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6 *Attorneys for the Lodge Defendants (as*
7 *defined below)*

8 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

10 Juan-Carlos Preciado, et al.,
11 Plaintiffs
12 vs.
13 Great Wolf Lodge, et al.,
14 Defendants

No. 2:22-cv-01422-DLR
MOTION TO DISMISS
(Oral Argument Requested)

15 Defendants “Great Wolf Lodge,” whose true name is GWR Arizona LLC
16 (“Lodge”); “Soy Nuan,” whose true name is Say Moua; Isela Kerbaugh; Aaron Betz;
17 Sydney Doe; and Amy Johnson (together, “Lodge Defendants”) move to dismiss
18 Plaintiffs’ Complaint under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) for Plaintiffs’ failure to state a
19 claim upon which relief can be granted and Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(5) for Plaintiffs’
20 failure to serve the Lodge Defendants with sufficient process.

21 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

22 **I. INTRODUCTION**

23 Plaintiffs claim that the Lodge Defendants deprived Plaintiffs of property,
24 religion, expression, due-process, and equal-protection interests protected by the
25 First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and other
26 laws. As alleged by Plaintiffs, the Lodge Defendants violated these rights when the
27 Lodge Defendants insisted that Plaintiffs wear face masks complying with the
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1 Lodge’s company policies and when the Lodge Defendants made Plaintiffs leave the
2 Lodge after Plaintiffs insisted on wearing a Guy Fawkes mask and a face shield
3 instead.

4 For relief, Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment, a preliminary injunction,
5 over \$50,000 in compensatory damages, \$7,500,000 in punitive damages, as well as
6 fees and costs. (Complaint ¶¶ 337–44). Plaintiffs also demand that a grand jury be
7 empaneled to pursue criminal charges against the Defendants. (Complaint ¶¶ 345–
8 47).

9 Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted under
10 any of their six counts:

- 11 • **Counts 1 and 6:** Plaintiffs have failed to state claims for relief under 42
12 U.S.C. § 1983 because Plaintiffs failed to allege facts showing that the Lodge
13 Defendants (1) were acting under “color of state law” and (2) had deprived
14 Plaintiffs of any rights.
- 15 • **Counts 2 and 3:** Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim for relief under 42
16 U.S.C. § 1985 or a theory of common law conspiracy because Plaintiffs failed
17 to allege facts showing that the Lodge Defendants (1) were motivated by a
18 discriminatory purpose and (2) had deprived Plaintiffs of any rights.
- 19 • **Count 4:** Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim for relief under 42 U.S.C. §
20 2000a *et al.* for denial of service at a place of public accommodation because
21 Plaintiffs failed to allege facts showing that the Lodge Defendants would have
22 treated differently similarly situated customers who, unlike Plaintiffs, were not
23 of Mexican or Filipino national origin.
- 24 • **Count 5:** Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim for relief under a theory of
25 intentional infliction of emotional distress because Plaintiffs failed to allege
26 facts showing that (1) the Lodge Defendants behaved in an “extreme” or
27 “outrageous” manner, (2) the Lodge Defendants intentionally or recklessly

1 inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs, and (3) Plaintiffs’ emotional distress
2 was “severe.”¹

3 Finally, the demand for a grand jury should be dismissed as outside the scope
4 of a civil action.

5 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6 This case arises from Plaintiffs’ visit to the Lodge on March 2, 2021.
7 (Complaint ¶¶ 25, 46). The following are the material facts alleged by Plaintiffs as
8 they relate to that visit and the Lodge Defendants.

9 When Plaintiffs entered the indoor water park, Plaintiff Mr. Preciado was
10 wearing a Guy Fawkes mask (Complaint ¶¶ 55–56 and Exhibit C). The Lodge’s
11 Security Agent, Say Moua, approached Mr. Preciado and informed him that the Guy
12 Fawkes mask did not comply with the Lodge’s face-mask policy and that Mr.
13 Preciado would have to remove it. (*Id.* ¶¶ 57–58, 61). Mr. Preciado argued that the
14 Lodge’s face-mask policy only applied to the Lodge employees (*id.* ¶ 62) and asked
15 Mr. Moua to “leave [Mr. Preciado] alone” and to “stop harassing” him (*id.* ¶ 70).

16 Mr. Moua walked away (*id.* ¶ 72), but returned with SRPD Officer Laroche
17 (*id.* ¶ 74). Mr. Moua again told Plaintiffs that they needed to comply with the
18 Lodge’s face-mask policies. (*Id.* ¶ 76). Mr. Preciado continued to argue that the
19 Lodge’s face-mask policies did not apply to him (*id.* ¶¶ 77, 129–37) and added that
20 only the owner of the property was allowed to talk to Plaintiffs (*id.* ¶¶ 84, 113).
21 After Mr. Moua asked Mr. Preciado to affirm that Mr. Preciado would abide by the
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23 ¹ Plaintiffs entitle their fifth count, “Infliction of Emotional Stress.” (Complaint ¶¶
24 321–325). Because Plaintiffs’ allegations more closely track a cause of action for
25 intentional infliction of emotional distress than a cause of action for negligent
26 infliction of emotional distress, the Lodge assumes that Plaintiffs intended to bring
27 the former. If Plaintiffs intended the opposite, such a claim would fail for the
28 straightforward reason that Plaintiffs do not allege that they witnessed the injury to a
closely related person or that they were in the zone of danger and at risk of bodily
harm themselves. *See Pierce v. Casas Adobes Baptist Church*, 162 Ariz. 269, 272
(1989) (stating elements of cause of action for negligent infliction of emotional
distress).

1 Lodge’s mask policy, Mr. Preciado told Plaintiff Ms. Bautista-Preciado, “you know
2 what let’s go, we are leaving, cancel the trip, let’s get out of here.” (*Id.* ¶¶ 138, 140).

3 Plaintiffs then went to the reception desk to file a complaint against Mr.
4 Moua. (*Id.* ¶¶ 141–42). Responding to the complaint, the Lodge’s acting director
5 Isela Kerbaugh and another Lodge employee, Aaron Betz, approached Plaintiffs. (*Id.*
6 ¶¶ 143, 146). Ms. Kerbaugh confirmed that it was the Lodge’s right to insist that all
7 guests wear masks in compliance with the Lodge’s policies and that Mr. Preciado’s
8 Guy Fawkes mask did not comply. (*Id.* ¶¶ 147–49, 156–57). She also informed Ms.
9 Bautista-Preciado that Ms. Bautista-Preciado’s face shield did not comply either and
10 apologized if any Lodge employee had told Ms. Bautista-Preciado anything different.
11 (*Id.* ¶¶ 159, 165). After Ms. Bautista-Preciado responded that she and her husband
12 were exempt from the mask requirement and that what they were wearing was “the
13 most [they] could wear” (*id.* ¶ 166), Ms. Kerbaugh asked Plaintiffs to leave the
14 Lodge and told them that she would refund their money. (*Id.* ¶¶ 170–72). Plaintiffs
15 continued to argue (*id.* ¶¶ 173–202), and Ms. Kerbaugh eventually asked Mr. Betz to
16 call the police to escort Plaintiffs out (*id.* ¶¶ 203, 205).

17 At this point, Mr. Preciado left, but Ms. Bautista-Preciado returned to the
18 indoor water park to retrieve their belongings. (*Id.* ¶¶ 210–11). When she remained
19 there, Lodge employee Sydney Doe approached her and insisted that she leave. (*Id.* ¶
20 212). Ms. Doe escorted Ms. Bautista-Preciado to the lobby, (*id.* ¶ 219) where Officer
21 Laroche was waiting with another SRPD officer. (*Id.* ¶ 220). After Ms. Kerbaugh
22 gave Ms. Bautista-Preciado a receipt for their refund, (*id.* ¶ 224), Ms. Bautista-
23 Preciado made some final protests (*id.* ¶¶ 225–260), and then left the Lodge (*id.* ¶
24 261).

25 **III. LEGAL ARGUMENT**

26 Plaintiffs’ Complaint against the Lodge Defendants should be dismissed under
27 Rule 12(b)(6) for Plaintiffs’ failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted

1 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(5) for Plaintiffs’ failure to serve the Lodge Defendants with
2 sufficient process.

3 **A. Rule 12(b)(6) – Failure to State a Cognizable Claim**

4 To survive a 12(b)(6) motion, a complaint must contain factual allegations
5 sufficient to “raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” *Bell Atl. Corp. v.*
6 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007). While “a complaint need not contain detailed
7 factual allegations[,] it must plead ‘enough facts to state a claim to relief that is
8 plausible on its face.’” *Clemens v. DaimlerChrysler Corp.*, 534 F.3d 1017, 1022 (9th
9 Cir. 2008) (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). “In sum, for a complaint to survive a
10 motion to dismiss, the non-conclusory ‘factual content,’ and reasonable inferences
11 from that content, must be plausibly suggestive of a claim entitling the plaintiff to
12 relief.” *Moss v. U.S. Secret Serv.*, 572 F.3d 962, 969 (9th Cir. 2009). The plausibility
13 standard “asks for more than a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted
14 unlawfully.” *Id.*

15 Plaintiffs have failed to plead sufficient non-conclusory factual allegations to
16 state a plausible claim for relief under any of their six counts.

17 **1. Counts 1 and 6 – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

18 “To maintain an action under section 1983 against . . . individual defendants,
19 [a plaintiff] must . . . show: (1) that the conduct complained of was committed by a
20 person acting under the color of *state* law; and (2) that this conduct deprived them of
21 rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution or laws of the United
22 States.” *Pistor v. Garcia*, 791 F.3d 1104, 1114 (9th Cir. 2015) (quoting *Evans v.*
23 *McKay*, 869 F.2d 1341, 1347 (9th Cir. 1989)) (internal quotation marks omitted;
24 emphasis in original).

25 Plaintiffs failed to allege facts under Counts 1 and 6 that satisfy either
26 requirement.

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(a) Color of State Law

Nowhere do Plaintiffs allege that the Lodge Defendants were acting under color of *state* law. Plaintiffs allege that all the Defendants acted under color of the SRPMIC’s June 19, 2020 Local Emergency Declaration (Complaint ¶ 287). But a party acting under color of *tribal* law is not acting under color of *state* law for § 1983 purposes. *See, e.g., Pistor v. Garcia*, 791 F.3d 1104, 1114 (9th Cir. 2015) (holding “actions under section 1983 cannot be maintained in federal court for persons alleging a deprivation of constitutional rights under color of tribal law.”) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). Thus, Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim for relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On this basis alone Counts 1 and 6 of Plaintiffs’ Complaint should be dismissed.²

(b) Deprivation of Rights

Plaintiffs further failed to state a claim for relief under Counts 1 and 6 because Plaintiffs failed to allege facts to support plausible claims that they had been deprived of any rights.

For Count 1, Plaintiffs never identified any property or religious-liberty interests that Defendants allegedly deprived them of in violation of the Constitution’s Due Process and Equal Protection clauses. A party cannot be “deemed ‘entitled’ to something when the identity of the alleged entitlement is vague.” *Town of Castle Rock, Colo. v. Gonzales*, 545 U.S. 748, 763 (2005). For example, this Court recently granted a 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss a § 1983 claim where the plaintiff alleged that her rights to free speech, free exercise of religion, and equal protection were violated when her school district did not allow her to wear a graduation cap that she had augmented with traditional Native American beadwork and an eagle feather. *Waln v.*

² Plaintiffs would have failed to state a claim for relief even if a party could be liable under § 1983 when acting under color of *tribal* law because Plaintiffs’ allegation that Defendants were acting under color of the SRPMIC’s June 19, 2020 Local Emergency Declaration (Complaint ¶ 287) is conclusory. *See Moss*, 572 F.3d at 969.

1 *Dysart Sch. Dist.*, 522 F. Supp. 3d 560 (D. Ariz. 2021). The Court held that the free-
2 exercise theory of her claim failed because the plaintiff’s “Amended Complaint does
3 not demonstrate that wearing a beaded cap adorned with an eagle feather to a public
4 high school graduation ceremony was an actual ‘practice’ of [the plaintiff’s]
5 religion.” *Id.* at 605. Likewise, here, Plaintiffs’ alleged deprivation of their religious-
6 liberty interests cannot support their § 1983 claims where they fail to allege that it is
7 an actual practice of their religion to wear a Guy Fawkes mask or face shield instead
8 of the masks required by the Lodge. And Plaintiffs’ alleged deprivation of property
9 cannot support their § 1983 claim because Plaintiffs not only fail to identify any
10 property that they were deprived of, but the only property that could have been
11 reasonably inferred to have been lost when Plaintiffs were required to leave the
12 Lodge—i.e., the money Plaintiffs paid to enter the Lodge—was fully refunded.

13 For Count 6, the specific facts Plaintiffs allege—that Plaintiffs were required
14 to wear masks that complied with the Lodge’s policies—do not constitute a First
15 Amendment “freedom of expression” violation. The First Amendment’s speech
16 clause protects conduct only if it is “inherently expressive.” *See Rumsfeld v. Forum*
17 *for Acad. & Institutional Rights, Inc.*, 547 U.S. 47, 66 (2006). In the specific context
18 of masks, “an extensive line of federal cases has established that the choice to wear a
19 mask is not expressive conduct because ‘there are several non-political reasons why
20 one may not be wearing a mask at any given moment.’” *See Sehmel v. Shah*, 514
21 P.3d 1238, 1243 (Wash. Ct. App. 2022) (quoting *Stewart v. Justice*, 518 F. Supp. 3d
22 911, 919 (S.D. W. Va. 2021)) (citing cases).³ Likewise, here, Plaintiffs’ insistence
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24 ³ *Minnesota Voters All. v. Walz*, 492 F. Supp. 3d 822, 837 (D. Minn. 2020) (holding
25 mask requirement did not target conduct with a significant expressive element);
26 *Denis v. Ige*, 538 F. Supp. 3d 1063, 1079 (D. Haw. 2021) (same); *Justice*, 502 F.
27 Supp. 3d at 1066 (holding that not wearing a mask is not expressive because “failing
28 to wear a face covering would likely be viewed as inadvertent or unintentional, and
not as an expression of disagreement with the Governor.”); *Antietam Battlefield KOA*
v. Hogan, 461 F. Supp. 3d 214, 236 (D. Md. 2020) (“[E]specially in the context of
COVID-19, wearing a face covering would be viewed as a means of preventing the

1 on not wearing masks that complied with the Lodge’s mask policies does not, itself,
 2 communicate any message. Thus, Plaintiffs have failed to state a plausible claim for
 3 relief under Count 6.

4 **2. Count 2 – 42 U.S.C. § 1985**

5 To establish a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985 based on an alleged conspiracy to
 6 deprive persons of their rights or privileges, “the plaintiff must allege and prove four
 7 elements: (1) a conspiracy; (2) for the purpose of depriving, either directly or
 8 indirectly, any person or class of persons of the equal protection of the laws, or of
 9 equal privileges and immunities under the laws; and (3) an act in furtherance of the
 10 conspiracy; (4) whereby a person is either injured in his person or property or
 11 deprived of any right or privilege of a citizen of the United States.” *United Broth. of*
 12 *Carpenters & Joiners of Am., Local 610, AFL-CIO v. Scott*, 463 U.S. 825, 828–29
 13 (1983).

14 Plaintiffs failed to allege facts to plausibly establish the second
 15 (discriminatory purpose) and fourth (deprivation of rights) elements.

16 **(a) Discriminatory Purpose**

17 To satisfy the discriminatory-purpose element of a § 1985 claim, a plaintiff
 18 must show “some racial, or perhaps otherwise class-based, invidiously discriminatory
 19 animus behind the conspirators’ action.” *Griffith v. Breckenridge*, 403 U.S. 88, 102
 20 (1971).

21 Here, Plaintiffs allege no specific facts to support their conclusory allegation
 22 that “[t]he discriminatory animus was that the employees working for the (GWL)
 23 were a Sovereign class and the Plaintiffs were not.” (Complaint ¶ 308).⁴ Plaintiffs
 24

25 spread of COVID-19, not as expressing any message.”).

26 ⁴By “a Sovereign class,” Plaintiffs seem to be alleging that the Lodge’s employees
 27 are members of the SRPMIC. (See Complaint ¶¶ 297, 302, 307, 308). None of the
 28 Lodges’ employee defendants are members of SRPMIC. But to avoid the need to
 treat this motion as a motion for summary judgment, the Lodge Defendants do not
 rely on this reality to overcome Plaintiffs’ Complaint.

1 seem to be alleging that the Lodge’s employees denied Plaintiffs service because
2 Plaintiffs are “non-tribe members.” (See Complaint ¶¶ 301–302). These allegations
3 are not only insufficient to support Plaintiffs’ claims because they are conclusory,
4 they are also belied by the specifically alleged fact that LODGE Defendants were,
5 and only ever claimed to be, implementing the LODGE’s mask policies. (See
6 Complaint ¶¶ 38, 61, 76, 102, 105, 112, 128, 165, 176, 198, 230, 251). Plaintiffs
7 make no factual allegation from which to reasonably infer that Defendants were
8 motivated by Plaintiffs’ status as “non-tribe members.” On this basis alone Count 2
9 of Plaintiffs’ Complaint should be dismissed.

10 **(b) Deprivation of Rights**

11 Plaintiffs claim that as a result of the alleged conspiracy between the
12 Defendants, Plaintiffs were deprived “of the equal protection, equal privileges, and
13 immunities as guaranteed by the constitution and laws of the United States and the
14 State of Arizona” as well as Plaintiffs’ “constitutionally protected rights of property
15 and freedom of conscience.” (Complaint ¶¶ 303–04). These are the same injuries
16 alleged in Counts 1 and 6. Thus, for the same reasons explained [above](#), Plaintiffs
17 have failed to state a plausible claim for damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1985, and
18 therefore, Count 2 should be dismissed.

19 **3. Count 3 – Common Law Conspiracy**

20 “For a civil conspiracy to occur two or more people must [1] agree to
21 accomplish [2] an unlawful purpose or to accomplish a lawful object [3] by unlawful
22 means, [4] causing damages.” *Wells Fargo Bank v. Arizona Laborers, Teamsters &*
23 *Cement Masons Local No. 395 Pension Trust Fund*, 201 Ariz. 474, 498 (2002).
24 These are essentially the same elements of a conspiracy claim under 42 U.S.C. §
25 1985. See *United Broth. of Carpenters & Joiners of Am., Local 610, AFL-CIO*, 463
26 U.S. at 828–29. Accordingly, Count 3 should be dismissed for the same reasons that
27 Count 2 should be dismissed, see [above](#).

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4. Count 4 – 42 U.S.C § 2000a et al.

To state a claim under Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000a et al.) for denial of service at a place of public accommodation, a plaintiff must show: “(1) he is a member of a protected class, (2) he attempted to contract for services and afford himself of the full benefits and enjoyment of a public accommodation, (3) he was denied the full benefits or enjoyment of a public accommodation, and (4) that such services were available to similarly situated persons outside his protected class who received full benefits or were treated better.” *Dragonas v. Macerich*, CV-20-01648-PHX-MTL, 2021 WL 3912853, at *4 (D. Ariz. Sept. 1, 2021) (citing *Crumb v. Orthopedic Surgery Med. Grp.*, No. 07-CV-6114-GHK-PLAx, 2010 WL 11509292, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 18, 2010), aff’d, 479 F. App’x 767 (9th Cir. 2012)).

Here, Plaintiffs fail to allege facts establishing the fourth element—that the services denied them “were available to *similarly situations persons* outside [their] protected class who received full benefits or were treated better.” *See id.* (emphasis added). But Plaintiffs fail to allege that the Lodge treated non-Mexican and non-Filipino customers who also refused to comply with the Lodge’s mask policy different than the Lodge treated Plaintiffs. Therefore, Plaintiffs have failed to state a plausible claim for relief under 42 U.S.C. § 2000a et al., and Count 4 should be dismissed.

5. Count 5 – Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

A claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress under Arizona law has three elements: (1) “the conduct by the defendant must be ‘extreme’ and ‘outrageous,’” (2) “the defendant must either intend to cause emotional distress or recklessly disregard the near certainty that such distress will result from his conduct,” and (3) “severe emotional distress must indeed occur as a result of defendant's conduct.” *Citizen Publ’g Co. v. Miller*, 210 Ariz. 513, 516, ¶ 11 (2005).

1 Plaintiffs have failed to plead facts plausibly establishing any of these three
2 elements.

3 (a) “Extreme” and “Outrageous”

4 Subjecting another person to “mere insults, indignities, threats, annoyances,
5 petty oppressions, or other trivialities” does not amount to “extreme” or “outrageous”
6 behavior. *See Davis v. First Nat’l Bank of Ariz.*, 124 Ariz. 458, 461 (App. 1979)
7 (quoting RESTATEMENT (SECOND) OF TORTS § 46 cmt. d). To rise to that
8 level, a defendant’s conduct must “go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to
9 be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community . . . in
10 which . . . an average member of the community would . . . exclaim, ‘Outrageous!’”
11 *Ford v. Revlon, Inc.*, 153 Ariz. 38, 43 (1987) (quoting RESTATEMENT (SECOND)
12 OF TORTS § 46 cmt. d).

13 The Lodge Defendants’ alleged conduct does not rise to that level. Plaintiffs
14 allege that the Lodge Defendants “callously identif[ied] themselves as superior
15 people in a Sovereign class, above the law of the United States” and “humiliated,
16 shamed, scoffed, threatened, coerced, and ultimately denied [Plaintiffs] service.”
17 (Complaint ¶¶ 322, 324). These allegations cannot plausibly establish the “extreme”
18 and “outrageous” element for three independent reasons. First, they are conclusory.
19 *See Moss*, 572 F.3d at 969. Second, even if it is accepted as true that the Lodge
20 employees had “humiliated, shamed, scoffed [at], [or] threatened” Plaintiffs, this is
21 the precisely the kind of conduct that has been held not to constitute “extreme” or
22 “outrageous” conduct. *See Davis*, 124 Ariz. at 461. Third, it is not plausible that the
23 “average member of the community would . . . exclaim, ‘Outrageous!’,” when
24 learning of Plaintiffs’ allegations that the Lodge Defendants made Plaintiffs leave the
25 Lodge because Plaintiffs refused to abide by the Lodge’s generally applicable mask
26 policy. *See Ford*, 153 Ariz. at 43.

27 On this basis alone Counts 5 of Plaintiffs’ Complaint should be dismissed.

1 **(b) Intentional or Reckless Conduct**

2 “This [intentional or reckless conduct] element is satisfied where the
3 wrongdoer has the specific purpose of inflicting emotional distress or where he
4 intended his specific conduct and knew or should have known that emotional distress
5 would likely result.” *Pankratz v. Willis*, 155 Ariz. 8, 13 (App. 1987) (brackets in
6 original; citation omitted).

7 Here, Plaintiffs do not allege that the Lodge Defendants “knew or should have
8 known that emotional distress would likely result” from their conduct. Instead,
9 Plaintiffs allege that the Lodge and its employees knew or should have known “the
10 duties we each have towards one another as members of society with different
11 beliefs, customs, usages, and practice.” (Complaint ¶ 321). Thus, Plaintiffs have
12 failed to allege a plausible claim for relief on theory of intentional infliction of
13 emotional distress under Arizona law.

14 On this basis, too, Count 5 of Plaintiffs’ Complaint should be dismissed.

15 **(c) “Severe” Emotional Distress**

16 To establish a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress, it is not
17 enough for a defendant to causes a plaintiff any modicum of emotional distress—the
18 emotional distress must be “severe.” *Midas Muffler Shop v. Ellison*, 133 Ariz. 194,
19 198–99 (App. 1982) (“The courts have also uniformly insisted that the emotional
20 distress suffered be severe. ‘[A] line of demarcation should be drawn between
21 conduct likely to cause mere ‘emotional distress’ and that causing “severe emotional
22 distress”’”) (brackets in original; citation omitted). Severe emotional distress
23 generally manifests itself physically. *See id.* at 199 (citing for “[e]xamples of
24 emotional distress considered severe by the courts”: plaintiffs suffering a heart attack,
25 nervous exhaustion, premature labor, “writhing in bed in a state of extreme shock and
26 hysteria,” headaches, incapacitating anxiety, and a multiple sclerosis relapse).

27 Plaintiffs do not allege that they suffered any severe emotional distress as the
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1 actual result of the Lodge’s conduct. The only distress Plaintiffs allege that plausibly
2 rises to the level of “severe” was the result of Plaintiffs’ decision to file this lawsuit.
3 (Complaint ¶ 323) (“Plaintiffs have had to digest a lifetime’s worth of legal
4 knowledge which have caused expense that were not scheduled, sleep loss, weight
5 gain, and other physical symptomatology due to the mental and emotional distress
6 caused by Defendants’ negligent actions.”).

7 Count 5 should be dismissed for this third reason as well.

8 **B. Rule 12(b)(5) – Insufficient Service of Process**

9 Plaintiffs, through a US Marshall, hand delivered process for the Lodge
10 Defendants to Stephanie Baker, (Doc. 20 at 1–5), who is the Director of Guest
11 Services for the Lodge and employed by the Great Lakes Services, LLC, the
12 management company that manages the Lodge. Stephanie Baker was not authorized
13 to accept service of process for any of the Lodge Defendants under either Rule 4(e)
14 or Rule 4(h). Thus, Plaintiffs’ entire Complaint against the Lodge Defendants should
15 also be dismissed under Rule 12(b)(5) for insufficient service of process.

16 **IV. CONCLUSION**

17 For the foregoing reasons Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim on which relief
18 can be granted on any of the six counts of Plaintiffs Complaint. Therefore, the Lodge
19 Defendants request that Plaintiffs’ Complaint against them be dismissed.

20
21 Dated this 14th day of October, 2022.

22 JENNINGS, STROUSS & SALMON, P.L.C.

23
24 By s/ Jay A. Fradkin

Jay A. Fradkin

Alexander J. Egbert

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Attorneys for Lodge Defendants

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERRAL

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Defendants “Great Wolf Lodge,” whose true name is GWR Arizona LLC (“Lodge”); “Soy Nuan,” whose true name is Say Moua; Isela Kerbaugh; Aaron Betz; Sydney Doe; and Amy Johnson (together “Lodge Defendants”) certify through undersigned counsel that they provided written notice to Plaintiffs in compliance with this Court’s Order (Doc. 19) and LRCiv 12.1(c). Plaintiffs provided neither their phone numbers nor email addresses with their Complaint and Summons. The only contact information Plaintiffs provided was the following:

Juan-Carlos Preciado and Bianca Bautista-Preciado
In Care of 3280 East Milky Way
Gilbert, Arizona 85295

Accordingly, on October 13, 2022, the Lodge Defendants hand delivered a letter at the indicated address to a Roselyn Parks, who answered the door and signed for the letter. The letter included a draft copy of the above Motion to Dismiss and requested that Plaintiffs contact undersigned counsel to confer in good faith and determine whether the motion can be avoided. Plaintiffs have not responded.

DATED this 14th day of October, 2022.

JENNINGS, STROUSS & SALMON, P.L.C.

By s/ Jay A. Fradkin
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on _____, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk’s Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following CM/ECF registrants:

I hereby certify that on October 14, 2022, I served the attached document by mail on the following, who are not registered participants of the CM/ECF System:

Juan-Carlos Preciado
Bianca Bautista-Preciado
3280 East Milky Way
Gilbert, Arizona 85298

 s/ Vickie E. Aragon