
<p>KAREN STIWINTER, <i>et al.</i>, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Plaintiffs,</i></p> <p>v.</p> <p>ASHEVILLE ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOPOROSIS CENTER P.A.,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Defendant.</i></p>	<p>Case No.: 24-CVS-208570-100</p> <p>Hon. Judge Michael L. Robinson</p>
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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement¹ is entered into between Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Settlement Class, and Defendant, as of the date last signed below. The Parties hereby agree to the following terms in full settlement of the Action, subject to a Final Approval Order entered by the Court.

I. Procedural History

1. Defendant is a full-service rheumatology practice with adult and pediatric patients that operates in and around Asheville, North Carolina. In the course of operating its business, Defendant collects, maintains, and stores information pertaining to its current and former patients, including personally identifiable information and protected health information, such as name, address, date of birth, telephone number, Social Security number, and certain medical information such as medical notes, lab results, diagnosis and health insurance information.

2. On or about May 22, 2024, Defendant detected that it was the target of a cyberattack on its systems. Defendant's investigation found no evidence that patient information had not been

¹ All capitalized terms herein shall have the same meanings as those defined in Section II herein.

specifically misused but that it was possible that patients' name, address, date of birth, telephone number, social security number, and certain medical information such as medical notes, lab results, diagnosis, and health insurance information could have been exposed. Defendant's investigation also found that an unauthorized third party obtained certain employee files which may have contained employees' full name, mailing address, Social Security number, taxpayer identification number, bank account number, and digital signature.

3. On or about September 20, 2024, Defendant began notifying individuals about the incident. It sent letters to 58,521 individuals.

4. As a result, on October 11, 2024, Plaintiff Stiwinter filed a complaint against Defendant in the Superior Court of Buncombe County, North Carolina, asserting several causes of action related to its role in the Data Incident. Case No. 24-CVS-208570-100.

5. On May 22, 2025, the parties filed a Designation of Mediator in Superior Court Civil Action. In preparation for mediation, Plaintiffs consulted with damage and liability experts and propounded informal discovery requests on Defendant. Defendant responded by providing information related to, among other things, the nature and cause of the incident, the number and geographic location of victims impacted by the Data Incident, and the specific type of information breached.

6. On June 5, 2025, an amended complaint was filed, adding Plaintiff Norman to this action and asserting claims of negligence, negligence *per se*, breach of implied contract, breach of fiduciary duty, unjust enrichment, as well as seeking declaratory and injunctive relief.

7. On July 3, 2025, mediation was held before experienced data breach class action mediator Hon. Wayne Anderson (Ret.) of JAMS. The case did not settle during the mediation session, but after continuing negotiations over the next several days, the Parties reached an

agreement in principle on the material terms of the Settlement.

8. The Parties now agree to settle the Action entirely, without any admission of liability or wrongdoing, with respect to all Released Claims of the Releasing Parties. Defendant has entered into this Agreement to resolve all controversies and disputes arising out of or relating to the allegations made in the Complaint, and to avoid the litigation costs and expenses, distractions, burden, expense, and disruption to its business operations associated with further litigation. Defendant does not in any way acknowledge, admit to, or concede any of the allegations made in the operative Complaint, and expressly disclaims and denies any fault or liability, or any charges of wrongdoing that have been or could have been asserted in the Complaint. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be used or construed as an admission of liability, and this Agreement shall not be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding in any court or other forum as an admission or concession of liability or wrongdoing of any nature or for any other purpose other than to enforce the terms of this Agreement. Plaintiffs have entered into this Agreement to recover on the claims asserted in the Complaint, and to avoid the risk, delay, and uncertainty of continued litigation. Plaintiffs do not in any way concede that the claims alleged in the Complaint lack merit or are subject to any defenses. The Parties intend this Agreement to bind Plaintiffs, Defendant, and all Settlement Class Members.

NOW, THEREFORE, in light of the foregoing, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree, subject to approval by the Court, as follows.

II. Definitions

9. “**Action**” means the class action lawsuit entitled *Stiwinter v. Asheville Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, P.A.*, Case No. 24-CVS-208570-100 (N.C. Sup. Ct., Buncombe Cnty.).

10. “**Agreement**” or “**Settlement**” or “**Settlement Agreement**” means this settlement and agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendant and all exhibits hereto.

11. “**Application for Attorneys’ Fees, Costs and Service Awards**” means the application made with the Motion for Final Approval seeking Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and costs, and Service Awards for the Class Representatives.

12. “**Cash Payment**” means compensation paid to Settlement Class Members who submitted a Claim and elected either Cash Payment A – Documented Losses or Cash Payment B – Alternative Cash Payment.

13. “**Cash Payment A – Documented Losses**” means the Settlement Class Member Benefit consisting of a maximum payment of \$5,000.00, that Settlement Class Members, who incurred documented losses, may elect pursuant to Section IV herein.

14. “**Cash Payment B – Alternative Cash Payment**” means the Settlement Class Member Benefit consisting of an estimated \$100.00 cash payment that Settlement Class Members may elect under Section IV herein, subject to a *pro rata* increase or decrease as set forth in Paragraph 65 below.

15. “**Claim**” means the submission of a Claim Form by a Claimant for Settlement Class Member Benefits.

16. “**Claim Form**” means the proof of claim, substantially in the form attached hereto as *Exhibit 3*, which may be modified, subject to the Parties’ approval, to meet the requirements of the Settlement Administrator.

17. “**Claim Form Deadline**” shall be 15 days before the initial scheduled Final Approval Hearing and is the last day by which a Claim Form may be submitted to the Settlement Administrator for a Settlement Class Member to be eligible for a Cash Payment.

18. “**Claimant**” means an individual who submits a Claim Form.
19. “**Claims Process**” means the process by which Claimants may submit Claim Forms online at the Settlement Website or by mail to the Settlement Administrator, including the procedure to approve or reject Claims.
20. “**Class Counsel**” means Kenneth Grunfeld of Kopelowitz Ostrow P.A. and Tyler J. Bean of Siri & Glimstad LLP.
21. “**Class List**” means a list of Settlement Class Members’ full names, current addresses, and last known telephone numbers (if available), as reflected in Defendant’s records, that Defendant shall prepare and provide to the Settlement Administrator following Preliminary Approval.
22. “**Class Representatives**” means the Plaintiffs the Court approves to serve as representatives of the Settlement Class.
23. “**Complaint**” means the First Amended Class Action Complaint filed by Plaintiffs on June 5, 2025.
24. “**Court**” shall mean the Honorable Judge Michael L. Robinson of the Business Court for Buncombe County, North Carolina.
25. “**Data Incident**” means the cybersecurity incident involving the Defendant resulting in the unauthorized access to or acquisition of Settlement Class Members’ Private Information discovered on May 22, 2024.
26. “**Defendant**” means Asheville Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, P.A., the defendant in this Action.
27. “**Defendant’s Counsel**” means Justin J. Boron of Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP and Bailey King of Bradley, Arant, Boult, Cummings, LLP.

28. “**Effective Date**” means the day after the entry of the Final Approval Order, provided there are no objections to the Settlement. If there are objections to the Settlement, then the Effective Date shall be the later of (a) 30 days after entry of the Final Approval Order if no appeals are taken from the Final Approval Order; or (b) if appeals are taken from the Final Approval Order, then the earlier of 30 days after the last appellate court ruling affirming the Final Approval Order or 30 days after the entry of a dismissal of the appeal.

29. “**Escrow Account**” means the interest-bearing account to be established by the Settlement Administrator consistent with the terms and conditions described herein.

30. “**Final Approval**” means the final approval of the Settlement, which occurs when the Court enters the Final Approval Order.

31. “**Final Approval Hearing**” means the hearing held before the Court during which the Court will consider granting Final Approval of the Settlement and the Application for Attorneys’ Fees, Costs and Service Awards.

32. “**Final Approval Order**” means the final order the Court enters granting Final Approval of the Settlement. The proposed Final Approval Order shall be in a form agreed upon by the Parties and shall be substantially in the form attached as an exhibit to the Motion for Final Approval. Final Approval Order also includes the orders, which may be entered separately, determining the amount of attorneys’ fees and costs awarded to Class Counsel and Service Awards to the Class Representatives.

33. “**Long Form Notice**” means the long form notice of the Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as *Exhibit 2*, that shall be posted on the Settlement Website and shall be available to Settlement Class Members by mail on request made to the Settlement Administrator.

34. “**Motion for Final Approval**” means the motion that Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall file with the Court seeking Final Approval of the Settlement, including Class Counsel’s Application for Attorneys’ Fees, Costs, and Service Awards.

35. “**Motion for Preliminary Approval**” means the motion that Plaintiffs shall file with the Court seeking Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

36. “**Notice**” means the Postcard Notice and Long Form Notice that Plaintiffs will ask the Court to approve in connection with the Motion for Preliminary Approval.

37. “**Notice Program**” means the methods provided for in this Agreement for giving Notice to the Settlement Class and consists of the Postcard Notice and Long Form Notice.

38. “**Notice of Deficiency**” means the notice sent by the Settlement Administrator to a Settlement Class Member who has submitted an invalid Claim.

39. “**Objection Deadline**” means 15 days before the initial scheduled Final Approval Hearing.

40. “**Opt-Out Deadline**” means 15 days before the initial scheduled Final Approval Hearing.

41. “**Party**” means each of the Plaintiffs and Defendant, and “**Parties**” means Plaintiffs and Defendant, collectively.

42. “**Plaintiffs**” means Karen Stiwinter and Patricia Norman.

43. “**Postcard Notice**” means the postcard notice of the Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as *Exhibit 1* that the Settlement Administrator shall disseminate to Settlement Class Members by mail.

44. “**Preliminary Approval**” means the preliminary approval of the Settlement, which occurs when the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order, substantially in the form attached

to the Motion for Preliminary Approval.

45. “**Preliminary Approval Order**” means the order preliminarily approving the Settlement and proposed Notice Program, substantially in the form attached hereto as *Exhibit 4*.

46. “**Private Information**” means the information collected by Defendant from its current and former employees or current and former patients, including, but not limited to, names, addresses, dates of birth, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, and certain medical information such as medical notes, lab results, diagnosis and health insurance information.

47. “**Releases**” means the releases and waiver set forth in Section XII of this Agreement.

48. “**Released Claims**” means any and all actual, potential, filed or unfiled, known or unknown, fixed or contingent, claimed or unclaimed, suspected or unsuspected claims, demands, liabilities, rights, causes of action, damages, punitive, exemplary or multiplied damages, expenses, costs, indemnities, attorneys’ fees and/or obligations, whether in law or in equity, accrued or unaccrued, asserted or unasserted, direct, individual or representative, of every nature and description whatsoever, based on any federal, state, local, statutory or common law or any other law, against the Released Parties, or any of them, arising out of or relating to actual or alleged facts, transactions, events, matters, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements, representations, omissions or failures to act relating to the Data Incident or the allegations in the Action.

49. “**Released Parties**” means Defendant and each entity which is controlled by, controlling or under common control with Defendant and their past, present, and future direct and indirect heirs, assigns, associates, corporations, investors, owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, officers, directors, shareholders, Members, agents, servants, employees, partners, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, benefit plans, predecessors, successors, managers, administrators,

executors, and trustees

50. “**Releasing Parties**” means Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Members and their respective past, present, and future heirs, devisees, beneficiaries, conservators, executors, estates, administrators, assigns, trustees, receivers, agents, attorneys, accountants, financial and other advisors, and any other representatives of any of these persons and entities.

51. “**Settlement Administrator**” means Epiq Class Action & Claims Solutions, Inc. (“Epiq”).

52. “**Service Awards**” means the awards that Class Counsel will request the Court approve for the Plaintiffs for serving as Class Representatives.

53. “**Settlement Administration Costs**” means all costs and fees of the Settlement Administrator regarding Notice and Settlement administration.

54. “**Settlement Class**” means all individuals to whom Defendant sent individual notification that they were affected by the Data Incident. Excluded from the Settlement Class are (a) all persons who are employees, directors, officers, and agents of Defendant; (b) governmental entities; and (c) the Judge assigned to the Action, that Judge’s immediate family, and Court staff.

55. “**Settlement Class Member**” means any Member of the Settlement Class.

56. “**Settlement Class Member Benefit**” means the Cash Payments that Settlement Class Members may elect to Claim pursuant to Section IV herein.

57. “**Settlement Fund**” means the non-reversionary \$500,000.00 in cash that Defendant has agreed to pay or cause to be paid under the terms of the Settlement. Defendant will not be required under any circumstance to pay or cause to be paid more than the amount of \$500,000.

58. “**Settlement Website**” means the website the Settlement Administrator will

establish as a means for the Settlement Class Members to submit Claim Forms and obtain notice and information about the Settlement, including hyperlinked access to this Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, Long Form Notice, Claim Form, Motion for Final Approval, Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards, and Final Approval Order, as well as other documents as the Parties agree to post or the Court orders posted. The Settlement Website shall remain online and operable for at least six months after Final Approval.

59. **“Valid Claim”** means a Claim Form submitted by a Settlement Class Member that is: (a) submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Settlement; (b) accurately, fully, and truthfully completed and executed, with all of the information requested in the Claim Form, by a Settlement Class Member; (c) signed physically or by e-signature by a Settlement Class Member personally, subject to the penalty of perjury; (d) returned via mail and postmarked by the Claim Form Deadline, or, if submitted online, submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on the Claim Form Deadline; and (e) determined to be valid by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator may require additional information from the Claimant to validate the Claim, including, but not limited to, answers related to questions regarding the validity or legitimacy of the physical or e-signature. Failure to respond to the Settlement Administrator's Notice of Deficiency may result in a determination that the Claim is not a Valid Claim.

III. Certification of the Settlement Class

60. In the Motion for Preliminary Approval, Plaintiffs shall propose and request to the Court that the Settlement Class be certified for Settlement purposes. Defendant agrees solely for purposes of the Settlement provided for in this Agreement, and the implementation of such Settlement, that this case shall proceed as a class action; provided however, that if a Final Approval Order is not issued, then any certification shall be null and void and, for the avoidance of doubt,

Defendant shall retain all rights to object to any future requests to certify a class. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall not reference this Agreement in support of any subsequent motion for class certification of any class in the Action.

IV. Settlement Consideration

61. Within 60 days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, the Settlement Fund into the Escrow Account, less any funds already paid for Settlement Administration Costs, Service Awards, and attorneys' fees and costs. Under no circumstance will Released Parties be required to pay more than \$500,000.00 as part of the Settlement Fund. The Settlement Fund shall be used to pay: (1) Settlement Class Member Benefits to those Settlement Class Members who submit Valid Claims; (2) any Service Awards awarded to Class Representatives; (3) any attorneys' fees and costs awarded to Class Counsel; and (4) all Settlement Administration Costs.

62. The funds in the Escrow Account shall be deemed a "qualified settlement fund" within the meaning of United States Treasury Reg. § 1.468B-1 at all times since creation of the Escrow Account. All interest shall accrue for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members. All taxes (including any estimated taxes, and any interest or penalties relating to them) arising with respect to the income earned by the Escrow Account or otherwise, including any taxes or tax detriments that may be imposed on Defendant, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiffs, and/or Class Counsel with respect to income earned by the Escrow Account, for any period during which the Escrow Account does not qualify as a "qualified settlement fund" for the purpose of federal or state income taxes or otherwise, shall be paid out of the Escrow Account. Defendant, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiffs, and Class Counsel shall have no liability or responsibility for any of the taxes. The Escrow Account shall indemnify and hold Defendant, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiffs, and

Class Counsel harmless for all taxes (including, without limitation, taxes payable by reason of any such indemnification).

63. The Settlement Administrator shall provide an accounting of any and all funds in the Settlement Fund, including any interest accrued thereon and payments made pursuant to this Agreement, upon request of any of the Parties.

64. **Cash Payments** - When submitting a Claim for a Cash Payment, Settlement Class Members must elect either Cash Payment A – Documented Losses or Cash Payment B – Alternative Cash Payment.

a. **Cash Payment A – Documented Losses**

Settlement Class Members may submit a claim for a Cash Payment under this section for up to \$5,000.00 per Settlement Class Member upon presentment of documented losses related to the Data Incident. To receive a documented loss payment, a Settlement Class Member must elect Cash Payment A – Documented Losses on the Claim Form attesting to incurring documenting losses. Settlement Class Members will be required to submit reasonable documentation supporting the losses. Settlement Class Members shall not be reimbursed for expenses if they have been reimbursed for the same expenses by another source, including compensation provided in connection with the credit monitoring and identity theft protection product offered as part of the notification letter provided by Defendants or otherwise. If a Settlement Class Member does not submit reasonable documentation supporting a loss, or if their Claim is rejected by the Settlement Administrator for any reason, and the Settlement Class Member fails to cure his or her Claim, the Claim will be rejected and the Settlement Class Member's Claim will be as if they elected Cash Payment B.

b. **Cash Payment B – Alternate Cash Payment**

As an alternative to Cash Payment A, a Settlement Class Member may elect to receive Cash Payment B, which is a cash payment in the estimated amount of \$100.00.

65. ***Pro Rata Adjustments on Cash Payments*** – All Valid Claims for Alternative Cash Payments (Cash Payment B) will be subject to a *pro rata* increase or decrease from the estimated \$100.00 amount after the payment for Valid Claims for Documented Losses (Cash Payment A), any Service Awards awarded to Class Representatives, any attorneys’ fees and costs awarded to Class Counsel, and all Settlement Administration Costs. Any *pro rata* increases or decreases to Cash Payment B will be on an equal percentage basis. All *pro rata* determinations required by this Paragraph shall be performed by the Settlement Administrator upon notice to Class Counsel and Defendant’s counsel.

66. **Limitation of Defendant’s Liability.** Defendant and Defendant’s Counsel are not, and may not, be held responsible or liable for any act, omission, or determination by Class Counsel or the Settlement Administrator arising from, or connected to, the administration of the Settlement Agreement or otherwise.

- a. Without limiting the previous sentence in Paragraph 66, the Parties agree that Paragraph 66 encompasses management or investment of the Settlement Fund, design or method of disbursement of the Settlement Fund, calculation of payments of claims for Settlement Class Member Benefits, whether approved or not, payment or withholding of taxes or fees, and any loss resulting from fraud or a criminal act by a Settlement Class Member, the Settlement Administrator, Class Counsel, or any other third party that results in any mistaken payment or failed payment to Settlement Class Members.

- b. Defendant and Defendant's counsel shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Settlement Class against and with respect to any and all claims by any Settlement Class Member, Class Counsel or any third party that are encompassed by Paragraph 66(a). Any indemnity or hold harmless under Paragraph 66 will be paid from the Settlement Fund to the extent that any money in the Settlement Fund has not been disbursed.
- c. Defendant is not responsible for communicating with Settlement Class Members.

V. Settlement Approval

67. Within 14 days following execution of this Agreement, Plaintiffs shall file the Motion for Preliminary Approval. The proposed Preliminary Approval Order shall be attached to the motion as an exhibit and shall be in a form agreed to by Class Counsel and Defendant.

68. The Motion for Preliminary Approval shall, among other things, request the Court: (1) preliminarily approve the terms of the Settlement as being within the range of fair, adequate, and reasonable; (2) provisionally certify the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only; (3) approve the Notice Program set forth herein and approve the form and content of the Notices of the Settlement; (4) approve the Claims Process set forth herein and approve the Claim Form; (5) approve the procedures for Settlement Class Members to opt-out of the Settlement or for Settlement Class Members to object to the Settlement; (6) appoint Plaintiffs as Class Representatives and Kenneth Grunfeld of Kopelowitz Ostrow P.A. and Tyler J. Bean of Siri & Glimstad LLP as Class Counsel for Settlement purposes; (7) approve the Parties' mutually agreed upon Epiq as the Settlement Administrator; (8) stay the Action pending Final Approval of the Settlement; and (9) schedule a Final Approval Hearing for a time and date mutually convenient for the Court, the Parties, Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel.

69. Within 10 days of Preliminary Approval, Defendant shall pay the Settlement Administrator an amount necessary to fund the Settlement Administration Costs for the entire Settlement. Defendant and the Settlement Administrator shall jointly determine the amount.

VI. Settlement Administrator

70. The Parties shall jointly oversee Epiq, the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall fulfill the requirements set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order and the Agreement and comply with all applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution.

71. The Settlement Administrator shall administer various aspects of the Settlement as described in the next paragraph and perform such other functions as are specified for the Settlement Administrator elsewhere in this Agreement, including, but not limited to, effectuating the Notice Program, and handling the Claims Process.

72. The Settlement Administrator's duties include:

- a. Completing the Court-approved Notice Program by noticing the Settlement Class by Postcard Notice and sending out Long Form Notices and paper Claim Forms on request from Settlement Class Members, reviewing Claim Forms, notifying Claimants of deficient Claim Forms using the Notice of Deficiency, and sending Settlement Class Member Benefits to Settlement Class Members who submit Valid Claims;
- b. Establishing and maintaining a post office box to receive opt-out requests from the Settlement Class, objections from Settlement Class Members, and Claim Forms;
- c. Establishing and maintaining the Settlement Website to provide important information and to receive electronic Claim Forms;
- d. Establishing and maintaining an automated toll-free telephone line for

Settlement Class Members to call with Settlement-related inquiries, and answer the frequently asked questions of Settlement Class Members who call with or otherwise communicate such inquiries;

- e. Responding to any mailed Settlement Class Member inquiries;
- f. Processing all opt-out requests from the Settlement Class;
- g. Providing weekly reports to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel that summarize the number of Claims submitted, Claims approved and rejected, Notice of Deficiency sent, opt-out requests and objections received that week, the total number of opt-out requests and objections received to date, and other pertinent information;
- h. In advance of the Final Approval Hearing, preparing a declaration for the Parties confirming that the Notice Program was completed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order, describing how the Notice Program was completed, indicating the number of Claim Forms received and the amount of each benefit claimed, providing the names of each Settlement Class Member who timely and properly requested to opt-out from the Settlement Class, indicating the number of objections received, and other information as may be necessary to allow the Parties to seek and obtain Final Approval;
- i. Reviewing Claim Forms submitted by Settlement Class Members to determine if they are eligible for a Cash Payment;
- j. Collecting from Defendant the funds necessary to pay Valid Claims for Cash Payments;
- k. Distributing Cash Payments by electronic means or by paper check;
- l. Any other Settlement administration function at the instruction of Class Counsel and Defendant, including, but not limited to, verifying that the Cash Payments have been

properly distributed.

VII. Notice to the Settlement Class, Opt-Out Procedures, and Objection Procedures

73. Defendant will make available to Class Counsel and the Settlement Administrator the Class List no later than 5 business days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order. To the extent necessary, Defendant will cooperate with updating the Class List to accomplish the Notice Program and otherwise administer the Settlement.

74. Within 30 days following entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement Administrator shall commence the Notice Program using the forms of Notice approved by the Court.

75. The Postcard Notice shall include, among other information, a description of the material terms of the Settlement; how to submit a Claim Form; the Claim Form Deadline; the Opt-Out Deadline for Settlement Class Members to opt-out of the Settlement Class; the Objection Deadline for Settlement Class Members to object to the Settlement and/or Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards; the Final Approval Hearing date; and the Settlement Website address at which Settlement Class Members may access this Agreement and other related documents and information. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel shall insert the correct dates and deadlines in the Notice before the Notice Program commences, based upon those dates and deadlines set by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order. If the date or time for the Final Approval Hearing changes, the Settlement Administrator shall update the Settlement Website to reflect the new date. No additional notice to the Settlement Class is required if the date or time for the Final Approval Hearing changes.

76. The Settlement Administrator shall establish the Settlement Website no later than the day before Notice is first initiated. The Settlement Administrator shall ensure the Settlement

Website makes available the Court-approved online Claim Form that can be submitted directly on the Settlement Website or in printable version that can be sent by U.S. Mail to the Settlement Administrator.

77. The Long Form Notice shall also include a procedure for Settlement Class Members to opt-out of the Settlement Class, and the Postcard Notice shall direct Settlement Class Members to review the Long Form Notice to obtain the opt-out instructions. A Settlement Class Member may opt-out of the Settlement Class at any time before the Opt-Out Deadline by mailing a request to opt-out to the Settlement Administrator postmarked no later than the Opt-Out Deadline. The opt-out request must be personally signed by the Settlement Class Member and contain the requestor's name, address, telephone number, and email address (if any), and include a statement indicating a request to be excluded from the Settlement Class. Any Settlement Class Member who does not timely and validly request to opt-out shall be bound by the terms of this Agreement even if that Settlement Class Member does not submit a Valid Claim.

78. The Long Form Notice also shall include a procedure for Settlement Class Members to object to the Settlement and/or the Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards, and the Postcard Notice shall direct Settlement Class Members to review the Long Form Notice to obtain the objection instructions. Objections must be filed with the Court, and sent by U.S. Mail to Class Counsel, Defendant's Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the relevant Settlement Class Member must submit the objection no later than the Objection Deadline, as specified in the Notice, and the relevant Settlement Class Member must not have excluded herself from the Settlement Class. If submitted by mail, an objection shall be deemed to have been submitted when posted if received with a postmark date indicated on the envelope if mailed first-class postage prepaid. In other words,

objections by mail postmarked later than the Objection Deadline are late and will not be considered by the Court. If submitted by courier (e.g., Federal Express), an objection shall be deemed to have been submitted on the shipping date reflected on the shipping label.

79. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must also set forth:
- a. the objector's full name, mailing address, phone number, and email address (if any);
 - b. all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to the objector or objector's counsel;
 - c. the number of times the objector has objected to a class action settlement within the 5 years preceding the date that the objector files the objection, the caption of each case in which the objector has made such objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon the objector's prior objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case;
 - d. the identity of all counsel who represent the objector, including any former or current counsel who may be entitled to compensation for any reason related to the objection to the Settlement and/or Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards;
 - e. the number of times in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the 5 years preceding the date of the filed objection, the caption of each case in which counsel or the firm has made such objection and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon counsel's or the counsel's law firm's prior objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the preceding 5 years;
 - f. the identity of all counsel (if any) representing the objector, and whether they will appear at the Final Approval Hearing;

g. a list of all persons who will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection (if any);

h. a statement confirming whether the objector intends to personally appear and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing; and

i. the objector's signature (an attorney's signature is not sufficient).

Class Counsel and/or Defendant's Counsel may conduct limited discovery on any objector or objector's counsel. This includes taking depositions and requesting documents.

80. The Settlement Administrator shall perform reasonable address traces for Postcard Notices that are returned as undeliverable. By way of example, a reasonable tracing procedure would be to run addresses of returned postcards through the Lexis/Nexis database that can be utilized for such purpose. No later than 45 days before the original date set for the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall complete the re-mailing of Postcard Notice to those Settlement Class Members whose new addresses were identified as of that time through address traces.

81. The Notice Program shall be completed no later than 45 days before the initial scheduled Final Approval Hearing.

VIII. Claims Process and Disbursement of Settlement Class Member Benefits

82. The Notice and the Settlement Website will explain to Settlement Class Members that they may be entitled to a Settlement Class Member Benefit and how to submit a Claim Form.

83. Claim Forms may be submitted online through the Settlement Website or through U.S. Mail by sending them to the Settlement Administrator at the address designated on the Claim Form.

84. The Settlement Administrator shall collect, review, and address each Claim Form

received to determine whether the Claim Form meets the requirements set forth in this Settlement and is thus a Valid Claim. The Settlement Administrator shall examine the Claim Form before designating the Claim as a Valid Claim to determine that the information on the Claim Form is reasonably complete. The Settlement Administrator shall have the sole authority to determine whether a Claim by any Claimant is a Valid Claim.

85. The Settlement Administrator shall use all reasonable efforts and means to identify and reject duplicate claims. No Settlement Class Member may submit more than one Claim Form. The Settlement Administrator shall identify any Claim Forms that appear to seek relief on behalf of the same Settlement Class Member. If the Settlement Administrator identifies any Claim Form that appears to be a duplication, the Settlement Administrator shall contact the Settlement Class Member in an effort to determine which Claim Form is the appropriate one for consideration.

86. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise, in its discretion, all usual and customary steps to prevent fraud and abuse and take any reasonable steps to prevent fraud and abuse in the Claims Process. The Settlement Administrator may, in its discretion, deny in whole or in part any Claim Form to prevent actual or possible fraud or abuse. By agreement, the Parties can instruct the Settlement Administrator to take whatever steps it deems appropriate if the Settlement Administrator identifies actual or possible fraud or abuse relating to the submission of claims, including, but not limited to, denying in whole or in part any Claim to prevent actual or possible fraud or abuse. If any fraud is detected or reasonably suspected, the Settlement Administrator and Parties may require information from Claimants or deny Claims, subject to the supervision of the Parties and ultimate oversight by the Court.

87. Claim Forms that do not meet the terms and conditions of this Settlement shall be promptly rejected by the Settlement Administrator and the Settlement Administrator shall advise

the Claimant or Settlement Class Member of the reason(s) why the Claim Form was rejected. However, if the Claim Form is rejected for containing incomplete or inaccurate information, and/or omitting required information, the Settlement Administrator may send a Notice of Deficiency explaining what information is missing or inaccurate and needed to validate the Claim and have it submitted for consideration. The Settlement Administrator shall notify the Claimant using the contact information provided in the Claim Form. The additional information and/or documentation can include, for example, answers to questions regarding the validity of the Claimant's physical or e-signature. A Claimant shall have until the Claim Form Deadline, or 10 days from the date the Notice of Deficiency is sent to the Claimant via mail and postmarked or via email, whichever is later, to reply to the Notice of Deficiency and provide the required information. If the Claimant timely and adequately provides the requested information and/or documentation, the Claim shall be deemed a Valid Claim and processed by the Settlement Administrator. If the Claimant does not timely and completely provide the requested information and/or documentation, the Settlement Administrator shall reduce or deny the Claim unless Defendant and Class Counsel otherwise agree.

88. Where a good faith basis exists, the Settlement Administrator may reduce or reject a Claim for, among other reasons, the following:

- a. Failure to fully complete and/or sign the Claim Form;
- b. Illegible Claim Form;
- c. The Claim Form is fraudulent;
- d. The Claim Form is duplicative of another Claim Form;
- e. The Claimant is not a Settlement Class Member;
- f. The Claimant submitted a timely and valid request to opt out of the

Settlement Class.

- g. The person submitting the Claim Form requests that payment be made to a person or entity other than the Claimant for whom the Claim Form is submitted;
- h. Failure to submit a Claim Form by the Claim Form Deadline; and/or
- i. The Claim Form otherwise does not comply with the requirements of this Settlement.

89. The Settlement Administrator's reduction or denial of a Claim is final, subject to the following dispute resolution procedures:

- a. The Settlement Administrator shall have 30 days from the Claim Form Deadline to approve or reject Claims.
- b. A request for additional information by sending a Notice of Deficiency shall not be considered a denial for purposes of this paragraph.
- c. If a Claim is rejected, the Settlement Administrator shall notify the Claimant using the contact information provided in the Claim Form. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel shall be provided with copies of all such notifications to Claimants.
- d. The Settlement Administrator's determination as to whether to approve, deny, or reduce a Claim shall be final and binding.

90. The Settlement Administrator shall provide all information gathered in investigating Claims, including, but not limited to, copies of all correspondence and email and all notes of the Settlement Administrator, the decision reached, and all reasons supporting the decision, if requested by Class Counsel or Defendant's Counsel. Additionally, Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel shall have the right to inspect the Claim Forms and supporting documentation received by the Settlement Administrator at any time upon reasonable notice.

91. No person or entity shall have any claim against Defendant, Defendant's Counsel,

Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class, Class Counsel, and/or the Settlement Administrator based on any eligibility determinations, distributions, or awards made in accordance with this Settlement.

92. The Settlement Administrator must submit an invoice to Defendant for payment of all Valid Claims within 30 days of the Effective Date. Defendant shall pay or cause to be paid to the Settlement Administrator the invoiced amount within 10 days of the invoice.

93. The Settlement Administrator shall distribute Cash Payments no later than 60 days after the Effective Date.

94. Cash Payments to Settlement Class Members will be made by electronic payment or by paper check. In the event the Settlement Administrator is unable to distribute funds to the person or persons entitled to receive them due to incorrect or incomplete information provided to the Settlement Administrator, the funds shall become residual funds, and the Settlement Class Member shall forfeit their entitlement right to the funds.

IX. Final Approval Order and Final Judgment

95. Plaintiffs shall file their Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, inclusive of the Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards, no later than 45 days before the initial date set for the Final Approval Hearing. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will hear argument on Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement and Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards. In the Court's discretion, the Court will also hear argument at the Final Approval Hearing from any Settlement Class Members (or their counsel) who object to the Settlement and/or to the Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards provided the objectors submitted timely objections that meet all of the requirements listed in this Agreement.

96. At or following the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will determine whether to enter the Final Approval Order and final judgment thereon, and whether to grant the Application

for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards. Such proposed Final Approval Order shall, among other things:

- a. Determine that the Settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable;
- b. Finally certify the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only;
- c. Determine that the Notice Program satisfies Due Process requirements;
- d. Bar and enjoin all Releasing Parties from asserting or otherwise pursuing any of the Released Claims at any time and in any jurisdiction, including during any appeal from the Final Approval Order; and retain jurisdiction over the enforcement of the Court's injunctions;
- e. Release Defendant and the other Released Parties from the Released Claims; and
- f. Reserve the Court's continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the Parties to this Agreement, including Defendant, Plaintiffs, all Settlement Class Members, and all objectors, to administer, supervise, construe, and enforce this Agreement in accordance with its terms.

X. Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards

97. Class Counsel shall apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees of up to one-third of the Settlement Fund, as well as reimbursement of reasonable litigation costs. The attorneys' fees and costs award approved by the Court shall be made by wire transfer to an account designated by Class Counsel within five days of the Effective Date.

98. Class Counsel shall also apply to the Court for Service Awards in the amount of \$2,500.00 for each Class Representative. The Service Awards approved by the Court shall be paid by wire transfer to an account designated by Class Counsel within five days of the Effective Date.

99. This Settlement is not contingent on approval of the request for attorneys' fees,

costs, and Service Awards, and if the Court denies the request or grants amounts less than what was requested, the remaining provisions of the Agreement shall remain in force. The provisions for attorneys' fees, costs, and Service Awards were negotiated after all material terms of the Settlement.

XI. Disposition of Residual Funds

100. The Settlement is designed to exhaust the Settlement Fund. In the event there are funds remaining from uncashed checks in the Settlement Fund 20 days following the 180-day check negotiation period, all remaining funds shall be distributed to an appropriate mutually agreeable *cy pres* recipient that is engaged in providing hurricane relief in the Asheville, North Carolina area, to be approved by the Court.

XII. Releases

101. Upon the Effective Date, and in consideration of the settlement relief and other consideration described herein, the Releasing Parties shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Approval Order shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, acquitted, relinquished, and completely discharged the Released Parties from any and all Released Claims, including but not limited to any state law or common law claims arising out of or relating to the Data Incident or allegations in the Action that the Releasing Parties may have or had, such as under California's Consumer Privacy Act, California Civil Code section 1798.100, *et seq.* and/or California's Unfair Competition Law, California Civil Code section 17200 *et seq.* Each Party expressly waives all rights under California Civil Code section 1542, which provides:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR

OR RELEASED PARTY.

The Releasing Parties agree that, once this Agreement is executed, they will not, directly or indirectly, individually or in concert with another, maintain, cause to be maintained, or voluntarily assist in maintaining any further demand, action, claim, lawsuit, arbitration, or similar proceeding, in any capacity whatsoever, against any of the Released Parties based on any of the Released Claims.

102. Settlement Class Members who opt-out of the Settlement prior to the Opt-Out Deadline do not release their claims and will not obtain any benefits, including any Settlement Class Member Benefit, under the Settlement.

103. Upon the Effective Date: (a) this Settlement shall be the exclusive remedy for any and all Released Claims of Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Members; and (b) Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Members stipulate to be and shall be permanently barred and enjoined by Court order from initiating, asserting, or prosecuting any Released Claim against the Released Parties, whether on behalf of Plaintiffs, any Settlement Class Member or others, in any jurisdiction, including in any federal, state, or local court or tribunal.

XIII. Termination of Settlement

104. This Agreement shall be subject to and is expressly conditioned on the occurrence of all of the following events:

- a. Court approval of the Settlement consideration set forth in Section IV and the Releases set forth in Section XII of this Agreement;
- b. The Court has entered the Preliminary Approval Order;
- c. The Court has entered the Final Approval Order, and all objections, if any, are overruled, and all appeals taken from the Final Approval Order are resolved in favor of Final

Approval; and

d. The Effective Date has occurred.

105. If any of the conditions specified in the preceding paragraph are not met, or if the Court otherwise imposes any modification to or condition to approval of the Settlement to which the Parties do not consent, then this Agreement shall be cancelled and terminated.

106. In the event that more than 200 individuals opt out from the Settlement Class, Defendant has the unilateral right to terminate this Agreement. Upon such termination Defendant will not be obligated to pay any more funds out of the Settlement Fund than the amounts which had already been paid at the date of termination, and any funds remaining in the Settlement Fund following such termination shall revert to Defendant.

107. In the event this Agreement is terminated or fails to become effective, then the Parties shall return to the *status quo ante* in the Action as if the Parties had not entered into this Agreement, and the Parties shall jointly file a status report in the Court seeking to reopen the Action and all papers filed. In such event, the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in this Action or in any other action or proceeding for any other purpose, and any order entered by this Court in accordance with the terms of this Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*.

XIV. Effect of Termination

108. The grounds upon which this Agreement may be terminated are set forth in Section XIII. In the event of a termination, this Agreement shall be considered null and void; all of Plaintiffs', Class Counsel's, Defendant's, Defendant's Counsel's obligations under the Settlement shall cease to be of any force and effect; and the Parties shall return to the *status quo ante* in the Action as if the Parties had not entered into this Agreement. In addition, in the event of such a

termination, all of the Parties' respective pre-Settlement rights, claims, and defenses will be retained and preserved.

109. In the event the Settlement is terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, any discussions, offers, or negotiations associated with this Settlement shall not be discoverable or offered into evidence or used in the Action or any other action or proceeding for any purpose. In such event, all Parties to the Action shall stand in the same position as if this Agreement had not been negotiated, made, or filed with the Court.

XV. No Admission of Liability

110. This Agreement reflects the Parties' compromise and settlement of disputed claims. This Agreement shall not be construed as or deemed to be evidence of an admission or concession of any point of fact or law. Defendant has denied and continues to deny each of the claims and contentions alleged in the Complaint. Defendant specifically denies that a class could or should be certified in the Action for litigation purposes. Defendant does not admit any liability or wrongdoing of any kind, by this Agreement or otherwise. Defendant has agreed to enter into this Agreement to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, and distraction of burdensome and protracted litigation, and to be completely free of any further claims that were asserted or could possibly have been asserted in the Action.

111. Class Counsel believe the claims asserted in the Action have merit, and they have examined and considered the benefits to be obtained under the proposed Settlement set forth in this Agreement, the risks associated with the continued prosecution of this complex, costly, and time-consuming litigation, and the likelihood of success on the merits of the Action. Class Counsel have investigated the facts and law relevant to the merits of the claims, conducted informal discovery, and conducted independent investigation of the alleged claims. Class Counsel

concluded that the proposed Settlement set forth in this Agreement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members.

112. This Agreement constitutes a compromise and settlement of disputed claims. No action taken by the Parties in connection with the negotiations of this Agreement shall be deemed or construed to be an admission of the truth or falsity of any claims or defenses heretofore made, or an acknowledgment or admission by any party of any fault, liability, or wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever.

113. Neither the Settlement, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the Settlement (a) is or may be deemed to be, or may be used as, an admission of, or evidence of, the validity of any claim made by the Plaintiffs or Settlement Class Members, or of any wrongdoing or liability of the Released Parties; or (b) is or may be deemed to be, or may be used as, an admission of, or evidence of, any fault or omission of any of the Released Parties, in the Action or in any proceeding in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal.

114. In addition to any other defenses Defendant or the Released Parties may have at law, in equity, or otherwise, to the extent permitted by law, this Agreement may be pleaded as a full and complete defense to and may be used as the basis for an injunction against, any action, suit, or other proceeding that may be instituted, prosecuted, or attempted in breach of this Agreement or the Releases contained herein.

XVI. Miscellaneous Provisions

115. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by ethics rules, the Parties and their counsel shall keep confidential all settlement communications, including communications regarding the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement. The Parties will not make any public statement about the settlement that has not been approved by the other side, except as required or authorized by

law. Approval of any proposed public statement of the other side will not be unreasonably withheld. The Parties will cooperate with each other regarding public statements about the settlement and may issue a joint statement/press release if they mutually agree to do so. This paragraph shall not be construed to limit or impede the Notice requirements contained in this Agreement, nor shall this paragraph be construed to prevent Class Counsel or Defendant's Counsel from notifying or explaining that the Action has settled or limit the representations that the Parties or their counsel may make to the Court to assist in the Court's evaluation of the Settlement, Preliminary Approval, Final Approval, and any objection to the Settlement's terms. Defendant may also provide information about the Settlement to its attorneys, Members, partners, insurers, brokers, agents, and other persons or entities as required by securities laws or other applicable laws and regulations.

116. Gender and Plurals. As used in this Agreement, the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular or plural number, shall each be deemed to include the others whenever the context so indicates.

117. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to and for the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Releasing Parties and the Released Parties.

118. Cooperation of Parties. The Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate in good faith to prepare and execute all documents, seek Court approval, uphold Court approval, and do all things reasonably necessary to complete and effectuate the Settlement described in this Agreement.

119. Obligation to Meet and Confer. Before filing any motion in the Court raising a dispute arising out of or related to this Agreement, the Parties shall consult with each other and certify to the Court that they have met and conferred in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

120. Integration and No Reliance. This Agreement constitutes a single, integrated written contract expressing the entire agreement of the Parties relative to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement is executed without reliance on any covenant, agreement, representation, or warranty by any Party or any Party's representative other than those expressly set forth in this Agreement. No covenants, agreements, representations, or warranties of any kind whatsoever have been made by any Party hereto, except as provided for herein.

121. No Conflict Intended. Any inconsistency between the headings used in this Agreement and the text of the paragraphs of this Agreement shall be resolved in favor of the text.

122. Governing Law. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Agreement shall be construed in accordance with, and be governed by, the laws of the state of North Carolina without regard to the principles thereof regarding choice of law.

123. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument, even though all Parties do not sign the same counterparts. Original signatures are not required. Any signature submitted by facsimile or through email of a PDF shall be deemed an original.

124. Jurisdiction. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over the implementation, enforcement, and performance of this Agreement, and shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any suit, action, proceeding, or dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement that cannot be resolved by negotiation and agreement by counsel for the Parties. The Court shall also retain jurisdiction over all questions and/or disputes related to the Notice Program and the Settlement Administrator. As part of the agreement to render services in connection with this Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall consent to the jurisdiction of the Court for this purpose. The Court

shall retain jurisdiction over the enforcement of the Court's injunction barring and enjoining all Releasing Parties from asserting any of the Released Claims and from pursuing any Released Claims against the Released Parties at any time and in any jurisdiction, including during any appeal from the Final Approval Order.

125. Notices. All notices provided for herein, shall be sent by email with a hard copy sent by overnight mail to:

If to Plaintiffs or Class Counsel:

Kenneth Grunfeld
Kopelowitz Ostrow P.A.
1 West Las Olas Blvd., Ste. 500
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
grunfeld@kolawyers.com

Tyler J. Bean
Siri & Glimstad LLP
745 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500
New York, NY 10151
tbean@sirillp.com

If to Defendant or Defendant's Counsel:

Justin J. Boron
Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP
1600 Market St., Suite 1210
Philadelphia, PA 19103
justin.boron@fmglaw.com

The notice recipients and addresses designated above may be changed by written notice. Upon the request of any of the Parties, the Parties agree to promptly provide each other with copies of objections, requests for exclusion, or other filings received as a result of the Notice Program.

126. Modification and Amendment. This Agreement may not be amended or modified, except by a written instrument signed by Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel and, if the Settlement has been approved preliminarily by the Court, approved by the Court.

127. No Waiver. The waiver by any Party of any breach of this Agreement by another Party shall not be deemed or construed as a waiver of any other breach, whether prior, subsequent, or contemporaneous, of this Agreement.

128. Authority. Class Counsel (for the Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members), and Defendant's Counsel, represent and warrant that the persons signing this Agreement on their behalf have full power and authority to bind every person, partnership, corporation, or entity included within the definitions of Plaintiffs and Defendant respectively to all terms of this Agreement. Any person executing this Agreement in a representative capacity represents and warrants that he or she is fully authorized to do so and to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she signs this Agreement to all of the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

129. Agreement Mutually Prepared. Neither Plaintiffs nor Defendant shall be considered to be the drafter of this Agreement or any of its provisions for the purpose of any statute, case law, or rule of interpretation or construction that would or might cause any provision to be construed against the drafter of this Agreement.

130. Independent Investigation and Decision to Settle. The Parties understand and acknowledge they: (a) have performed an independent investigation of the allegations of fact and law made in connection with this Action; and (b) that even if they may hereafter discover facts in addition to, or different from, those that they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Action as reflected in this Agreement, that will not affect or in any respect limit the binding nature of this Agreement. All Parties recognize and acknowledge they reviewed and analyzed data that they and their experts used to make certain determinations, arguments, and settlement positions. The Parties agree this Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and will not attempt to renegotiate or otherwise void or invalidate or terminate the Settlement irrespective

of what any unexamined data later shows. It is the Parties' intention to resolve their disputes in connection with this Action pursuant to the terms of this Agreement now and thus, in furtherance of their intentions, the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding the discovery of any additional facts or law, or changes in law, and this Agreement shall not be subject to rescission or modification by reason of any changes or differences in facts or law, subsequently occurring or otherwise.

131. Receipt of Advice of Counsel. Each Party acknowledges, agrees, and specifically warrants that he, she, or it has fully read this Agreement and the Releases contained herein, received independent legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering into this Agreement and the Releases, and the legal effects of this Agreement and the Releases, and fully understands the effect of this Agreement and the Releases.

Signature Page to Follow


Karen LM Stiwinter (Sep 19, 2025 21:57:18 EDT)

Karen Stiwinter

Date: 09/19/2025


P.A. Norman (Sep 20, 2025 19:02:06 EDT)

Patricia Norman

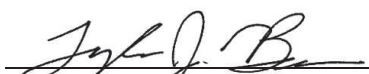
Date: 09/20/2025

CLASS COUNSEL (for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class)


Kenneth Grunfeld (Sep 22, 2025 14:07:31 EDT)

Kenneth Grunfeld
KOPELOWITZ OSTROW P.A

Date: Sep 22, 2025


Tyler J. Bean

SIRI & GLIMSTAD LLP

Date: 9/22/2025

DEFENDANT

Adrian Vazquez, M.D.
Its:

Date: _____

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

Justin J. Boron
FREEMAN MATHIS & GARY LLP

Date: _____

Karen Stiwinter

Date: _____

Patricia Norman

Date: _____

CLASS COUNSEL (for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class)

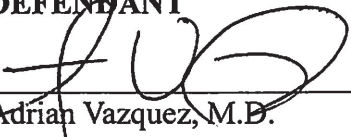
Kenneth Grunfeld
KOPELOWITZ OSTROW P.A

Date: _____

Tyler J. Bean
SIRI & GLIMSTAD LLP

Date: _____

DEFENDANT



Adrian Vazquez, M.D.
Its:

Date: 09/22/25

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT



Justin J. Boron
FREEMAN MATHIS & GARY LLP

Date: 9/22/25