

ORIGINAL

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT

MAY 13 2024

BY Jessica Garcel
JESSICA GARCEL, Clerk

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ANITA RAMIREZ

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

ANITA RAMIREZ, as an individual and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CALIFORNIA MENTOR FAMILY HOME
AGENCY, LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company; and DOES 1-100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: CIVSB2203812

[Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Joseph T.
Ortiz, Department S-17]

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: May 13, 2024
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Dept.: S-17

FAXED

1 The Motion of Plaintiff Anita Ramirez ("Plaintiff") for Preliminary Approval of Class
2 Action Settlement ("Motion") came on regularly for hearing before this Court on [date] at [time]
3 a.m. in Department S-17. The Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of Settlement
4 (the "Settlement"), attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Declaration of Milan Moore filed concurrently
5 with the Motion; having considered Plaintiff's Motion, Memorandum of Points and Authorities
6 in support thereof, and supporting declarations filed therewith; and good cause appearing,
7 HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

8 1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set
9 forth in the Settlement and finds it terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement
10 that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness Hearing. For purposes
11 of the Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class is ascertainable and that
12 there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the members of the Settlement
13 Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants
14 conditional certification of the following Settlement Class:

15 All current and former Mentor Recruiters employed by CMFHA in California
16 between February 16, 2018 and April 25, 2021 (the "Class Period") who were
17 classified as exempt and who do not opt out of the Action and who did not execute
arbitration agreements with CMFHA.

18 2. For purposes of the Settlement, the "Class Period" shall mean the time period
19 between February 16, 2018 and April 25, 2021.

20 3. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiff Anita
21 Ramirez as Class Representative, and Scott M. Lidman and Milan Moore of Lidman Law, APC
22 as Class Counsel.

23 3. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators ("Phoenix") as the
24 third-party Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.

25 4. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Pendency of Class
26 Action and Proposed Settlement and Notice of Individual Settlement Award attached to the
27 Settlement as **Exhibits 2 and 3, respectively**.
28

1 5. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the
2 pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to Settlement
3 Class members, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute
4 valid, due, and sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class. The form and method
5 of giving notice complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure
6 section 382, California Civil Code section 1781, California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the
7 California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

8 6. The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class members to opt
9 out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and
10 Proposed Settlement.

11 7. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the
12 Final Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the
13 orderly presentation of any Settlement Class member's objection to the Settlement, in
14 accordance with the due process rights of all Settlement Class members.

15 8. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice of Pendency of
16 Class Action and Proposed Settlement and Notice of Individual Settlement Award to all of the
17 Class members in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

18 9. The Class Notice shall provide at least 60 calendar days' notice for Settlement
19 Class members to dispute, opt out of, or object to, the Settlement.

20 10. The Final Fairness Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be
21 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled in Department S-17 of this Court,
22 located at 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, California 92415 on October 7,
23 2024 at 1:30 a.m. (p.m.)

24 11. At the Final Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement
25 should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Settlement Class; (b) whether
26 a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether
27 Plaintiff's application for reasonable attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses,
28 service award to Plaintiff, and payment to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency

1 ("LWDA") for penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") should
2 be granted.

3 12. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements
4 and materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys' fees,
5 litigation expenses, Plaintiff's service award, settlement administration costs, and payment to the
6 LWDA for PAGA penalties prior to the Final Fairness Hearing according to the time limits set
7 by the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.

8 13. An implementation schedule is below:

Event	Date
Defendant to provide Class Data to Settlement Administrator	20 calendar days after the Court enters an order granting preliminary approval.
Settlement Administrator to mail Notice Packets to Class Members	10 business days after receiving Class Data from Defendant
Deadline for Class Members to request exclusion from, submit disputes, or object to, the Settlement	60 calendar days after mailing of the Notice by the Settlement Administrator
Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement (and to respond to any objections):	16 Court days before the Final Fairness Hearing
Final Fairness Hearing:	October 7, 2024

17 15. Pending the Final Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than
18 proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this
19 Order, are stayed.

20 16. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures
21 in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent
22 with either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 Dated: May 13, 2024

25 
Honorable Joseph T. Ortiz
Judge of the Superior Court