

Jon & Kate Plus Summons and Complaint

By Reg P. Wydeven
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My mom subscribes to 'Us' magazine. My sister subscribes to 'People.' When they're done reading their celebrity periodicals, they swap. And then they give the magazines to my wife. I must admit that I occasionally peruse the magazines to find out why Tony Romo dumped Jessica Simpson or how Valerie Bertanelli lost all that weight. But each week I leaf through the magazines, I will undoubtedly come across a photograph of Jon Gosselin canoodling with a young woman or an article speculating that Kate Gosselin's bodyguard is doing more to her body than just guarding it.

Of course, since 2007 the Gosselins and their young twins and sextuplets are the stars of The Learning Channel's reality hit TV show 'Jon & Kate Plus 8.' The family from Wernersville, Pennsylvania, is a staple of celebrity magazines and TV shows. Their show exposed the rearing of their children on national TV, but also their problems, which subsequently snowballed and led to them filing for divorce. TLC has since retooled the show to focus on a single mom raising the children and has called it 'Kate Plus Eight' minus Jon.

The judge in divorce court ordered Jon to return \$180,000 in marital funds by Oct. 26. Additionally, Kate was instructed to provide an accounting of past expenses by the same date while an arbitrator reviews another \$55,000 she says she spent on household and child-related expenses.

While I certainly enjoy reading about celebrity dirt, especially when they have legal trouble, I had absolutely no interest in the Gosselins. Until now.

Last week the TLC network filed suit against Jon Gosselin for breach of contract in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland. TLC is seeking unspecified compensatory damages from Gosselin and demanding that he return income gained as a result from him breaching his contract. Additionally, the network is demanding that he refrain from violating his contractual obligations in the future.

TLC released a statement regarding the situation, asserting, "The network has been trying privately and patiently for months to get Jon to honor the contract he signed and to comply with his obligations relating to public appearances and statements," but "those efforts have been unsuccessful."

According to the suit, when the couple's marital problems began to escalate, TLC asked both Jon and Kate "to refrain from making public statements about each other, the divorce, or the program." TLC further alleges that Jon violated the exclusivity clause in his contract by entering into "a lucrative arrangement to appear regularly on 'Entertainment Tonight' and its companion show, 'The Insider,' to discuss his family and the problems he was having with Mrs. Gosselin, and he routinely sold photographic rights to various media outlets"

TLC asserts that it requested that Jon appear for six days of filming, but he never showed. Instead, according to TLC, Jon demanded to be released from his contract to pursue other opportunities while continuing to be paid by TLC.

When TLC denied Jon's request, he informed the network that he intended to prevent them from accessing the family property and filming his kids "on the grounds that it is purportedly detrimental to the children." TLC has complied with a judge's request that filming of the eight children be suspended.

It may have taken almost three years, but Jon finally said something that makes sense.