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STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL SUES LOCAL CAR-KIT FIRM

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Thomas Gregorski thought he had a deal.

For \$11,413, **Classic Motor Carriages** of North Dade would send him a kit with all the parts he'd need to build a 1960s- style black Cobra sports car. All he'd need to hit the road was an engine, steering wheel and a few extra parts. But 15 months after the Raleigh, N.C., man answered **Classic's** magazine ad, the Cobra sits partially assembled in his driveway.

He says **Classic** hasn't sent him supplies since November and owes him about \$4,800 in parts.

"I want my \$4,800 back so I can buy the material to finish the kit," Gregorski said Monday. "It's obvious they can't deliver."

The Florida Attorney General's office agreed.

Monday it filed the third lawsuit in less than 10 years against **Classic**, its affiliates in Dade and Broward and company officers. The company markets car assembly kits nationwide.

The civil suit, filed in Dade Circuit Court, charges the company with deceptive trade practices and civil theft.

The state seeks fines that could total nearly \$400,000 and refunds for Gregorski and some 39 other consumers around the country. None of the customers are from South Florida.

Ed Shohat, a Miami attorney representing the company, denied any wrongdoing by **Classic**.

"They've been doing business for years and have many satisfied and happy customers," Shohat said.

He wouldn't respond to specific allegations in the suit. But he acknowledged the company has had problems with back orders: "If anything has happened, it's not through any kind of misdeeds or malfeasance on the part of this company."

Named in the suit were GGL Industries, which does business as **Classic Motor Carriages** and Fiberfab International. Also named in the suit were corporate officers Benedict Harrington of Pembroke Pines, George Levin of Fort Lauderdale and Thomas Delucca and Steve Levin, both of Dade. The company has offices in Miami and Boca Raton.

Most motorists who drive the Palmetto Expressway are familiar with **Classic**. An antique car sits atop its building just south of the expressway at Northwest 166th Street and 27th Avenue.

The company signed agreements with the state in 1985 and 1992 following similar complaints about its operations.

"Many consumers who paid \$9,000 to \$15,000 for kits did not receive all necessary parts in the promised time or received defective parts," Attorney General Bob Butterworth said in a statement. "Consumers were unable to obtain refunds and their complaints were largely ignored by the company."

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