometimes woke up during the abuse, and
5 other times woke up in strange places with her clothes askew. Defendant Grace told Jane Doe
6 7007 that it was normal, and that Jane Doe 7007 should trust her because her parents trusted
7 Defendant Grace. Defendant Grace lied to Jane Doe 7007 and told her that her parents knew what
8 Defendant Grace was doing and were fine with it, and that Jane Doe 7007 should not discuss it with
9 Plaintiffs’ mother because it would stress her out and make her more sick.

10 34. Capitalizing on the family’s fear and vulnerability, Defendant Grace encouraged
11 Plaintiffs’ mother to receive an experimental cancer treatment at a clinic in Mexico. The treatment
12 would require Plaintiffs’ mother to remain in Mexico for several months. Defendant Grace assured
13 Plaintiffs’ parents that she would take care of Plaintiffs while Plaintiffs’ mother was away, and
14 even offered to pay for the treatments. Desperate for anything that may slow the cancer and keep
15 Plaintiffs’ mother alive, and believing that Defendant Grace was a close friend and confidant,
16 Plaintiffs’ parents agreed to the arrangement.

17 35. In or about August 2010, Defendant Grace convinced Plaintiffs’ mother to execute a
18 document naming Defendant Grace as a temporary legal guardian of Plaintiffs. The document
19 allowed Defendant Grace to step into the role of a parent, with the ability to make decisions
20 regarding Plaintiffs’ “health care, child care, and education.” Notably, Defendant Grace left the
21 end date blank so that these broad powers would not terminate.

22 36. Defendant Grace also registered herself with Plaintiffs’ school as their primary
23 guardian, ensuring she would be contacted first regarding any updates or emergencies, and granting
24 her the authority to pick up Plaintiffs from school. Defendant Grace also regularly contacted
25 Plaintiffs’ school and authorized members of her staff to pick up the children.

26 37. Given Defendant Grace’s apparent generosity and the trusted relationship with
27 Plaintiffs’ family, Plaintiffs’ parents did not question Defendant Grace’s motives at the time. They
28 believed she was acting not only as a therapist through Defendant Sunrise, but as a family friend

1 and mentor. Defendant Grace’s actions made the family reliant upon and feel indebted to
2 Defendant Grace.

3 **III. Defendant Grace Escalates Her Abuse of Plaintiffs.**

4 38. Once Plaintiffs were isolated from their parents, Defendant Grace became even
5 more emboldened, and Plaintiffs witnessed an array of traumatic spectacles and endured repeated
6 instances of sexual assault, abuse, and molestation.

7 39. Defendant Grace hosted a constant stream of guests at her home. Based on
8 information and belief, many of these guests were employed by or affiliated with Defendant
9 Sunrise, and comprised Defendant Grace’s “inner circle.” On information and belief, at least one
10 of Defendant Grace’s friends, who was also an employee at Defendant Sunrise, was a convicted sex
11 offender. During these gatherings, Plaintiffs frequently witnessed adult nudity, orgies, sex toys,
12 drug use, and child pornography. Plaintiffs witnessed tantric sex parties on more than one
13 occasion. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendant Grace gave some of these individuals
14 permission to pick up Plaintiffs from school.

15 40. Based on information and belief, another one of Defendant Grace’s guests was a
16 convicted child molester. Defendant Grace allowed this individual to take photographs of the
17 children staying at her home, including Jane Doe 7007.

18 41. Almost every night, Defendant Grace drugged Plaintiffs with “melatonin” so that
19 they would sleep through the sex parties as well as the attendant abuse. Sometimes the “melatonin”
20 was a sweet gel capsule, sometimes it was a pill, and sometimes it was in liquid form. Defendant
21 Grace would not let Plaintiffs go to sleep without first taking the “melatonin.” Defendant Grace or
22 her agents drugged Plaintiffs almost every night. After taking the “melatonin,” Plaintiffs frequently
23 woke up in different rooms of the house than the rooms they fell asleep in, with their clothes off,
24 and their bodies covered in oil.

25 42. On several occasions, John Doe 7004 woke up in Defendant Grace’s bed. There
26 were sex toys and naked photographs of Defendant Grace scattered about the room. On at least one
27 occasion, Defendant Grace forced John Doe 7004 to look at her naked body.

28

1 43. On one occasion, Jane Doe 7006 and 7007 were afraid of a spider in their room and
2 asked Defendant Grace to kill the spider. Instead, Defendant Grace told Plaintiffs Jane Doe 7006
3 and 7007 to sleep in her bed. Plaintiffs woke up and Jane Doe 7007 was missing her shirt and Jane
4 Doe 7006's clothing was askew. Based on the positions and circumstances in which Plaintiffs
5 frequently found themselves after being drugged, it was clear to Plaintiffs that Defendant Grace and
6 her inner circle would sexually assault Plaintiffs while they were drugged.

7 44. Defendant Grace also sexually assaulted Plaintiffs when they were not drugged.
8 Defendant Grace would force Plaintiffs to touch her, including when she was naked. Defendant
9 Grace would call Plaintiffs to her room or invite Plaintiffs to sleep in her bed while she was topless
10 or naked.

11 45. On at least three occasions, Defendant Grace firmly groped John Doe 7004's
12 genitals, including one occasion when she picked him up from school. After sexually assaulting
13 John Doe 7004, Defendant Grace took him to buy toys. Defendant Grace also touched John Doe
14 7005's genitals on multiple occasions.

15 46. On several occasions, Defendant Grace massaged Jane Doe 7007's body, undressed
16 her, manipulated her genitals, and digitally penetrated her vagina.

17 47. On one occasion, believing that Defendant Grace was not home, Plaintiffs Jane Doe
18 7006 and Jane Doe 7007 took a shower in Defendant Grace's bathroom. Defendant Grace came
19 home, and upon seeing them in the shower, got undressed and began showering with them.

20 48. Defendant Grace's sexual assaults of Plaintiffs were for Defendant Grace's own
21 sexual gratification and were conducted using her position of trust and authority over Plaintiffs,
22 including her position at Defendant Sunrise. The sexual assaults were conducted without
23 Plaintiffs' consent as they were minors who could not give valid, legal consent.

24 49. Defendant Grace told Plaintiffs to keep the abuse a secret and not to tell Plaintiffs'
25 mother because it would stress her out and exacerbate her illness. Defendant Grace told Plaintiffs
26 the abuse was their "secret," and that it was normal. Defendant Grace also threatened that if
27 Plaintiffs informed their parents of the abuse, she would stop paying for Plaintiffs' mother's cancer
28 treatments and Plaintiffs' mother would die.

1 50. Plaintiffs would try to avoid Defendant Grace’s sexual assaults by staying at friends’
2 houses on the weekends. Plaintiffs’ friends at school would joke and make fun of Plaintiffs for
3 being “sex slaves,” and Plaintiffs would uneasily joke amongst themselves about how “weird” it
4 was in the house. However, given that Plaintiffs were isolated from their parents, traumatized by
5 their mother’s illness, and just 10 years old, Plaintiffs did not understand the full extent of the
6 abuse.

7 **IV. *Defendant Grace Threatens Plaintiffs’ Family When Plaintiffs Escape The Abuse.***

8 51. In approximately 2011, Defendant Grace took Plaintiffs to visit their father, who had
9 remained in Southern California, while Plaintiffs’ mother was away at the clinic in Mexico. During
10 the visit, Plaintiffs’ father informed Defendant Grace that the children would not be returning to
11 Tiburon. Instead, Plaintiffs’ father wished for the family to remain in Southern California full-
12 time.

13 52. Defendant Grace, enraged that she would no longer have access to Plaintiffs to
14 abuse them at her pleasure, called the police on Plaintiffs’ father. The police, however, allowed
15 Plaintiffs to remain with their father. Once Plaintiffs’ mother returned from Mexico, she joined her
16 family at their temporary new home, a cramped house in Fountain Valley with Plaintiffs’ extended
17 family.

18 53. Defendant Grace later sent her head of security and others to the family’s home in
19 Fountain Valley. Based on information and belief, Defendant Grace used her wealth and
20 connections to locate Plaintiffs’ family, who had refused to disclose their new location. Defendant
21 Grace’s head of security tried to convince Plaintiffs’ parents to talk to Defendant Grace and to
22 move the children back to her home. Defendant Grace threatened Plaintiffs’ family, including a
23 threat to take legal action based on the document Plaintiffs’ mother signed naming Defendant
24 Grace as Plaintiffs’ guardian. Plaintiffs’ parents resoundingly refused and informed Defendant
25 Grace to stop contacting the family. Defendant Grace ignored this request, and attempted to
26 contact Plaintiffs by telephone, mail, and through email and social media.

27 54. A few months later, in 2011, a few weeks before Plaintiffs’ mother passed away,
28 another parent informed Plaintiffs’ parents about Defendant Grace’s sex parties. This was the first

1 time Plaintiffs' parents were aware of any inappropriate conduct by Defendant Grace. On or about
2 July 8, 2011, Plaintiffs' mother passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Even during
3 this extremely delicate time, Defendant Grace attempted to contact Plaintiffs and have them move
4 back to Tiburon and away from their father. Horrified and deeply troubled by the recent revelation
5 that Defendant Grace hosted sex parties while Plaintiffs stayed at her home, Plaintiffs' father
6 rebuffed Defendant Grace.

7 55. Based on information and belief, at least one other child staying at Defendant
8 Grace's home and attending programs at Defendant Sunrise suffered similar sexual abuse, which
9 she eventually revealed to her father and reported to the police. On information and belief, the
10 police took no action due to Defendant Grace's influence in the community and because her odd
11 behavior was perceived as a harmless open secret. On information and belief, after being
12 confronted by this other child, Defendants conspired to cover up Defendant Grace's sexual assaults.

13 56. On information and belief, Defendants' failure to take appropriate action against
14 Defendant Grace to protect its customers and the public at-large has resulted in Defendant Grace's
15 ability to continue to enjoy access to minors. Based on information and belief, Defendant Grace
16 has ongoing access to children through her position at Defendant Sunrise, where she works with
17 children and families through the auspices of counseling, therapy, and wellness workshops.

18 57. The sexual acts perpetrated upon Plaintiffs by Defendant Grace constitute child
19 sexual assault as defined by California Code of Civil Procedure Section 340.1, as modified by
20 Assembly Bill 218, and were a violation of the California Penal Code, including, but not limited to,
21 Penal Code Sections 266j, 287, 288, 289, 311.4, and 647.6.

22 58. The sexual assault Plaintiffs suffered at the hands of Defendant Grace was enabled
23 and facilitated by Defendants and is the result of Defendants' cover up, as statutorily defined by
24 Code of Civil Procedure section 340.1(b).

25 59. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiffs' sexual assaults by Defendant Grace,
26 which was enabled and facilitated by Defendants, Plaintiffs have suffered economic injury, all to
27 Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential damage in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no
28 event less than the minimum jurisdictional amount of this Court.

1 64. Defendants' conduct, actions, and omissions served to create an environment in
2 which Defendant Grace was afforded years of continuous secluded access to minor children,
3 including Plaintiffs, who were sexually abused, molested and assaulted by Defendant Grace.

4 65. Plaintiffs' care, welfare, and/or physical custody was temporarily entrusted to
5 Defendants. Defendants voluntarily accepted the entrusted care of Plaintiffs. As such, Defendants
6 owed Plaintiffs, minor children, a special duty of care, in addition to a duty of ordinary care, and
7 owed Plaintiffs the higher duty of care that adults dealing with children owe to protect them from
8 harm.

9 66. Defendants had a duty to and failed to adequately train and supervise all counselors,
10 advisors, therapist, teachers, mentors and staff to create a positive, safe, spiritual, and educational
11 environment, specifically including training to perceive, report and stop inappropriate conduct by
12 other members of the staff, specifically including Defendant Grace, with children.

13 67. Defendants were required but failed to exercise careful supervision of the moral
14 conditions in their programs.

15 68. By virtue of her unique authority and position as a therapist and caregiver,
16 Defendant Grace was able to identify vulnerable victims and their families, such as Plaintiffs, upon
17 which she could perform sexual assault; to manipulate her authority to procure compliance with her
18 sexual demands from her victims; to induce the victims to continue to allow the assault; and to
19 coerce them not to report it to any other persons or authorities. As a therapist and Executive
20 Director of Defendant Sunrise, Defendant Grace had unique access to, and held a position of
21 authority among, children who were actively involved in activities sponsored by Defendant
22 Sunrise, like Plaintiffs, and their families who attended Defendant Sunrise's programs or approved
23 of their minor children doing so, like Plaintiffs.

24 69. Defendants, by and through their agents, servants, and employees, knew or
25 reasonably should have known of Defendant Grace's sexually abusive and exploitative propensities
26 and/or that Defendant Grace was an unfit agent. It was foreseeable that if Defendants did not
27 adequately exercise or provide the duty of care owed to children in their care, including but not
28

1 limited to Plaintiffs, the children entrusted to Defendants' care would be vulnerable to sexual
2 assault by Defendant Grace.

3 70. Defendants breached their duty of care to Plaintiffs by allowing Defendant Grace to
4 come into contact with Plaintiffs as children without supervision; by failing to properly investigate;
5 by failing to inform or concealing from Plaintiffs' parents, guardians, or law enforcement officials
6 that Defendant Grace was or may have been sexually abusing minors; by holding out Defendant
7 Grace to the Defendant Sunrise community at large as being in good standing and trustworthy as a
8 person of stature and integrity.

9 71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' multiple and continuous breaches,
10 Plaintiffs have suffered economic injury, all to Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential
11 damage in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no event less than the minimum jurisdictional
12 amount of this Court.

13 72. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
14 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
15 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a
16 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
17 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION**

20 **(Against Defendant Sunrise and DOES 1-20)**

21 73. Plaintiffs repeat, re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all consistent
22 paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

23 74. As an institution entrusted with the care and guidance of minors, where all minor
24 children are entrusted to the therapists, counselors, mentors and administrators, Defendant Sunrise
25 expressly and implicitly represented that these individuals, including Defendant Grace, were not a
26 sexual threat to children and others who would fall under Defendant Grace's influence, control
27 direction, and guidance.

28

1 75. Defendants were aware or should have been aware of children's significant
2 vulnerability to sexual harassment, molestation and assault by mentors, advisors, teachers,
3 counselors, and other persons of authority within Defendant Sunrise.

4 76. Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to provide reasonable supervision of both
5 Plaintiffs and Defendant Grace to use reasonable care in investigating Defendant Grace and to
6 provide adequate warning to Plaintiffs and their family, and to families of other children who were
7 entrusted to Defendant Grace, of Defendant Grace's sexually abusive and exploitative propensities
8 and unfitness.

9 77. Defendants, by and through their agents, servants and employees, knew or should
10 have known of Defendant Grace's sexually abusive and exploitative propensities and/or that
11 Defendant Grace was an unfit agent. Despite such knowledge, Defendants negligently failed to
12 supervise Defendant Grace in her position of trust and authority as a therapist and mentor, in which
13 position she was able to commit the wrongful acts against Plaintiffs alleged herein. Defendants
14 failed to provide reasonable supervision of Defendant Grace, failed to use reasonable care in
15 investigating Defendant Grace, and failed to provide adequate warning to Plaintiffs and their family
16 regarding Defendant Grace's sexually abusive and exploitative propensities and unfitness.
17 Defendants further failed to take reasonable measures to prevent future sexual assault.

18 78. Defendants breached their duty to Plaintiffs by, *inter alia*, failing to adequately
19 monitor and supervise Defendant Grace and failing to stop Defendant Grace from committing
20 wrongful sexual acts with minors, including Plaintiffs.

21 79. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' multiple and continuous breaches,
22 Plaintiffs have suffered economic injury, all to Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential
23 damage in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no event less than the minimum jurisdictional
24 amount of this Court.

25 80. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
26 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
27 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a
28

1 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
2 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

3 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **NEGLIGENT RETENTION**

5 **(Against Defendant Sunrise and DOES 1-20)**

6 81. Plaintiffs repeat, re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all consistent
7 paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

8 82. Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty not to retain Defendant Grace given her proclivity
9 towards pedophilia, which Defendants knew or should have known had they engaged in a
10 meaningful and adequate investigation of allegations of sexual assault of minor children at
11 Defendant Sunrise.

12 83. As an institution entrusted with the care and guidance of minors, where all minor
13 children are entrusted to the therapists, counselors, mentors and administrators, Defendant Sunrise
14 expressly and implicitly represented that these individuals, including Defendant Grace, were not a
15 sexual threat to children and others who would fall under Defendant Grace's influence, control
16 direction, and guidance.

17 84. Defendants, by and through their agents, servants, and employees, knew or
18 reasonably should have known of Defendant Grace's sexually abusive and exploitative propensities
19 and/or that Defendant Grace was an unfit agent. Despite such knowledge and/or an opportunity to
20 learn of Defendant Grace's sexual misconduct, Defendants negligently retained Defendant Grace in
21 her position of trust and authority as a therapist and Executive Director, where she was able to
22 commit the wrongful acts against Plaintiffs and others alleged herein. Defendants failed to
23 properly evaluate Defendant Grace's conduct and performance as an employee of, or provider of
24 services to Defendants, and failed to exercise the due diligence incumbent upon employers to
25 investigate employee misconduct, or to take appropriate disciplinary action, including immediate
26 termination and report and referral of Defendant Grace's sexual assault to appropriate authorities.
27 Defendants negligently continued to retain Defendant Grace in service as a therapist and Executive
28

1 Director, working or providing services for Defendants, which enabled her to continue engaging in
2 the sexually abusive and predatory behavior described herein.

3 85. Defendants should have known that it was reasonably foreseeable that Defendant
4 Grace was engaging, or would engage in illicit sexual activities with Plaintiffs, and others, under
5 the cloak of her authority, confidence, and trust, bestowed upon her through Defendants.

6 86. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' multiple and continuous breaches,
7 Plaintiffs have suffered economic injury, all to Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential
8 damage in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no event less than the minimum jurisdictional
9 amount of this Court.

10 87. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
11 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
12 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a
13 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
14 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

15 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO TRAIN, WARN, OR EDUCATE**

17 **(Against Defendant Sunrise and DOES 1-20)**

18 88. Plaintiffs repeat, re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all consistent
19 paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

20 89. Because of the relationship between Plaintiffs and Defendants, Defendants had an
21 obligation and duty under the law not to hide material facts and information about Defendant
22 Grace's past and her deviant sexual behavior and propensities. Additionally Defendants had an
23 affirmative duty to inform, warn, and institute appropriate protective measures to safeguard minors
24 who were reasonably likely to come in contact with Defendant Grace.

25 90. Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect
26 Plaintiffs and other minor children in their charge from the risk of sexual assault, harassment and
27 molestation by Defendant Grace by properly warning, training, or educating Plaintiffs and other
28 minors about how to avoid such a risk.

1 of personal dignity. Further, said acts did cause a harmful or offensive contact with an intimate
2 part of Plaintiffs' persons that would offend a reasonable sense of personal dignity.

3 97. Because of Defendant Grace's position of authority over Plaintiffs, isolation from
4 their parents, impairment due to drugs, Plaintiffs' mental and emotional state, and Plaintiffs' young
5 age, Plaintiffs were unable to and did not give consent to such acts.

6 98. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered economic injury,
7 all to Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential damage in an amount to be proven at trial, but
8 in no event less than the minimum jurisdictional amount of this Court.

9 99. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
10 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
11 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a
12 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
13 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

14 100. In subjecting Plaintiffs to the wrongful treatment alleged herein, Defendants acted
15 willfully and maliciously with the intent to harm Plaintiffs and in conscious disregard for Plaintiffs'
16 rights so as to constitute malice and oppression under Civil Code section 3294. Plaintiffs are
17 therefore entitled to the recovery of punitive damages in a sum to be shown according to proof at
18 trial.

19 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

21 **(Against All Defendants)**

22 101. Plaintiffs repeat, re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all consistent
23 paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

24 102. Defendants had a business, service, or professional relationship with Plaintiffs,
25 namely, as providers of counseling services.

26 103. Defendant Grace intentionally, recklessly, and wantonly made sexual advances,
27 solicitations, requests, and demands for sexual compliance of a hostile nature based on Plaintiffs'
28 gender that were unwelcome, pervasive, and severe. The sexual harassment and assault included,

1 but was not limited to, Defendant Grace massaging, manipulating, and fondling Plaintiffs' bodies,
2 including Plaintiffs' genitals. These incidents of sexual assault occurred while Plaintiffs were
3 under the control of Defendant Sunrise and their agents, acting in their capacity as therapists,
4 counselors, mentors, advisors, and administrators on behalf of Defendants.

5 104. Because of Defendant Grace's position of authority over Plaintiffs, isolation from
6 their parents, impairment due to drugs, Plaintiffs' mental and emotional state, and Plaintiffs' young
7 age, Plaintiffs were unable to and did not give consent to such acts, nor were they able to easily end
8 the relationship with Defendants.

9 105. On information and belief, even though Defendants knew or should have known of
10 these activities by Defendant Grace, Defendants did nothing to investigate, supervise, or monitor
11 Defendant Grace to ensure the safety of minor children.

12 106. On information and belief, Defendants ratified and authorized Defendant Grace's
13 sexual assaults of Plaintiffs by (1) failing to discharge, dismiss, discipline, suspend and/or
14 supervise Defendant Grace after receiving notice that Defendant Grace was sexually assaulting
15 children, (2) actively shielding Defendant Grace from responsibility for her sexual assaults of
16 Plaintiffs, (3) failing to report complaints of sexual assaults to civil or criminal authorities, (4)
17 providing financial support to Defendant Grace after receiving at least one complaint for child
18 sexual assault against Defendant Grace, and (5) failing to take steps to timely remove Defendant
19 Grace from Defendant Sunrise's employ so as to prevent her from using her authority bestowed
20 upon her by Defendant Sunrise to gain access to minors and sexually assault them.

21 107. Defendants' conduct (and the conduct of their agents) was a breach of their duties to
22 Plaintiffs.

23 108. As a result of Defendants' multiple and continuous breaches, Plaintiffs have
24 suffered economic injury, all to Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential damage in an amount
25 to be proven at trial, but in no event less than the minimum jurisdictional amount of this Court.

26 109. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
27 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
28 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a

1 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
2 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

3 110. In subjecting Plaintiffs to the wrongful treatment alleged herein, Defendants acted
4 willfully and maliciously with the intent to harm Plaintiffs and in conscious disregard for Plaintiffs'
5 rights so as to constitute malice and oppression under Civil Code section 3294. Plaintiffs are
6 therefore entitled to the recovery of punitive damages in a sum to be shown according to proof at
7 trial.

8 111. Plaintiffs also seek appropriate statutory penalties pursuant to section 52 of the Civil
9 Code.

10 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
11 **GENDER VIOLENCE (CIV. CODE, § 52.4)**
12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 112. Plaintiffs repeat, re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all consistent
14 paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

15 113. California Civil Code section 52.4 provides a plaintiff with a private cause of action
16 for damages against any person who subjects another to "Gender Violence." Gender Violence
17 constitutes gender discrimination through either: (1) at least one act: (a) that would constitute a
18 criminal offense under state law that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of
19 physical force against the person or property of another, and (b) that was committed at least in part
20 based on the gender of the victim; or (2) a physical intrusion or physical invasion of a sexual nature
21 under coercive conditions.

22 114. Defendants committed gender violence in violation of section 52.4 as follows:
23 Defendant Grace sexually battered, sexually assaulted, molested, and otherwise sexually violated
24 Plaintiffs. Defendants aided and abetted Defendant Grace's crimes and sexual assaults of
25 Plaintiffs. On information and belief, they knowingly, intentionally, deliberately, willfully, and/or
26 recklessly disregarded complaints regarding Defendant Grace's sexual violence against young
27 children. In so doing, they fostered and facilitated the environment and impunity Defendant Grace
28 needed to sexually violate Plaintiffs.

1 115. Defendants conspired to sexually violate young children, including Plaintiffs. They
2 explicitly and/or implicitly agreed to perpetrate harmful and offensive contact between Defendant
3 Grace and Plaintiffs and otherwise create the hostile environment necessary for Defendant Grace to
4 sexually violate young children.

5 116. As a result of Defendants' multiple and continuous breaches, Plaintiffs have
6 suffered economic injury, all to Plaintiffs' general, special, and consequential damage in an amount
7 to be proven at trial, but in no event less than the minimum jurisdictional amount of this Court.

8 117. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to
9 suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional
10 distress, severe anxiety, depression, feelings of self-blame, hypervigilance, a lost sense of trust, a
11 sense of being tainted, and relationship and intimacy issues, and were prevented and will continue
12 to be prevented from performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life.

13 118. Defendants engaged in the conduct described herein with malice, oppression, and
14 fraud. Defendants intended to cause injury to Plaintiffs or otherwise engaged in the described
15 despicable conduct with a willful and conscious disregard for the rights or safety of numerous
16 vulnerable minor children. Defendants engaged in despicable conduct that subjected these minor
17 children, including Plaintiffs, to cruel and unjust hardship in disregard of their rights. Defendants
18 intentionally misrepresented, deceived, and/or concealed the true nature of Defendant Grace's
19 sexual violence with the intention of depriving these minor children, including Plaintiffs, of their
20 property and/or their legal right to be free from violence, and/or otherwise causing them injury.

21 119. Plaintiffs have incurred, and will continue to incur, attorneys' fees in the prosecution
22 of this action and therefore demand such reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as set by the court.

23 120. Pursuant to section 52.4 of the California Civil Code, Plaintiffs seek actual damages,
24 compensatory damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and all other appropriate relief.

25 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

26 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for the following relief against Defendants:

- 27 1. For past, present, and future general damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
28

- 1 2. For past, present, and future special damages, including but not limited to past,
- 2 present and future lost earnings, economic damages, and others in an amount to be determined at
- 3 trial;
- 4 3. For treble damages as a result of DOE 1's cover up, as authorized by Code of Civil
- 5 Procedure section 340.1(b)(1);
- 6 4. For any appropriate statutory damages;
- 7 5. For cost of suit;
- 8 6. For interest as allowed by law;
- 9 7. For any appropriate punitive damages;
- 10 8. For attorneys' fees pursuant to Civil Code section 52.4, or otherwise as allowable by
- 11 law; and
- 12 9. For such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.

14 DATED: July 27, 2020

GREENBERG GROSS LLP

15
16 By: *Deborah S. Mallgrave*
17 Deborah S. Mallgrave
Claire-Lise Y. Kutlay

18 JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES
19 Michael Reck
20 Michael G. Finnegan
Jennifer E. Stein

21 Attorneys for Plaintiffs JOHN DOE 7004; JOHN
22 DOE 7005; JANE DOE 7006; and JANE DOE
7007

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs John Doe **7004**, John Doe **7005**, Jane Doe **7006** and Jane Doe **7007** hereby demand a trial by jury in this matter.

DATED: July 27, 2020

GREENBERG GROSS LLP

By: 
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs JOHN DOE 7004; JOHN
DOE 7005; JANE DOE 7006; and JANE DOE
7007 _____