



## Restoration Ruckus

### GENERAL FACTS:

Jordan is a car enthusiast with a hobby and side business of fixing up and selling cars, especially classic cars from the muscle car era of the 1960s and 70s. This has grown from a weekend hobby into a modest but steady stream of income and has built Jordan a reputation for high-quality restoration in the Arizona classic car community.

Morgan lives with their parents in the same neighborhood as Jordan. Morgan is attending the local Community College and shares an interest in cars but is less experienced in the technical aspects of car restoration. Over time, Morgan and Jordan have become friends and Morgan has helped with basic work on various car projects, usually just for the sheer enjoyment of learning, working on cool cars, and spending time with Jordan.

Several months ago, Jordan bought a 1969 Ford Mustang that needed extensive work. Jordan planned to work on the car for about a year in their garage and then sell it, fully restored, at the Cactus and Chrome Classic Car Show, a major car show that brings classic car owners, enthusiasts, and buyers to the area each year.

Jordan wanted to do the restoration themselves both to save money and know that everything was done correctly, however, Jordan quickly realized that getting the car done in time for the car show was going to be challenging. Jordan offered Morgan \$250 per weekend to help with the Mustang. Morgan had helped Jordan out on projects in the past, but generally just with small tasks around the garage, cleaning, and doing basic parts of restoration projects. Morgan was very excited to work on this car, and it was their first time getting paid to work on a car. The pair discussed the tasks to be done, the timeline, and payment and came to a verbal agreement on the job.

Jordan had Morgan help sand the car's bodywork to prepare it for painting and to assist in priming the car. Additionally, Morgan was tasked with installing new interior components, including the dashboard, electronics, and seats.

Jordan provided specific instructions and believed that the tasks assigned to Morgan were straightforward and within Morgan's capability, Jordan expected a high level of attention to detail based on Morgan's care for cars and work ethic. Jordan provided the tools, materials,

workspace, and safety equipment. Jordan was usually present in the garage, but sometimes after explaining or demonstrating a task would leave Morgan to work on the car alone.

After six weekend work sessions, the restoration was nearly complete. Jordan sent Morgan \$1500 on Venmo and thanked them for the help. Later, Jordan was in the garage looking at the car and became quite upset about the status of the car. Upon inspecting the work, Jordan noticed the following issues:

- **Exterior Finish:** The sanding appeared uneven, leading to a rough texture in certain areas. The primer coat applied by Morgan showed visible streaks and bubbles, which could impact the final paint job.
- **Interior Installation:** The dashboard and electronics were improperly aligned, with gaps and loose fittings that detracted from the overall appearance of the interior. Additionally, one of the new seats had minor damage to the leather, which Jordan suspects Morgan caused.

Jordan believes that these imperfections compromise the car's aesthetic appeal, will be noticeable to potential buyers, and consequently will lower its market value. To rectify the issues, Jordan will need to re-sand and re-prime the car's body and reinstall the dash and electronics as well as treat the seats where they were scratched. Because the job must now be rushed for the car to be ready for the upcoming show, Jordan estimates that the cost to do so will be around \$3500.

Jordan called and demanded Morgan return the \$1500 paid and cover the estimated \$3500 needed to fix the mistakes. Morgan, shocked by the demands and believing them to be unreasonable, refused. The conversation escalated into an argument, no agreement was reached, and Jordan threatened to take Morgan to court. One of Morgan's parents, an attorney, agreed to set up a mediation session between the two in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

### Claims by Jordan

- Jordan asserts that the work performed by Morgan was substandard, resulting in visible imperfections in the car's exterior finish and poorly installed interior parts.
- Jordan claims that these issues have significantly reduced the car's market value and now feels compelled to either rework the affected areas at an additional cost or sell the car at a loss.
- Jordan is seeking \$5,000 compensation from Morgan for the faulty work, perceived loss in value, and potential repair costs.

### Defense by Morgan

- Morgan contends that the work performed was done to the best of their ability and meets the standard expected for such tasks.
- Morgan believes that any imperfections are minor, typical for the restoration process on an old car, and that they should not have a significant impact on the car's overall value.

- Morgan asserts that they followed Jordan's instructions closely and that any dissatisfaction with the work might stem from Jordan's instructions, unrealistic expectations, or the inherent challenges of restoring an older car.
- Morgan feels that they should not be held financially responsible for the alleged decrease in the car's value or for the cost of redoing the job.