

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement” or “Settlement”) is made and entered into between Plaintiff Christine Markley (“Plaintiff”), for herself and on behalf of the State of California acting in a private attorney general capacity, and Defendant Easter Seals Southern California, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Easter Seals”) (collectively, the “Parties”). Plaintiff and Defendant are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties” and may be individually referred to as a “Party.”

I. DEFINITIONS

The following terms, when used in this Settlement Agreement, shall have the following meanings:

1. “Action” means the matter titled *Christine Markley v. Easter Seals, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV18866, and as set forth in Plaintiff’s correspondence to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA Letter”) dated March 11, 2020.
2. “PAGA Settlement Employees” consist of all current and former non-exempt Direct Service Associates who worked for Easter Seals in California at any time during the PAGA Period, including Plaintiff. The number of PAGA Settlement Employees, including Plaintiff, is estimated to be 289 individuals.
3. “Easter Seals” or “Defendant” means Easter Seals Southern California, Inc., and its past, present, and future officers, directors, employees, board members, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, representatives, predecessors, successors, agents, principals, heirs, estates, executors, administrators, servants, insurers, attorneys, assigns, and all of their heirs.
4. “Settlement Administrator” means Phoenix Settlement Administrators.
5. “Complaint” means the operative complaint in the Action.
6. “Court” means the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles.
7. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the amount to be paid to each PAGA Settlement Employee based on the formula described herein.
8. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.
9. “Gross Settlement Amount” is the non-reversionary sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$175,000.00), which represents the total amount payable under this Settlement Agreement by Easter Seals (subject to the Escalator Clause described below), including, without limitation, payments to all PAGA Settlement Employees, payment to the LWDA, payment of Plaintiff’s attorneys’ fees and costs, payment of Plaintiff’s enhancement payment, and payment to the Settlement Administrator for administration costs.
10. “Net Settlement Amount” is the amount remaining to distribute to the LWDA and PAGA Settlement Employees after the following amounts, if approved by the Court, are subtracted

from the Gross Settlement Amount: (a) Plaintiff's attorneys' fees up to one third of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e. \$58,333.33); (b) Plaintiff's costs up to \$20,000.00; (c) Plaintiff's enhancement payment up to \$5,000.00; and (d) administration costs up to \$7,500.00.

11. "PAGA" means the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*

12. "PAGA Period" means the time period from March 11, 2019 through the date of the Court Order granting approval of the PAGA Settlement.

13. "PAGA Released Claims" mean all claims, rights, demands, liabilities and causes of action that arose during the PAGA Period for civil penalties under the PAGA, that were alleged in the Action or that could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Action. The PAGA Released Claims include, but are not limited to, claims under the PAGA for civil penalties alleged under Labor Code §§ 201-204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1198; and claims for attorneys' fees, costs, or interest resulting therefrom (e.g., as provided by Labor Code § 2699(g) and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5). The release of the PAGA Released Claims shall extend for the duration of the PAGA Period.

14. "Plaintiff's Counsel" means Paul K. Haines, Sean M. Blakely, and Neil M. Larsen of Haines Law Group, APC.

15. "Released Parties" means Easter Seals and its former, present and future owners, shareholders, parents, and subsidiaries, and all of their current, former and future officers, directors, members, managers, partners, shareholders, joint venturers, successors, assigns, accountants, insurers, or legal representatives.

II. RECITALS

1. Plaintiff performed work for Easter Seals as a non-exempt Direct Service Associate in California during the PAGA Period and therefore falls under the definition of a PAGA Settlement Employee.

2. On March 11, 2020 Plaintiff provided written notice to the LWDA and Easter Seals asserting claims for civil penalties pursuant to PAGA stemming from alleged violations of various Labor Code sections and her intent to file a civil lawsuit under the PAGA.

3. On May 18, 2020, Plaintiff filed a complaint titled *Christine Markley v. Easter Seals, Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV18866, asserting a claim against Easter Seals for civil penalties pursuant to PAGA stemming from various purported violations of the Labor Code.

4. After the Action was filed, the Parties ultimately agreed to participate in an early mediation before mediator Steve Pearl, Esq. In response to Plaintiff's Counsel's informal discovery requests, Easter Seals provided Plaintiff's Counsel with information and documents pertaining to Plaintiff and other PAGA Settlement Employees in order for Plaintiff's Counsel to investigate Plaintiff's allegations and value the claims prior to mediation.

5. On May 17, 2021, the Parties participated in mediation on a representative basis before mediator Steve Pearl, Esq. With the assistance of Mr. Pearl, the Parties agreed to fully and finally resolve the PAGA Released Claims as to Plaintiff and other PAGA Settlement Employees.

III. OPERATIVE TERMS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Parties agree as follows:

1. **Non-Admission.** Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed to be an admission by Plaintiff that her claims do not have merit or by Easter Seals of any liability or wrongdoing as to Plaintiff, other PAGA Settlement Employees or any other person, and Easter Seals specifically disclaims and denies any such liability or wrongdoing. The Parties have entered into this Settlement Agreement with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience, expenses, and risks. This Settlement Agreement and any related court documents or orders are not and may not be cited or admitted as evidence of liability.

2. **Gross Settlement Amount.** Easter Seals shall pay One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$175,000.00) as the non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount, subject to the Escalator Clause below. Easter Seals shall send the lump sum Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator within thirty (30) days of the Court's Order approving the PAGA settlement. The Settlement Administrator will then deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into an FDIC insured interest-bearing qualified settlement account pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 1.468B-1 ("QSA").

The Settlement Administrator shall use the Gross Settlement Amount deposited in the QSA to pay: (1) Amounts distributable to the LWDA and PAGA Settlement Employees; (2) Plaintiff's attorneys fees and costs; (3) Plaintiff's enhancement payment; and (4) Settlement administration costs.

3. **Escalator Clause.** Easter Seals represents that there are approximately 11,589 pay periods worked by PAGA Settlement Employees in California during the PAGA Period ("Affected Pay Periods"). If the actual number of Affected Pay Periods is more than 15% greater than this number (i.e., if there are more than 13,328 Affected Pay Periods), Easter Seals shall increase the Gross Settlement Amount in proportion to the increase in Affected Pay Periods (e.g., if the number of Affected Pay Periods is 18% greater than 11,589, Easter Seals will increase the Gross Settlement Amount by 18%).

4. **Net Settlement Amount.** The Parties agree that the following amounts should be subtracted from the Gross Settlement Amount, if approved by the Court, resulting in a Net Settlement Amount to distribute to the LWDA and PAGA Settlement Employees:

a. **Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and Costs.** Easter Seals will not oppose Plaintiff's request for attorneys' fees in the amount up to one third of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently estimated to be \$58,333.33) and costs up to \$20,000.00 incurred in prosecuting this Action. In the event the Court approves less than these amounts, the difference will be added to the Net Settlement Amount (although Plaintiff may appeal an order granting less than the full amount sought for attorneys' fees and costs). Easter Seals, via the Settlement Administrator, will report these payments on IRS Form 1099 issued to Plaintiff's Counsel.

b. Plaintiff's Enhancement Payment. Easter Seals will not oppose Plaintiff's request for an enhancement payment of up to \$5,000.00 for serving as the representative plaintiff in this Action. In the event the Court approves a payment of less than the requested amount, the difference will be added to the Net Settlement Amount (although Plaintiff may appeal an order granting less than the full amount sought for Plaintiff's enhancement payment). Easter Seals, via the Settlement Administrator, will report this payment on IRS Form 1099 issued to Plaintiff.

c. Administration Costs. Easter Seals will not oppose the Settlement Administrator's costs in the amount up to \$7,500.00 for administering the settlement. In the event the Court approves a payment of less than this amount, the difference will be added to the Net Settlement Amount. Easter Seals, via the Settlement Administrator, will report this payment on IRS Form 1099 issued to the Settlement Administrator.

5. Allocation of Net Settlement Amount. One hundred percent (100%) of the Net Settlement Amount shall be designated as "civil penalties" and shall be distributed 75% to the LWDA and 25% to PAGA Settlement Employees, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(i). The 25% portion to be paid to PAGA Settlement Employees shall be paid to all PAGA Settlement Employees pro rata, based on the number of pay periods worked by each PAGA Settlement Employee during the PAGA Period. The Net Settlement Amount shall be paid exclusively from the QSA, pursuant to the settlement formula set forth herein.

The Parties agree that should the Court deny approval of the Settlement based on the allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount or the Net Settlement Amount, the Parties agree to renegotiate in good faith in an effort to obtain approval of the Settlement.

6. PAGA Released Claims. Plaintiff agrees that upon entry of an Order approving the Settlement and judgment entered thereon, and upon the Settlement being fully funded, Plaintiff and all other PAGA Settlement Employees will release the PAGA Released Claims against Easter Seals and all Released Parties that arose during the PAGA Period. Upon entry of the Order approving the settlement and judgment entered thereon and the Settlement being fully funded, Plaintiff and all other PAGA Settlement Employees will be forever barred from pursuing any and all of the PAGA Released Claims that arose during the PAGA Period against Easter Seals and the Released Parties.

7. Covenants and Representations by Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel.

a. Plaintiff represents and warrants that she has not assigned or transferred or purported to assign or transfer to any person or entity, any claim or portion thereof, or interest therein, which is or may be subject to this Settlement Agreement.

b. Plaintiff acknowledges that she has read this Settlement Agreement, that she fully understands her rights, privileges and duties under the Settlement Agreement, and enters into this Settlement Agreement freely and voluntarily. Plaintiff further acknowledges that she has had the opportunity to consult with her attorneys to explain the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the consequences of signing this Settlement Agreement.

8. Confidentiality. Except as provided below or to the extent necessary to effectuate the settlement or as required by court or legal process, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel will keep

the terms of this Settlement Agreement confidential. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's Counsel shall issue a press release, hold a press conference, publish information about the settlement on any website or through any social media, or otherwise publicize the settlement or communicate its terms in public or in private, unless ordered by the Court. However, for the limited purpose of establishing adequacy of counsel in future actions, Plaintiff's counsel may reference the Action by name and case number in a declaration establishing adequacy as class or representative counsel.

To permit judicial review and approval of the Settlement, as required by Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, Plaintiff's Counsel will file the Settlement Agreement with the Court and submit the Settlement to the LWDA as part of the Parties' seeking Court approval of the Settlement, per Labor Code § 2699(1)(2).

9. **Motion for Approval of PAGA Settlement by Plaintiff's Counsel.** Plaintiff's Counsel shall be responsible for promptly preparing and filing the Motion for Approval of the PAGA Settlement ("Motion"). Plaintiff's Counsel shall provide Defendant's counsel a draft of the Motion at least two calendar days before the filing deadline to review and comment upon so that Defendant may propose revisions, if any.

10. **Termination of Settlement Agreement.** If the Court does not approve the settlement, if the Court does not enter judgment as provided for in this Settlement Agreement, or if appellate review is sought and, on such review, the Court's decision is materially modified or reversed, or if one or more of the material terms of the Settlement Agreement is not approved or is materially modified or reversed or found to be invalid, then either Party shall have the right within ten (10) days of written notice thereof to elect to terminate the Settlement Agreement, in which case the Settlement Agreement shall have no force or effect, and the Parties shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of this Settlement Agreement.

11. **Judgment.** As part of the Motion to approve the Settlement, Plaintiff shall submit a proposed judgment which enters judgment in the Action in accordance with the terms of the Settlement, retains jurisdiction over the Action under Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 664.6 for the purpose of enforcing the terms of the Settlement following approval of the Settlement, and enjoins the prosecution of any of the PAGA Released Claims against any of the Released Parties upon the judgment being entered and the Settlement being fully funded. This Settlement Agreement is expressly conditioned upon the Court entering judgment as set forth herein. The judgment will not release or bar any claims other than the PAGA Released Claims as to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees.

IV. ADMINISTRATION OF SETTLEMENT

1. **Settlement Administrator.** The Parties agree to engage Phoenix Settlement Administrators to handle the administration of this settlement.

2. **Provision of Information for PAGA Settlement Employees.** Within five (5) business days after entry of an order approving the settlement, Easter Seals shall provide the Settlement Administrator with information for PAGA Settlement Employees. Easter Seals will in good faith compile from its records a list of PAGA Settlement Employees that will be in a computer-readable format, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and shall include each PAGA

Settlement Employee's full name, last known mailing address, last known telephone number, number of pay periods worked during the PAGA Period, and Social Security numbers to the extent available from Easter Seals' records. Because Social Security numbers are included in the list, the Settlement Administrator will maintain the list in confidence, and access shall be limited to those with a need to use the list as part of the administration of the Settlement. Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the PAGA Settlement Employees' information from Easter Seals, the Settlement Administrator will circulate to counsel for both Parties an anonymized spreadsheet containing the Individual PAGA Payments to each PAGA Settlement Employee and the data used to calculate said payments. The Settlement Administrator shall obtain approval from all counsel of the calculations before mailing Individual PAGA Payments.

3. **Explanatory Letter and Individual PAGA Payments.** Upon receipt of the information for PAGA Settlement Employees, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search on the National Change of Address database to update the PAGA Settlement Employees' addresses. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Settlement has been fully funded and after receiving approval from Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's counsel of the payment calculations as provided above, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the explanatory letter, which has been mutually approved by the Parties and is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, in English and Spanish, along with Individual PAGA Payments to all PAGA Settlement Employees via regular First-Class U.S. Mail.

The Settlement Administrator will calculate the amount to be received by each PAGA Settlement Employee, which will be based on the formula set forth in Section III.5., *supra*. The Settlement Administrator will send each PAGA Settlement Employee a check for his or her Individual PAGA Payment along with the explanatory letter. Checks will remain negotiable for 180 days. Each Individual PAGA Payment shall be deemed penalties and reported using IRS Form 1099, with no withholdings taken.

4. **Undeliverable Notices.** The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each PAGA Settlement Employee. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the best mailing address for each PAGA Settlement Employee.

Any checks returned as non-deliverable on or before the check cashing deadline will be sent promptly via regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly attempt to determine the correct address using a skip-trace or other reputable search method using the name, address or Social Security number of the PAGA Settlement Employee involved, and will perform up to a single re-mailing if a new address is located.

Funds represented by checks returned as undeliverable after a re-mailing, checks for whom the Settlement Administrator could not locate an updated address after performing a skip trace, and funds represented by checks remaining un-cashed more than 180 days after issuance (collectively, "Uncashed Checks"), shall escheat to the California State Controller's Office for deposit in the Unclaimed Property Fund, in the name of the PAGA Settlement Employee.

5. **Distribution of Payments.** Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the Settlement being fully funded, the Settlement Administrator shall issue payments to (1) PAGA Settlement

Employees; (2) the LWDA; (3) Plaintiff's Counsel for Plaintiff's Counsel's Court-approved attorneys' fees and litigation costs and expenses; (4) Plaintiff for the Court-approved enhancement payment and (5) the Settlement Administrator for Court-approved Settlement administration costs incurred in connection with the Settlement. Payments made by Easter Seals pursuant to this Settlement shall be held by the Settlement Administrator in an interest-bearing QSA until they are disbursed, with any accrued interest inuring to the benefit of the PAGA Settlement Employees in the form of pro rata increases to PAGA Settlement Employees' Individual PAGA Payments.

6. **Accounting.** Within 45 days after all payments have been made under the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide an accounting under oath to the Parties of the amounts paid from the settlement.

7. **Tax Consequences.** Neither Plaintiff nor Easter Seals, nor counsel for either of the Parties, make any representations or warranties with respect to tax consequences of any payment under this Settlement Agreement.

V. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. **Drafting.** The Parties agree that the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement are the result of lengthy, intensive, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and that neither Party shall be considered the "drafter" of this Settlement Agreement for purposes of having terms construed against that Party.

2. **Successors.** This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, administrators and successors.

3. **Costs and Fees.** The Parties shall each bear their own costs and attorneys' fees, mediator fees, and other fees incurred in connection with this Settlement Agreement, the Action and Plaintiff's claims, except as otherwise set forth specifically herein.

4. **Governing Law.** This Settlement Agreement shall be construed under and governed by the laws of the State of California. This Settlement Agreement shall be deemed to have been entered into in Los Angeles, California, and all questions of validity, interpretation or performance of any of its terms or of any rights or obligations of the Parties to this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by California law. If any legal or equitable action is necessary to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, it shall be brought in the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

5. **Complete Agreement.** The Parties each acknowledge and represent that no promise or representation not contained in this Settlement Agreement has been made to them with respect to the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement, and acknowledge and represent that this Settlement Agreement contains the entire understanding between them and contains all terms and conditions pertaining to the compromise and settlement of the PAGA claim in the Action.

6. **Nullification of Settlement Agreement.** In the event that: (i) the Court does not approve the Settlement as provided herein; or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, then this Settlement Agreement and any documents generated to bring it into effect, will be null and void, and the Parties will be returned to their respective positions before the

Settlement was executed.

7. **Dismissal and Continued Jurisdiction.** As noted above, after approval of this settlement, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction under Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 664.6 for purposes of addressing: (i) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the settlement, (ii) settlement administration matters, and (iii) such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

8. **Amendment or Modification.** This Settlement Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument, signed by either the Parties or their successors-in-interest, or by counsel for all Parties.

9. **Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement.** Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent that they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the mediator (i.e., Steve Pearl, Esq.) or the Court to resolve such disagreement.

10. **Execution and Counterparts.** This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the execution of all Parties. However, the Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts, and each of them, including facsimile and scanned copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange among themselves original signed counterparts.

11. **Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable.** The Parties believe this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the Action, and have arrived at this settlement after arm's-length negotiations by experienced counsel. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this settlement.

12. **Invalidity of Any Provision.** Before declaring any provision of this Settlement Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents, so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.

13. **Severability.** If any term or provision of this Settlement Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining portions of this Settlement Agreement will continue to be valid and will be performed, construed and enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law, and the invalid or unenforceable term will be deemed amended and limited in accordance with the intent of the Parties, as determined from the face of the Agreement, to the extent necessary to permit the maximum enforceability or validation of the term or provision.

14. **Waiver.** No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Settlement

Agreement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such Party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.

15. **Enforcement Action.** In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this settlement, the successful Party or Parties will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

16. **Mutual Preparation.** The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be construed more strictly against one Party merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arm's-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Settlement Agreement.

17. **Representation by Counsel.** The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel, and reviewed in full.

18. **Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents.** All Parties will cooperate in good faith and execute all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

19. **Binding Agreement.** The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this settlement, and further intend that this Settlement Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.

20. **Denial of Liability.** The Parties expressly recognize that the making of this Settlement Agreement does not in any way constitute an admission or concession of wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Nothing in this Settlement, nor any action taken in implementation thereof, nor any statements, discussions or communications, nor any materials prepared, exchanged, issued or used during the course of this Action, is intended by the Parties to, nor will any of the foregoing constitute, be introduced, be used or be admissible in any way in any other judicial, arbitral, administrative, investigative or other forum or proceeding, as evidence of any violation of any federal, state, or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, rule or executive order, or any obligation or duty at law or in equity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this agreement may be used in any proceeding in the Court that has as its purpose the interpretation, implementation, or enforcement of the Settlement or any orders or judgments of the Court entered into in connection therewith.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties each acknowledge that she/it has read the foregoing Settlement Agreement, accepts and agrees to the provisions contained in this Settlement Agreement and hereby executes it voluntarily and with full understanding of its consequences.

Dated: Oct 13, 2021



Christine Markley (Oct 13, 2021 12:38 PDT)

Christine Markley, Plaintiff

**EASTER SEALS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
INC.**

Dated: _____, 2021

By: _____

Its:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dated: October 14, 2021

HAINES LAW GROUP, APC

By: 

Paul K. Haines

Attorneys for Plaintiff, Christine Markley

Dated: _____, 2021

NOSSAMAN LLP

By: _____

E. George Joseph

Pavneet Singh Mac

Attorneys for Defendant, Easter Seals Southern
California, Inc.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties each acknowledge that she/it has read the foregoing Settlement Agreement, accepts and agrees to the provisions contained in this Settlement Agreement and hereby executes it voluntarily and with full understanding of its consequences.

Dated: _____, 2021

Christine Markley, Plaintiff

**EASTER SEALS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
INC.**

Dated: October 13, 2021

Roslan R. Monday, SPHR
By:
Its:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dated: _____, 2021

HAINES LAW GROUP, APC

By: _____
Paul K. Haines
Attorneys for Plaintiff, Christine Markley

Dated: October 13, 2021

NOSSAMAN LLP

By: Pavneet Singh Mac
E. George Joseph
Pavneet Singh Mac
Attorneys for Defendant, Easter Seals Southern
California, Inc.

EXHIBIT A

**Re: Payment from Christine Markley v. Easter Seals Southern California, Inc.
Superior Court of California Los Angeles County; Case No. 20STCV18866**

Date: [REDACTED]/[REDACTED]/2021

SIMID
Name
Address

Dear **Name:**

Enclosed, please find a check made payable to you. This is your payment from the settlement of a lawsuit titled *Christine Markley v. Easter Seals Southern California, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV18866, filed in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles (the “Action”).

The Action was filed against Defendant Easter Seals Southern California, Inc. (“Easter Seals”) and includes a claim pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”). The Action was brought by Plaintiff Christine Markley (“Plaintiff”), a former non-exempt employee of Easter Seals, on behalf of the State of California and other alleged aggrieved employees. You have been identified as one of the employees on whose behalf the case was brought.

Plaintiff alleged that Easter Seals owed civil penalties under PAGA for alleged violations of the California Labor Code. Easter Seals categorically denies Plaintiff’s allegations. The parties have reached a settlement of Plaintiff’s representative PAGA claims, and on [DATE], the Court approved the settlement, including the amount of civil penalties to be paid under the settlement. A portion of the civil penalty settlement amount goes to the State of California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Another portion of the civil penalty settlement amount goes to employees of Easter Seals who were allegedly affected by the alleged violations of the Labor Code. In agreeing to enter into this settlement, Easter Seals does not admit that it is liable in any way to current or former employees for any violations of the California Labor Code or any penalties. The Court has not decided the merits of Plaintiff’s claims.

Pursuant to the settlement, enclosed is a check for your share of a portion of the civil penalties. This check will remain valid for 180 days from the date of issuance. Please note that no deductions/withholdings have been made from your settlement payment, and you will be responsible for any tax consequences arising from your receipt of the same (for which an IRS Form 1099 will be issued). If you do not cash your check within 180 days of issuance, the funds will be deposited by the Settlement Administrator with the California State Controller to be deposited in the Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If you are still employed by Easter Seals, your decision to cash the check will not affect your employment in any way.

While you were not a party to the Action, you and the State of California have been bound by the settlement entered in this matter and approved by the Court, including the release contained in the settlement. The release pertains to civil penalties under PAGA only. The release includes all claims under the PAGA that Plaintiff alleged in the Action, or could have alleged based on the facts therein, including claims for civil penalties, attorneys’ fees, costs, or interest under the PAGA, during the time period of March 11, 2019 through <THE DATE OF THE ORDER APPROVING THE PAGA SETTLEMENT> (the “PAGA Period”).

If you have any questions, you can contact **Phoenix Settlement Administrators**, the Settlement Administrator, at 1-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED].

Questions? Call toll-free () - -