

This is a **Legal Notice** Regarding a Class Action that may affect your rights. Please read it carefully.

Dear Potential Class Member:

The Court is writing to inform you of a lawsuit entitled Sims v. Allstate Ins. Co., No. 99-L-393A, which is now pending in the Circuit Court for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County, Illinois. Notice of this lawsuit is given to inform you of the Court's decision to certify a class, the nature of plaintiffs' claims, and your right to participate in or exclude yourself from the lawsuit.

This case was brought by Michael and Tiffany Sims, who have been appointed by the Court to function as representatives of the Plaintiff Class. They filed a claim under the collision provision of their policy. They allege that Allstate should have paid compensation for "inherent diminished value" which is the difference between a car's undamaged pre-accident market value and its value after it has been damaged and fully repaired. They allege that Allstate's failure to pay for this loss in value constitutes a breach of its insurance policies with them and the Members of the Class, and they seek compensatory damages on behalf of themselves and the Members of the Class. Allstate denies their allegations and contends that its policies limit Allstate's obligations to the "cost of repair" and that any claim is subject to the policies' appraisal and inspection provisions. The Court's class certification Order does not decide the merits of Plaintiffs' claims or Allstate's defenses; Plaintiffs, instead, will be required to prove their claims at trial.

You were sent this notice because you were identified from Allstate's records as likely to be a member of the class. However, there has been no determination as to whether your claim involved the type of damage described in sub-part (b) below. You are only a member of the Class if:

- 1) you were insured under an Allstate Insurance Company motor vehicle insurance policy that provided comprehensive or collision (first-party) coverage; 2) you submitted a claim for property damage to an insured automobile under your collision or comprehensive coverages since January 1, 1996; 3) your policy was issued for Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin or Wyoming; and 4) on your claim:
 - (a) the repair estimate, including supplements, totaled at least \$1,000.00; and
 - (b) the claim involved at least one of the following types of vehicle damage:
 1. Structural and/or Frame Damage; or,
 2. Deformed Sheet Metal; and,
 - (c) the vehicle was no more than six years old (model year plus five years) and had less than 90,000 miles on it at the time of the accident.

However, even if you fit within the above criteria, you are not a member of the class if at the time your accident occurred your vehicle was leased, your vehicle was declared a total loss, you made a claim and received compensation for "inherent diminished value," you had a policy which expressly excluded coverage for inherent diminished value, you were insured under a policy issued in the involuntary (assigned risk) market, or you were employed by Allstate.

Class Counsel have been appointed by the Court to represent the interests of the Class. Class Counsel include: **Judy Cates, John Hoffman** and **Troy Doles** of Carr, Korein, Tillery, Kunin, Montroy, Cates & Glass, LLC, **Ron Parry** of Parry, Deering, Futscher & Sparks, and **Michael Hyman, William London** and **Melinda Morales** of Much Shelist Freed Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, P.C. You will not be charged for Class Counsel's services and need not pay anything to participate in this lawsuit. Instead, if they obtain recovery for the Class, Class Counsel (and other counsel working for the Class) may apply to the Court for payment of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs by Allstate out of any funds recovered before distribution of the net proceeds to the Class. (Additional counsel are also working on this matter on behalf of all Class Members and will share in any fee that may be awarded by the Court, but have yet to be appointed "Class Counsel" by the Court.) You have the right to hire your own attorney. If you do so, you will be responsible for paying that attorney's fee. You also have the right to seek to intervene or appear in the action with the Court's permission.

To remain a Class Member, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME. No money has yet been recovered. As a Class Member, you will be notified of any recovery, will be bound by all orders and judgments of the Court, and your claims will be terminated by the judgment in this case. If you wish to exclude yourself from the Class, you must complete and mail an "EXCLUSION REQUEST" form which is attached hereto for your convenience. The "EXCLUSION REQUEST" must be post-marked no later than January 15, 2002, and addressed to:

Sims v. Allstate Ins. Co.
Plaintiffs' Class Counsel
P. O. Box 1903
Peoria, IL 61656-1903

You may also obtain an "EXCLUSION REQUEST" form by visiting the website at www.allstatediminishedvalue.com. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you cannot participate in any recovery for the Class, and you will not be bound by any Court orders or judgments.

Participation in the lawsuit will not be grounds for termination of your Allstate insurance policy. The law prohibits any company from retaliating or singling out any individual for the act of participating in a certified class action.

Plaintiffs and Defendant are currently preparing for trial, although no trial date is presently scheduled. While preparing for trial, both parties will discover and gather the evidence they will present at trial. To learn of any developments in the litigation between now and the trial of this matter, you can and should periodically log onto the website at www.allstatediminishedvalue.com or call the toll-free number which will be regularly updated with information regarding the status of the Class definition and the litigation. If you do not periodically access these information sources, you may miss the opportunity to learn of significant developments in this case.

If you have questions regarding this litigation, you may write to Plaintiffs' Class Counsel at the above address, call 1-888-805-5659, or visit the website at www.allstatediminishedvalue.com. PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR WRITE THE CLERK OR THE COURT.

Dated: September 20, 2001

THE HONORABLE LLOYD CUETO
Circuit Court Judge

Sims v. Allstate Insurance Company

EXCLUSION REQUEST

The undersigned does not desire to remain a member of the Plaintiff Class certified in this case. By signing this "Exclusion Request" form, the undersigned acknowledges that s/he will be excluded from the Class pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-804(b).