

Source: Jamieson & Robinson, LLC

**Aaron's Inc. Sued Over Computer Spyware Allegations,  
According to Jamieson & Robinson and Co-Counsel**

CASPER, Wyo., May 2, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- National retailer Aaron's Inc. and its franchisees use spyware to secretly monitor "rent-to-own" computer customers' private and personal electronic communications in violation of federal privacy and technology laws, a Wyoming couple alleged today in a class action lawsuit filed in federal court in Pittsburgh.

Brian Byrd and Crystal Byrd, of Casper, Wyo., allege the "rent-to-own" laptop computer they paid off ahead of schedule in October 2010 was mistakenly listed in default by Aaron's. The lawsuit asserts that an Aaron's representative wrongly appeared at the Byrd's home on Dec. 22, 2010 to repossess the computer and showed the family an unauthorized web-camera image of Brian Byrd using the computer at home. A subsequent investigation by local law enforcement confirmed the electronic surveillance by Aaron's management, the lawsuit alleges.

The Byrds are represented by Jamieson & Robinson, LLC, of Casper, Wyo.; HermanGerel LLP, of Atlanta; The Spence Law Firm, of Jackson, Wyo.; and Levin, Fishbein, Sedran and Berman, of Philadelphia.

The defendants include Aaron's Inc., of Atlanta, Aspen Way Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Aaron's Sales and leasing; and DesignerWare, LLC, of North East, Pa.

According to the Complaint, "It has been the practice and policy of the Aaron's Defendants to conceal from their customers their ability to remotely access, intercept and monitor customers' private, personal electronic communications, information, screen shots, keystrokes or images captured on webcams and to further disclose to consumers exactly the kinds of private information and images that can be and were routinely collected, transmitted and stored."

The legal team for the Byrds will seek to have the lawsuit certified as a class action to obtain injunctive relief and damages for affected Aaron's customers who have rented, leased, or leased with an option to buy, personal computers and/ or laptop computers.

The case is "Brian Byrd and Crystal Byrd, et al., v. Aaron's Inc., et al.," Civil No. [number] in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Consumers seeking more information about the litigation may call 800-791-7599 or send an email to [inquiries@hermangerel.com](mailto:inquiries@hermangerel.com). The web site for the lawsuit is at [www.webcamlawsuit.com](http://www.webcamlawsuit.com).

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