

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
ORNAGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO:

RYAN METZKER,

Plaintiff,

vs.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY,

Defendant.

---

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Ryan Metzker, ("Plaintiff"), sues Defendant, Ford Motor Company, ("Defendant"), and alleges:

1. This is an action for damages that exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), exclusive of interest, attorneys' fees, and costs.

2. At all times material hereto, Defendant was a corporation duly licensed to transact business in the State of Florida and maintained agents for transaction of its customary business in Orange County, Florida.

3. Defendant, Ford Motor Company, is in the business of manufacturing and selling motor vehicles including the F-250 truck.

4. On July 29, 2020, Ford, through its agent Brighton Ford in Brighton Michigan sold Plaintiff a model year 2020 F-250 truck.

5. On or about December 2, 2020, while traveling in the state of Florida, the subject F-250 truck suddenly caught fire due to a latent defect, endangering the lives of Plaintiff and his girlfriend, completely destroying the truck itself and destroying a great deal of personal property

inside the truck. Plaintiff also suffered disruption to his business and later physical injuries.

6. Plaintiff notified Defendant of the fire and his resulting damages.

7. On February 2, 2021, Defendant sent Plaintiff a letter denying liability for Plaintiff's claim.

### **COUNT I - PRODUCTS LIABILITY**

8. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1-7 and incorporates the same by reference herein.

9. Plaintiff's Ford F-250 truck was designed defectively causing it to have an unreasonable risk of igniting or exploding during normal and foreseeable conditions, making it unsafe for their intended use and unsafe for the public at large.

10. Plaintiff's Ford F-250 truck was manufactured defectively causing it to have an unreasonable risk of igniting or exploding during normal and foreseeable conditions, making it unsafe for its intended use and unsafe for the public at large.

11. Ford's F-250 trucks lacked adequate warnings to alert the public that they had an unreasonable risk of igniting or exploding during normal and foreseeable conditions, making them unsafe for Ford's customers and to the public at large.

12. The sudden ignition or explosion in Plaintiff's F-250 truck directly and proximately caused the fire that destroyed the truck itself, destroyed Plaintiff's personal property, and caused an interruption in Plaintiff's business, as well as later physical injuries to Plaintiff.

13. Plaintiff suffered damage in the form of the loss of his truck, the loss of his and his girlfriend's personal property as well as resulting expenses from renting a replacement truck and disruption to his business as a result of the loss of use of his truck and personal property. Plaintiff also suffered physical injuries following the accident and emotional damages as a result of the fire and of Ford's defective F-250 truck.

14. Defendant, Ford Motor Company, is strictly liable for the damage its product caused to Plaintiff under Florida's products liability laws.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, RYAN METZKER, demands judgement against Defendant, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, for strict products liability. Plaintiff demands compensatory damages, interest, attorney's fees, costs, and any other relief this Court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT II - NEGLIGENCE**

15. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1-14 and incorporates the same by reference herein.

16. Ford owed a duty of care to consumers of its F-250 trucks. This duty of care was especially important given the deadly injuries that can occur in motor vehicle accidents and the destruction of human life and property that can result from a fire, such as the fire in this case.

17. Ford breached that duty of care through its negligent design and/or manufacture of its F-250 trucks and/or through its failure to warn of the F-250 trucks' unreasonable risk of ignition or explosion during normal and foreseeable conditions.

18. Ford's breach of its duty of care caused Plaintiff's F-250 truck to have an unreasonable risk of igniting or exploding during normal and foreseeable conditions.

19. The ignition or explosion in Plaintiff's truck caused the fire that destroyed the truck and a great deal of Plaintiff's personal property.

20. Plaintiff suffered damage in the form of the loss of his truck, the loss of his and his girlfriend's personal property as well as resulting expenses from renting a replacement truck and disruption to his business as a result of the loss of use of his truck and personal property. Plaintiff also suffered physical injuries following the accident and emotional damages as a result of the fire and of Ford's negligence.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, RYAN METZKER, demands judgment against Defendant, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, for negligence. Plaintiff demands compensatory damages, interest, attorney's fees, costs, and any other relief this Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

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

Dated: May 28, 2021

/s/ Virginia Horton  
Virginia Horton, Esquire  
Fla. Bar No.: 1009690  
Chad A. Barr, Esquire  
Fla. Bar No.: 55365  
Chad Barr Law, P.A.  
238 N. Westmonte Dr., Suite 200  
Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714  
Telephone: (407) 599-9036  
service@chadbarrlaw.com (Primary)  
ginny@chadbarrlaw.com (Secondary)