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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

SE'AHNNA PATIENCE McPIPE,
individually, and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

HEARTLAND CHILD & FAMILY
SERVICES, a California corporation; and
DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 25CV009001

CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

**JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

Complaint: April 15, 2025

First Amended Complaint: August 12, 2025

Trial date: Not set

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3 **CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

4 This Joint Stipulation of Class and Representative Action Settlement Agreement
5 (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiff Se’Ahanna Patience McPipe and Defendant Heartland
6 Child & Family Services (collectively, “the Parties”).

7 **1. DEFINITIONS.**

- 8 1.1. “Action” means *Se’Ahanna Patience McPipe v. Heartland Child & Family Services*,
9 Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento, Case No.
10 25CV009001.
- 11 1.2. “Administrator” means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions (“Phoenix”),
12 the neutral third-party administrator the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the
13 Settlement following a selection process approved by the Court.
- 14 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the court-approved amount the
15 Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its
16 reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s bid submitted to
17 the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 18 1.4. “Class” or “Settlement Class” means all current and former non-exempt, hourly-paid
19 employees of Defendant who worked for Defendant in California at any time during
20 the Class Period.
- 21 1.5. “Class Counsel” means Moon Law Group, PC.
- 22 1.6. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” means the court-approved amount allocated to Class
23 Counsel for reimbursement of their reasonable fees incurred to prosecute the Action,
24 not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 25 1.7. “Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment” means the court-approved amount allocated
26 to Class Counsel for reimbursement of actual litigation costs incurred to prosecute the
27 Action.
- 28 1.8. “Class Data” means certain identifying information of Class Members in Defendant’s

possession, specifically Class Members' full names, last-known mailing and/or email addresses, Social Security Numbers, dates of employment, and number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.

1.9. "Class Member" means a member of the Settlement Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as a member of the PAGA Group).

1.10. "Class Member Address Search" means the Administrator's investigation and search for current Class Member or PAGA Group member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods, and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address ("NCOA") database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.

1.11. "Class Notice" means the court-approved Notice of Class and Representative Action Settlement and Final Approval Hearing, to be mailed to Class Members in a form substantially similar to the draft attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

1.12. "Class Period" means the period from April 15, 2021, through June 11, 2026.

1.13. "Class Representative" means the named Plaintiff in the Action, Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe, seeking Court approval to serve as class representative.

1.14. "Class Representative Enhancement Award" means the court-approved payment allocated to the Class Representative for initiating and providing services in support of the Action, not to exceed \$5,000.00.

1.15. "Court" means the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento.

1.16. "Defendant" means the named Defendant, Heartland Child & Family Services.

1.17. "Defense Counsel" means Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland, PC.

1.18. "Effective Date" means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Final Approval Order; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (i) if no Participating

Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; (ii) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or (iii) if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

1.19. “Final Approval Order” means the Court’s Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.20. “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s Hearing on Plaintiff’s Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.21. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$238,275.00, the total non-reversionary amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement, except as provided in the Escalator Clause below. The Gross Settlement Amount will pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, the Class Representative Enhancement Award, and the Administration Expenses Payment.

1.22. “Individual Class Payment” means a Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks he or she worked during the Class Period, calculated solely and exclusively to effectuate Settlement of this Action.

1.23. “Individual PAGA Payment” means an Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 35% of the PAGA Penalties as calculated by the Administrator according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period.

1.24. “Judgment” means the Judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval Order.

1.25. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

1.26. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means 65% of the PAGA Penalties (\$15,600.00) paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699(m).

1.27. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: the Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Class Representative Enhancement Award, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.

1.28. “Non-Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who requests to be excluded from the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.

1.29. “Operative Complaint” means Plaintiff’s First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint, filed on August 12, 2025.

1.30. “PAGA” means the California Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*

1.31. “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s April 13, 2025 Notice of California Labor Code Violations and PAGA Penalties, sent to Defendant and submitted to the LWDA pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699.3(a)(1)(A) (LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-1091956-25).

1.32. “PAGA Pay Period” means any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant in California at least one day within the PAGA Period.

1.33. “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount in settlement of the Released PAGA Claims, not to exceed \$24,000.00, allocated 35% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$8,400.00) and 65% to the LWDA (\$15,600.00), calculated solely and exclusively to effectuate Settlement of this Action, and for no other reason or purpose.

1.34. “PAGA Period” means the period from April 13, 2024, through June 11, 2026.

1.35. “PAGA Group” or “Aggrieved Employees” means all current and former non-exempt, hourly-paid employees of Defendant who worked for Defendant in California at any

time during the PAGA Period.

1.36. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Class Settlement.

1.37. “Plaintiff” means Se’Ahanna Patience McPipe, the named Plaintiff in the Action.

1.38. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

1.39. “Qualified Settlement Fund” or “QSF” means a fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation section 1.468B-1, 26 CFR section 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, that is established by the Administrator.

1.40. “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Section 5.1.

1.41. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Section 5.2.

1.42. “Released Parties” means Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services, and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

1.43. “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement.

1.44. “Response Deadline” means forty-five (45) calendar days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail a Request for Exclusion from the Class Settlement; (b) fax, email, or mail a written Objection to the Settlement; or (c) fax, email, or mail a Challenge to the Calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods allocated to the Class Member or PAGA Group member. The Response Deadline for Class Members to whom Class Notices are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall be extended by ten (10) calendar days beyond the original Response Deadline.

1.45. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment. “Class Settlement” means the non-PAGA portion of the Settlement

1 resolving the Released Class Claims, including the Individual Class Payments. “PAGA
2 Settlement” means the portion of the Settlement resolving the Released PAGA Claims,
3 including the LWDA PAGA Payment and Individual PAGA Payments.

4 1.46. “Workweek” means any workweek during which a Participating Class Member worked
5 for Defendant in California at least one day during the Class Period.

6 **2. RECITALS.**

7 2.1. On April 15, 2025, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Class Action Complaint
8 alleging causes of action against Defendant for: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages
9 (Cal. Lab. Code sections 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197); (2) Failure to Pay Overtime
10 Compensation (Cal. Lab. Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) Failure to Provide
11 Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code sections 226.7 and 512); (4) Failure to Authorize and
12 Permit Rest Breaks (Cal. Lab. Code section 226.7); (5) Failure to Indemnify Necessary
13 Business Expenses (Cal. Lab. Code section 2802); (6) Failure to Timely Pay Final
14 Wages at Termination (Cal. Lab. Code sections 201-203); (7) Failure to Provide
15 Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code section 226); and (8) Unfair
16 Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code sections 17200, *et seq.*).

17 2.2. On April 13, 2025, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3(a)(1)(A), Plaintiff provided
18 written notice to the LWDA and Defendant by submitting and sending the PAGA
19 Notice (LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-1091956-25). Plaintiff’s administrative
20 exhaustion period under PAGA expired without any notice from the LWDA of intent
21 to investigate the allegations. To date, the LWDA has not sought to intervene in the
22 Action.

23 2.3. On August 12, 2025, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action
24 Complaint against Defendant, adding a ninth cause of action for civil penalties under
25 PAGA (Cal. Lab. Code sections 2698, *et seq.*). On August 21, 2025, in compliance with
26 PAGA, Plaintiff timely submitted a conformed copy of the First Amended Complaint
27 containing the Court-assigned case number to the LWDA.
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2.4. On October 10, 2025, Defendant filed an Answer to Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint denying all allegations and contending it complied with all wage and hour laws.

2.5. On June 11, 2026, the Parties participated in a mediation presided over by experienced wage-and-hour mediator Marc Feder, Esq., which led to this Agreement to settle the Action. In advance of mediation, Plaintiff requested relevant informal discovery from Defendant, including Plaintiff's personnel file, Defendant's written policies in effect during the statutory period, meal period waivers and on-duty meal period agreements, information regarding any reasonable steps taken to comply with PAGA, a sampling of time and pay records for Class Members, and demographic and composition data for class and PAGA claims. In response, Defendant provided demographic and composition data, an 18.4% sampling of time and pay records, partial personnel records for Plaintiff, and an employee handbook. Plaintiff's counsel retained a statistics expert to analyze the informal discovery, including the sample time and pay data, to evaluate Defendant's potential exposure. The Parties' investigation was sufficient to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and defenses and to negotiate a fair and reasonable settlement of the Action.

2.6. The Court has not granted class certification.

2.7. Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with any laws, including, but not limited to, the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged in the Operative Complaint.

2.8. The Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement of the Class Action.

3. **MONETARY TERMS.**

3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by the Escalator Clause below,

1 Defendant will pay \$238,275.00, and no more, as the Gross Settlement Amount and
2 will separately pay all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions (as defined
3 below) of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross
4 Settlement Amount or any payroll taxes prior to the deadline stated in Section 4.0 of
5 this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount
6 without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to
7 submit a claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will
8 revert to Defendant.

9 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct
10 the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified
11 by the Court in the Final Approval Order:

12 3.2.1. To Plaintiff: A Class Representative Enhancement Award to the Class
13 Representative of not more than \$5,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class
14 Payment and Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to
15 receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's
16 request for a Class Representative Enhancement Award that does not exceed
17 this amount. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a Motion supporting the
18 Class Representative Enhancement Award no later than sixteen (16) court days
19 before the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative
20 Enhancement Award that is less than the amount requested, the Administrator
21 will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will
22 pay the Class Representative Enhancement Award using IRS Form 1099-
23 MISC. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible for paying any applicable
24 taxes on this payment and shall hold Defendant harmless from any claim or
25 liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the payment.
26 Defendant makes no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the
27 payment called for herein, and Plaintiff is not relying on any statement or
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representation by Defendant or its counsel in this regard.

3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated to be \$79,425.00, and a Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment for reimbursement of actual reasonable litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff's Counsel, not to exceed \$25,000.00. Defendant will not oppose a request for a Class Counsel Fees Payment that does not exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim related to any portion of any Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment using one or more IRS Form 1099-MISC. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administration Expenses Payment in an amount not to exceed \$7,250.00, the amount agreed upon by the Parties' respective Counsel in connection with the Administrator's bid submitted to the Court, except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the administration expenses are less, or the Court approves payment less than the bid amount, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement

Amount.

3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.

3.2.4.a. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Ten percent (10%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS Form W-2. Ninety percent (90%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS Form 1099-MISC. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.b. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Workweeks of Non-Participating Class Members are not included in the calculation of payments to Participating Class Members. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$24,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 65% (\$15,600.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 35% (\$8,400.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.a. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 35% share of PAGA Penalties (\$8,400.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Each Individual PAGA Payment will be treated as 100% penalties for tax purposes and reported on an IRS Form 1099-MISC. Aggrieved Employees will not be required to submit any claim to receive an Individual PAGA Payment. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA .

3.2.5.b. If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount.

4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. The Gross Settlement Amount and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments shall be fully funded by transmission of such funds to the Administrator within thirty (30) calendar days of entry of the Court's Final Approval Order.

4.2. Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of Defendant's records, Defendant estimates that as of the date of the Parties' mediation, June 11, 2026, there are approximately 152 Class Members who collectively worked a total of approximately 9,531 Workweeks, and approximately 99 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of approximately 2,587 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.3. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after Defendant funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator shall mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA

PAGA Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, the Class Representative Enhancement Award, and the Administration Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, and Class Representative Enhancement Award shall not precede disbursement of the Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

4.3.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail with postage prepaid. Before mailing any checks, the Administrator must update the recipient's mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database. The face of each check shall prominently state the date the check will be voided. Each check will be voided 180 days after the date of mailing ("void date"). The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Class Payments to all Participating Class Members, including those for whom a Class Notice was returned undelivered. The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees, including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees and those Aggrieved Employees for whom a Class Notice was returned undelivered. The Administrator may send Participating Class Members who are also Aggrieved Employees a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment.

4.3.2. No later than seven (7) calendar days after receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search for Class Members and Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without a USPS forwarding address. Thereafter, the Administrator need not

1 take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members or Aggrieved Employees
2 whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall
3 promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member or Aggrieved
4 Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced and who requests the
5 replacement before the void date.

6 4.3.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or for any
7 Aggrieved Employee whose Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and
8 cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds
9 represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property
10 Fund in the name of the Class Member or Aggrieved Employee thereby leaving
11 no "unpaid residue" in accordance with the requirements of California Code of
12 Civil Procedure section 384(b).

13 4.3.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments
14 shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any
15 additional payments to Class Members or Aggrieved Employees, such as
16 401(k) contributions or bonuses, beyond those specified in this Agreement.
17 Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Agreement will not affect any rights,
18 contributions, or amounts to which any Class Members may be entitled under
19 any benefit plans.

20 **5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective upon entry of judgment and Defendant's full funding of
21 the Gross Settlement Amount and its employer-share of payroll taxes, Plaintiff, Class Members,
22 Aggrieved Employees, and Class Counsel will release claims against the Released Parties as follows:

23 5.1. Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's respective former and present representatives,
24 agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, fully and finally release
25 and discharge the Released Parties from any and all charges, complaints, claims, and
26 liabilities of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, suspected or
27 unsuspected ("claim(s)") which Plaintiff, at any time heretofore, had or claimed to have
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1 or which Plaintiff may have or shall in the future claim to have, including, without
2 limitation, any and all claims related or in any manner incidental to Plaintiff's
3 employment with Defendant. Plaintiff understands she is releasing potentially unknown
4 claims, and that Plaintiff may have limited knowledge with respect to some of the
5 claims being released. Plaintiff acknowledges there is a risk that, after signing this
6 Agreement, Plaintiff may learn information that might have affected Plaintiff's decision
7 to enter into this Agreement. Plaintiff assumes this risk and all other risks of any mistake
8 in entering into this Agreement. Plaintiff agrees that this Agreement is fairly and
9 knowingly made.

10 5.1.1. Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For
11 purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the
12 provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of Section 1542 of the Civil Code, which
13 reads:

14 A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party
15 does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the
16 release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or
17 her settlement with the debtor or released party.

18 5.2. Release by Participating Class Members. All Participating Class Members, on behalf
19 of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys,
20 heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, fully and finally release and discharge
21 the Released Parties from any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations,
22 penalties, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, and causes of action that were
23 alleged or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the
24 Operative Complaint arising during the Class Period. This release includes, without
25 limitation, a release of all claims alleged in the Operative Complaint for: (1) failure to
26 pay minimum wages; (2) failure to pay overtime compensation; (3) failure to provide
27 meal periods; (4) failure to authorize and permit rest breaks; (5) failure to indemnify
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necessary business expenses; (6) failure to pay all unpaid wages at termination; (7) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (8) unfair business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; and (9) statutory waiting time penalties based on the foregoing (collectively, the “Released Class Claims”). The Released Class Claims exclude any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits or workers’ compensation benefits that arose at any time, any claims that are not releasable as a matter of law or public policy, and any claims arising outside the Class Period.

5.3. Release by Aggrieved Employees. All Aggrieved Employees, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, fully and finally release and discharge the Released Parties from any and all claims for civil penalties, and attorneys’ fees and costs, under PAGA that were alleged or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint or Plaintiff’s PAGA Notice dated April 13, 2025, including, but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum wages; (2) failure to pay overtime compensation; (3) failure to provide meal periods; (4) failure to authorize and permit rest breaks; (5) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses; (6) failure to pay all unpaid wages at termination; and (7) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (collectively, the “Released PAGA Claims”). The Released PAGA Claims include only claims for penalties under PAGA and exclude any claims arising outside the PAGA Period.

6. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

6.1. Selection of Administrator. The Parties will jointly select a neutral third-party administrator to serve as the Administrator and will verify that, as a condition of appointment, the Administrator agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for the Administration Expenses Payment. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they will have no

1 interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a
2 professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

3 6.2. Class Data. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Court grants Preliminary
4 Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator
5 in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights,
6 the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only
7 for purposes of the Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class
8 Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and
9 perform under the Settlement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify
10 Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted Class Member identifying
11 information as defined in Section 1.8 , and to provide corrected or updated Class Data
12 as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which
13 Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel
14 will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any
15 issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

16 6.3. Notice of Receipt of Class Data. No later than three (3) business days after receipt of
17 the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been
18 received and state the number of Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, Workweeks,
19 and PAGA Pay Periods in the Class Data.

20 6.4. Notice to Class Members. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the
21 Class Data from Defendant, the Administrator will send all Class Members identified
22 in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("USPS") mail, the Class
23 Notice substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as **Exhibit A**. The first page
24 of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual
25 Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member and/or
26 Aggrieved Employee, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods used to
27 calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update
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Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.

6.5. Remailing of Class Notice. No later than three (3) business days after its receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by USPS. If USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send the Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by USPS a second time.

6.5.1. The deadlines for Class Members' Objections, Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional ten (10) calendar days beyond the forty-five (45) days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

6.5.2. If the Administrator, Defendant, Defense Counsel, or Class Counsel are contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such person(s) will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the Class Notice, or the deadline in the Class Notice, whichever is later.

6.6. Requests for Exclusion and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review Requests for Exclusion on a rolling basis to ascertain their validity and timeliness. No later than five (5) days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for

1 Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel
2 containing the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have
3 submitted Requests for Exclusion, regardless of whether the requests are valid and
4 timely (“Exclusion List”); and copies of all Requests for Exclusion submitted,
5 regardless of whether the requests are valid and timely.

6 6.7. Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to
7 Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that tally the number of Class Notices mailed or
8 re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion received
9 (whether valid or invalid), Objections received, Challenges to Workweeks and/or
10 PAGA Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class
11 Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports
12 must include the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of the Requests for
13 Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and Objections received.

14 6.8. Administrator’s Declaration. No later than seven (7) business days after the Response
15 Deadline, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel a signed
16 declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to (i) its due diligence and compliance
17 with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing
18 of the Class Notice, (ii) the total number of Class Notices returned as undelivered, (iii)
19 the total number of re-mailed Class Notices, (iv) its attempts to locate Class Members,
20 (v) the total number of Requests for Exclusion received (valid or invalid), (vi) the total
21 number of Objections received (valid or invalid), (vii) the total number of Participating
22 Class Members and Workweeks, (viii) the total number of Aggrieved Employees and
23 PAGA Pay Periods, and (ix) the lowest, average, and highest Individual Class Payment
24 and Individual PAGA Payment. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as
25 needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for
26 filing the Administrator’s declaration(s) in Court.

27 6.9. Final Report by Settlement Administrator. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days
28

1 after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the
2 Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with (i) a final report
3 detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments
4 made under this Agreement, and (ii) a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court
5 attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class
6 Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

7 6.10. Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own
8 Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings
9 and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.

10 6.11. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets
11 the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury
12 Regulation section 1.468B-1.

13 6.12. Website, Email Address, and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish,
14 maintain, and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members
15 including the date, time, and location of the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the
16 Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, Preliminary Approval Order,
17 Class Notice, Motion for Final Approval, and Final Approval Order and Judgment. The
18 Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and toll-free telephone
19 number to receive Class Member calls, faxes, and emails.

20 6.13. Class Members' Options.

21 6.13.1. Requests for Exclusion. Each Class Member shall have forty-five (45) calendar
22 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional ten (10)
23 calendar days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to exclude
24 themselves from the Class Settlement. A Class Member may exclude himself
25 or herself from the Class Settlement by emailing, faxing, or mailing a Request
26 for Exclusion to the Administrator by submitting another written
27 communication requesting exclusion that contains all required information for
28

1 a Request for Exclusion. The Request for Exclusion must be valid and timely.
2 To be valid, the Request for Exclusion must (1) include the Class Member's full
3 name, address, telephone number, signature, and a simple written statement
4 requesting to be excluded from the Class Settlement; (2) state the case name
5 and number of the Action; and (3) be emailed, faxed, or mailed to the specified
6 contact information for the Administrator. To be timely, the Request for
7 Exclusion must be made no later than the Response Deadline; if the Request for
8 Exclusion is sent by mail, it must be postmarked no later than the Response
9 Deadline and the postmark date will be the exclusive means of determining
10 whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. A Class Member
11 who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion will be deemed
12 a Participating Class Member and will be bound by all terms of the Settlement
13 if it is granted Final Approval.

14 6.13.1.a. Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid
15 Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member
16 under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and
17 conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class
18 Members' Release under Section 5.1 of this Agreement, regardless of
19 whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class
20 Notice or objects to the Settlement.

21 6.13.1.b. Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request
22 for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive
23 an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the Class
24 Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim
25 preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class
26 Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the
27 claims identified in Section 5.2 of this Agreement and are eligible for
28

an Individual PAGA Payment.

6.13.2. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods. Each Class Member shall have forty-five (45) calendar days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional ten (10) calendar days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods allocated to the Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee in the Class Notice. A Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee may challenge the allocation by sending a Challenge to Calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods to the Administrator via fax, email, or mail. The Challenge must be timely submitted no later than the Response Deadline. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Members to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all Challenges to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel and the Administrator's determination of the challenges. The Administrator's determination of allocations of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods is final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

6.13.3. Objections to Settlement. Each Participating Class Member shall have forty-five (45) calendar days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional ten (10) calendar days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to object to the Class Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, and/or Class Representative Enhancement Award. Only Participating Class Members may send written Objections to the Administrator. A Participating Class Member

may object to the Settlement by (1) appearing at the Final Approval Hearing and verbally objecting to the Settlement or any term thereof; and/or (2) sending a written Objection Form to the Administrator by sending another written communication that contains the required information for a written Objection. The written Objection must be valid and timely. To be valid, the written Objection must: (1) include the Class Member's full name, address, telephone number, and signature, the contact information for any attorney representing the objecting Class Member, if any, and the factual and legal bases for the Objection, including any supporting papers; (2) state the case name and number of the Action; and (3) be emailed, faxed, or mailed to the specified contact information for the Administrator. To be timely, the written Objection must be postmarked or transmitted no later than the Response Deadline.

7. ESCALATOR CLAUSE.

7.1. The Gross Settlement Amount is based on an estimate that as of the date of the Parties' mediation, there are 9,531 aggregate Workweeks worked by approximately 152 Class Members during the Class Period. If the actual number of Workweeks is more than 10% greater than this figure (*i.e.*, if the actual number of Workweeks exceeds 10,484.1), Defendant agrees, at its sole discretion, to either (a) make a proportional increase to the Gross Settlement Amount by the percentage increase for each additional Workweek above the escalator (*e.g.*, if the number of Workweeks increases by 11%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase by 1%), or (b) end the Class and PAGA Periods on or before the date the escalator is triggered. The Parties agree that, before Plaintiff files the motion for preliminary approval and sufficiently in advance of the preliminary approval hearing, Defendant shall provide the Administrator selected by the Parties with complete and accurate class data, and Defendant agrees to be prepared to inform the Court of its election at the Preliminary Approval Hearing.

1 **8. DEFENDANT’S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.**

2 8.1. If the number of valid and timely Requests for Exclusion exceeds 10% of the total of all
3 Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated to, elect to withdraw from the
4 Settlement. If Defendant elects to withdraw from the Settlement, Defendant must meet
5 and confer with Class Counsel no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after expiration
6 of the Response Deadline, and Defendant will be responsible for paying all reasonably
7 incurred settlement administration expenses incurred to that point. Further, the
8 Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and neither Party
9 will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement, except as provided
10 in this Paragraph.

11 **9. MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** Class Counsel will prepare and file a
12 motion for preliminary approval (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”) that complies with the Court’s
13 current checklist for Preliminary Approvals. Defense Counsel will cooperate in finalizing the Motion
14 for Preliminary Approval and will have an opportunity to approve the documents before their filing.

15 9.1. Plaintiff’s Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all
16 documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the
17 notice and memorandum in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that
18 includes appropriate analysis of the Settlement and a request for approval of the PAGA
19 Settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (s)(2); (ii) a draft proposed
20 Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft
21 proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its
22 bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve;
23 competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of
24 insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all
25 facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and
26 the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel, or
27 Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and
28

competency to serve as class representative and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members and/or the Administrator; (vi) a signed declaration from Class Counsel attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members and its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (PAGA Notice (Lab. Code, section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Lab. Code, section 2699, subd. (s)(1)), and the Agreement (Lab. Code, section 2699, subd. (s)(2))); and (vii) all other facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members or the Administrator. In their declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel shall aver whether they are aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

9.2. Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement (with Class Counsel giving all documents to Defense Counsel for review at least 14 days prior to the filing date provided here); obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval Order to the Administrator.

9.3. Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together by meeting in person or by telephone and in good faith to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

1 **10. FINAL APPROVAL.**

2 10.1. Motion for Final Approval. No later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared
3 Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file a Motion for Final Approval of the
4 Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor
5 Code section 2699(s)(2) and a [Proposed] Final Approval Order and Judgment. Plaintiff
6 shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than ten (10) days
7 before filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will
8 expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve
9 any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

10 10.2. Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any Objection raised
11 by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in
12 Court no later than five (5) court days before the Final Approval Hearing, or as
13 otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

14 10.3. Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final
15 Approval on any material change to the Settlement, including, but not limited to, the
16 scope of release to be granted by Class Members, the Parties will expeditiously work
17 together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as
18 necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the
19 amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs
20 Payment, Class Representative Enhancement Award, and/or Administration Expenses
21 Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the
22 meaning of this Paragraph.

23 10.4. Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of the Final
24 Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and Settlement
25 solely for purposes of (i) enforcing the Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing
26 settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as
27 are permitted by law. This Agreement will be final, binding, and enforceable pursuant
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to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6.

10.5. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees and Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payments, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs, or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10.6. Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the appellate court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional administration expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Enhancement Award or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this Paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

10.7. Failure to Approve. If the Court does not approve, either preliminarily or finally, any material term or condition of the Settlement Agreement, or if the Court effects a material change, then this Agreement will be voidable and unenforceable, subject to the Parties' agreement to the contrary, and the costs of administration shall be split equally

between the Plaintiff, on one side, and Defendant, on the other.

11. AMENDED JUDGMENT.

11.1. If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit a proposed amended judgment.

12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

12.1. Entire Agreement. This Agreement and the attached **Exhibit A** constitute the entirety of the Parties' class and PAGA settlement terms.

12.2. No Admission of Liability. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. The Parties enter into this Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, it has violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct concerning its employees. Neither this Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendant of any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Agreement, this Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of Defendant or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with, federal, state, local or other applicable law. If Final Approval does not occur, the Parties agree that this Agreement is void but remains protected by California Evidence Code section 1152.

12.3. Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. The Parties agree to stipulate to class certification only for purposes of the Settlement. If, for any

reason, the Settlement is not approved, the stipulation to certification will be void. If, for any reason the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval, or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reason, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement, and the Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on and will not be admissible in connection with any litigation, except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement.

12.4. No Press Releases/Advertisements. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's Counsel shall issue any press release or announcement of any kind related in any way to the Settlement. Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree to limit their statements regarding the terms of the Settlement, whether oral, written, or electronic (including the World Wide Web), to say the Class Action has been resolved and that Plaintiff and Class Counsel are satisfied with the Settlement terms. Nothing in this Section is intended to interfere with Class Counsel's duties and obligations to faithfully discharge their duties as Class Counsel, including but not limited to: (1) as required by law; (2) as required under the terms of the Settlement; and/or (3) as required under counsel's duties and responsibilities as Class Counsel. This Settlement shall not be advertised or mentioned on any source, including Plaintiff's Counsel's personal or firm website.

12.5. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Agreement after arm's-length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential. 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.

12.6. No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to request to be excluded from or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

12.7. Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement, together with its attached Exhibits, shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Class and PAGA Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.

12.8. Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

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

12.10. Waiver. No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this 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.

12.11. Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence, and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree

upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of the mediator, Marc Feder, Esq., and/or the Court for resolution.

12.12. No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.

12.13. No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, nor Defense Counsel is providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.

12.14. Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.

12.15. Agreement Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of each of the Parties.

12.16. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the State of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.

12.17. Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.

12.18. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made and orders entered during the Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.

12.19. Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to

Evidence Code section 1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. No later than ninety (90) days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destruction, of Class Data.

12.20. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

12.21. Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all references to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

12.22. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (*i.e.*, DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

12.23. Binding Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this Settlement, intend that this 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. This Agreement shall become binding and

enforceable pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6.

12.24. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330, the date to bring a case to trial under California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310 shall be extended for the entire period of this settlement process.

[Signatures on the following page.]

Plaintiff & Settlement Class Representative:

Dated: 8/13/2026

By: _____

Signed by:

6A23E9B4E196416...
Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe

Plaintiff's Counsel:

MOON LAW GROUP, PC

Dated: 8/13/2026

By: _____


Kane Moon
Allen Feghali
Charlotte Mikat-Stevens
Attorneys for Plaintiff Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe

Defendant & Defendant's Representative:

Dated:

By: _____

Name:
Title:
On behalf of Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services

Defendant's Counsel:

SAGASER, WATKINS & WIELAND, PC

Dated:

By: _____

Paul J. Bauer
Attorneys for Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services

Plaintiff & Settlement Class Representative:

Dated:

By:

Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe

Plaintiff's Counsel:

MOON LAW GROUP, PC

Dated:

By:

Kane Moon

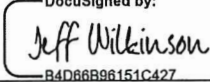
Allen Feghali

Charlotte Mikat-Stevens

Attorneys for Plaintiff Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe

Defendant & Defendant's Representative:

Dated: August 24, 2026

By:  B4D86B96151C427

Name: Jeff Wilkinson

Title: CEO

On behalf of Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services

Defendant's Counsel:

SAGASER, WATKINS & WIELAND, PC

Dated: 8/24/26

By: 

Paul J. Bauer

Attorneys for Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services

NOTICE OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE

Your legal rights are affected whether or not you act. Please read this notice carefully.

In the class and representative action entitled *Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe v. Heartland Child & Family Services*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV009001 ("Action"), Plaintiff Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe ("Plaintiff") alleges Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services ("Defendant") violated several provisions of the California Labor Code and California Business and Professions Code, and owes civil penalties to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Aggrieved Employees (defined below) under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA"). Defendant denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind and contends, among other things, that it complied at all times with the California Labor Code, the California Business and Professions Code, all applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, and all applicable law.

However, in the interest of avoiding further litigation and the costs and uncertainties associated with further litigation, Plaintiff and Defendant have reached a Joint Stipulation of Class and Representative Action Settlement Agreement ("Settlement"), which has been preliminarily approved by the Court. By agreeing to the Settlement, Defendant in no way admits any violation of law and expressly denies any liability to Plaintiff or others.

You are subject to the terms of the Settlement because you have been identified by Defendant's records as a Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee.

"Class" means all current and former non-exempt, hourly-paid employees of Defendant in California employed from April 15, 2021, through June 11, 2026 ("Class Period").

"Aggrieved Employees" means all current and former non-exempt, hourly-paid employees of Defendant in California employed from April 13, 2024, through June 11, 2026 ("PAGA Period").

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE SETTLEMENT	
Participate in the Settlement	If you want to participate in the Settlement, remain in the Class, and receive your Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment, <u>then you do not need to do anything.</u>
Exclude Yourself From the Settlement	If you do not want to participate in the Settlement or remain in the Class, <u>then you need to follow the instructions in Section 6.</u> If you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will not receive your Individual Class Payment, and you will not release the Released Class Claims against the Released Parties (defined in Section 4, below). However, if the Settlement is approved by the Court and you are an Aggrieved Employee, you will receive your Individual PAGA Payment, and you will release the Released PAGA Claims, even if you exclude yourself from the Settlement.
Object to the Settlement	If you want to object to the terms of the Settlement but remain in the Class, <u>then you need to follow the instructions in Section 7.</u> If you object to the Settlement, you will still be bound by the terms of the Settlement if it is approved by the Court.

1. WHY DID I GET THIS NOTICE?

You have received this Notice because Defendant's records reflect that you are a Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee (defined above). Because the Settlement, which has been preliminarily approved by the Court, affects

Class Members' and Aggrieved Employees' legal rights, the Court ordered that this Notice be sent to you. This Notice provides you with information about (1) the Action, (2) the monetary terms of the Settlement, (3) your estimated Individual Class Payment, provided you do not request to be excluded from the Settlement, (4) your estimated Individual PAGA Payment, (5) the terms of the Settlement, including the claims that are being released, (6) how to participate in, exclude yourself from, or object to the Settlement, and (7) where to find additional information regarding the Action and Settlement.

2. WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

Plaintiff alleges Defendant: (1) failed to pay Class Members minimum wages for all hours worked; (2) failed to pay Class Members overtime compensation; (3) failed to provide Class Members compliant meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof; (4) failed to provide Class Members compliant rest breaks or compensation in lieu thereof; (5) failed to reimburse Class Members for necessary business expenses they incurred in the direct discharge of their duties to Defendant; (6) failed to timely pay Class Members all compensation due upon termination or resignation; (7) failed to provide Class Members accurate itemized wage statements; (8) engaged in unlawful business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; and/or (9) owes civil penalties under PAGA.

Defendant denies these allegations and maintains it fully complied with all applicable laws, provided, permitted, and authorized Class Members to take all meal periods and rest breaks, reimbursed Class Members for all necessary business expenses, provided Class Members with accurate wage statements, compensated Class Members for all wages upon termination or resignation, did not perform any unlawful business acts under California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*, and owes no civil penalties under PAGA. Defendant denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind and contends, among other things, that it complied at all times with the California Labor Code, the California Business and Professions Code, all applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, and all applicable law.

The Court has not ruled on the merits of the claims alleged by Plaintiff. By preliminarily approving the Settlement and issuing this Notice, the Court is not suggesting which side would win or lose the Action on the merits. Rather, the Court has determined only that there is sufficient evidence to determine, on a preliminary basis, that the proposed Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. The final determination of this question will be made at the Final Approval Hearing. Defendant reserves the right, if for any reason the Settlement fails, to contest any factual or legal allegations, including to contest whether the Action should proceed as a class and/or representative action.

3. THE MONETARY TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT AND CALCULATION OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL CLASS PAYMENT AND INDIVIDUAL PAGA PAYMENT

Without admitting any wrongdoing, and to avoid the business disruptions caused by litigating these claims, Defendant has agreed to pay a Gross Settlement Amount of \$238,275.00 to settle the Action. The following amounts will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount:

- An Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed \$7,250.00, the amount agreed upon by the Parties' respective Counsel in connection with the Administrator's bid submitted to the Court, for reimbursement of the Administrator's reasonable fees and expenses;
- A Class Representative Enhancement Award not to exceed \$5,000.00 to Class Representative for her services in support of the Action;
- PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$24,000.00 allocated to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees for the payment of civil penalties under PAGA;
- A Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment to Class Counsel for reimbursement of their actual litigation costs incurred to prosecute the Action; and

- A Class Counsel Fees Payment not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount to Class Counsel for reimbursement of their reasonable fees incurred to prosecute the Action.

Net Settlement Amount: The amount remaining from the Gross Settlement Amount after the above deductions is called the "Net Settlement Amount." The Net Settlement Amount will be allocated to all Participating Class Members and calculated as follows:

1. The Administrator will determine the number of weeks each Participating Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day during the Class Period ("Workweeks");
2. The Administrator will determine the value of a single Workweek by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members; and
3. Each Participating Class Member shall receive an Individual Class Payment equal to his or her Workweeks multiplied by the value of a single Workweek.

You have been credited with [] Workweeks. Based on these Workweeks, your Individual Class Payment, prior to any applicable withholdings, is estimated to be \$[]. Depending on rulings from the Court that might affect the Gross Settlement Amount, as well as the number of Class Members who may exclude themselves from the Settlement, the actual amount you will receive if the Court grants Final Approval of the Settlement may vary from this estimated amount.

Individual PAGA Payment: A total of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00) of the Gross Settlement Amount has been allocated to PAGA Penalties. Of this amount, sixty-five percent (65%) (\$15,600.00) shall be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA PAGA Payment"), and thirty-five percent (35%) (\$8,400.00) (the "Individual PAGA Payment") shall be paid on a pro rata basis to Aggrieved Employees, calculated as follows:

The Administrator will determine the number of pay periods each Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period ("PAGA Pay Periods");

1. The Administrator will determine the value of a single PAGA Pay Period by dividing the Individual PAGA Payment by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees; and
2. Each Aggrieved Employee shall receive an Individual PAGA Payment equal to his or her PAGA Pay Periods multiplied by the value of a single PAGA Pay Period.

You have been credited with [] PAGA Pay Periods. Based on these PAGA Pay Periods, your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$[]. Depending on rulings from the Court that might affect the Gross Settlement Amount, the actual amount you will receive if the Court grants Final Approval of the Settlement may vary from this estimated amount.

If you dispute the total number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods that you have been credited with, you may challenge the allocation by sending a Challenge to the Calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to the Administrator ("Challenge"). Your Challenge should (1) contain your name, address, and telephone number and the case name and number of the Action (i.e., *Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe v. Heartland Child & Family Services*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV009001); (2) clearly state the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods you believe is correct; and (3) attach any documentary evidence you have to prove the number of contended Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods. Your Challenge must be postmarked on or before [Response Deadline] and returned to the Administrator at the following address:

[Settlement Administrator Name]
[ADDRESS]
[ADDRESS]
[PHONE NUMBER] | [EMAIL]

For tax purposes, ten percent (10%) of each Individual Class Payment will be allocated to wages and subject to all applicable employee state and federal tax withholdings; and ninety percent (90%) of each Individual Class Payment will be considered penalties, liquidated damages, interest, and any other non-wage related payments. The amount allocated as wages will be reported on an IRS Form W-2, and the remaining amount allocated as penalties, liquidated damages, interest, and other non-wage payments will be reported on an IRS Form 1099-MISC. One hundred percent (100%) of each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as penalties and reported on an IRS Form 1099-MISC. In addition to the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendant will pay all employer payroll taxes in connection with the portion of the Settlement allocated towards wages. Class Members are responsible for paying taxes on other amounts received. This Notice is not tax advice, and you should consult your tax advisor.

Checks will be valid for one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of mailing. After that, checks will become void, and a stop payment will be placed on the uncashed checks. Settlement checks that are not cashed within one hundred and eighty (180) days of mailing, or are returned to the Administrator as undeliverable, will be cancelled, and the Administrator shall transmit the funds associated with uncashed checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member in accordance with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 384(b). Class Members who do not timely cash their checks should contact the Administrator to determine how they can obtain their payment. **Class Members will be bound by the Settlement even if they do not cash their settlement checks.**

4. WHAT AM I RELEASING AS A CLASS MEMBER UNDER THE SETTLEMENT?

As of the date Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and all employer payroll taxes owed on the wage portions of the Individual Class Payments, all Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement (*i.e.*, Participating Class Members), including Plaintiff, will fully and finally release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims.

"Released Parties" means Defendant Heartland Child & Family Services, and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

Release by Participating Class Members: All Class Members who do not timely opt out of the Settlement will release the Released Parties from all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, penalties, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, and causes of action that were alleged or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the operative complaint arising during the Class Period. This release includes, without limitation, a release of all claims alleged in the operative complaint for: (i) failure to pay minimum wages; (ii) failure to pay overtime compensation; (iii) failure to provide meal periods; (iv) failure to authorize and permit rest breaks; (v) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses; (vi) failure to pay all unpaid wages at termination; (vii) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (viii) unfair business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; and (ix) statutory waiting time penalties based on the foregoing (collectively, the "Released Class Claims").

The definition of "Released Class Claims" for the Class Members shall expressly exclude all claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits or workers' compensation benefits

that arose at any time, any claims that are not releasable as a matter of law or public policy, and any claims arising outside the Class Period.

5. WHAT AM I RELEASING AS AN AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE UNDER THE SETTLEMENT?

As of the date Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and all employer payroll taxes owed on the wage portions of the Individual Class Payments, Aggrieved Employees will fully and finally release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims. Released Parties are defined in Section 4 of this Notice, above.

Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees will release the Released Parties from all claims for civil penalties, and attorneys' fees and costs, under PAGA that were alleged or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the operative complaint or Plaintiff's PAGA notice dated April 13, 2025, including, but not limited to: (i) failure to pay minimum wages; (ii) failure to pay overtime compensation; (iii) failure to provide meal periods; (iv) failure to authorize and permit rest breaks; (v) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses; (vi) failure to pay all unpaid wages at termination; and (vii) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (collectively, the "Released PAGA Claims"). The Released PAGA Claims include only claims for penalties under PAGA and exclude any claims arising outside the PAGA Period.

AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES CANNOT OPT-OUT OF THE PAGA SETTLEMENT OR THE RELEASE OF RELEASED PAGA CLAIMS, AND THEY WILL RECEIVE AN INDIVIDUAL PAGA PAYMENT EVEN IF THEY OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT.

6. WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

You have the right to request exclusion from the Settlement as a Class Member, with regard to the settlement of Released Class Claims, but you are not able to exclude yourself as an Aggrieved Employee. If you wish to exclude yourself from the release of Released Class Claims, you must mail a Request for Exclusion to the Administrator at the address listed in Section 3 of this Notice, above. The Request for Exclusion must be valid and timely.

To be valid, the Request for Exclusion must (1) include your full name, address, telephone number, and signature, and a written statement requesting to be excluded from the Settlement; (2) state the case name and number of the Action (i.e., *Se'Ahnna Patience McPipe v. Heartland Child & Family Services*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV009001); and (3) be mailed to the specified physical address of the Administrator. To be timely, the Request for Exclusion must be postmarked no later than the [Response Deadline]. The postmark date will be the exclusive means of determining whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. You may complete and submit this form to exclude yourself from the Settlement. It is your responsibility to ensure the Administrator timely receives your Request for Exclusion. **Unless you timely request to be excluded from the Settlement, you will be bound by the Final Judgment upon Final Approval.**

Class Members who request to be excluded from the Settlement will NOT receive their Individual Class Payment and will not release any of the Released Class Claims. However, Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees will receive their Individual PAGA Payment and will release the Released PAGA Claims, regardless of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

7. WHAT IF I WANT TO OBJECT TO THIS SETTLEMENT?

You have the right to object to the Settlement or to any settlement term as a Participating Class Member. If you wish to object, you may (1) appear at the Final Approval Hearing and verbally object to the Settlement or any term

thereof; and/or (2) send a written Objection to the Administrator at the address listed in Section 3 of this Notice, above. The written Objection must be valid and timely. To be valid, the written Objection must (1) include your full name, address, telephone number, and signature, the contact information for any attorney representing the objecting Class Member, if any, and the factual and legal bases for the Objection, including any and all supporting papers, briefs, written evidence, declarations, and/or other evidence; (2) state the case name and number of the Action (i.e., *Se'Ahanna Patience McPipe v. Heartland Child & Family Services*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV009001); and (3) be mailed to the specified physical address of the Administrator. To be timely, the written Objection must be postmarked no later than the [Response Deadline]. The postmark date will be the exclusive means of determining whether a written Objection has been timely submitted.

Filing an objection will **not** exclude you from the Settlement. If the Court grants Final Approval of the Settlement, you will still receive an Individual Class Payment, and you will be barred from pursuing the Released Class Claims. **Do not submit both an Objection and a Request for Exclusion. You may file one or neither.** If you file neither, then you will be automatically included in the Settlement and do not need to take any further action to receive a payment.

8. WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE COURT DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT?

The Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [DATE] at [TIME] a.m./p.m. in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento, Department [] located at [ADDRESS]. This date and time may be subject to change without notice to you. You may verify the hearing date on the following website: [ADMINISTRATOR WEBSITE]. Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court at their own expense) to offer comments and/or present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing.

9. WHO ARE THE ATTORNEYS?

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class:

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The Court has permitted, for purposes of settlement, the Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class to represent the Participating Class Members. Other than the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment approved by the Court and to be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount, you will not be charged for their services.

10. SHOULD I GET MY OWN LAWYER?

You do not need to get your own lawyer. If you want your own lawyer to speak for you or appear in Court, you have the right to hire one, but you will have to pay for that lawyer yourself.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION

The foregoing is only a summary of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement and other important case documents, please see the Settlement available at [ADMINISTRATOR WEBSITE], or contact Class Counsel at the address or telephone number provided in Section 9, above.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT.