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12 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

14 GINA MARTINEZ, ISMAEL ORTEGA,
15 JESSICA SAELOR, as individuals, on behalf
16 of themselves and others similarly situated

17 Plaintiff,

18 vs.

19 MOBILE-MED WORK HEALTH
20 SOLUTIONS INC.; and DOES 1 thru 50,
21 inclusive,

22 Defendant.

CASE NO.: 23CV410264

**DECLARATION OF ISMAEL ORTEGA
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: August 28, 2024

Hearing Time: 1:30 p.m.

Judge: Theodore C. Zayner

Dept: 19

Date Filed: January 19, 2023

Trial Date: Not set

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28 **DECLARATION OF ISMAEL ORTEGA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT**

1 I, Ismael Ortega, declare as follows:

2 1. I am over the age of eighteen, a Plaintiff and a proposed Class Representative in the
3 above-entitled matter. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval
4 of Class Settlement and in support of my application for a Class Representative Service Payment.

5 2. I have personal knowledge of all the facts stated herein. I could and would competently
6 testify under oath to these facts in court if requested to do so.

7 3. During the class period I have worked as a Medical Assistant – Covid Tester for the
8 Defendant Mobile-Med Work Health Solutions, Inc. (“Mobile-Med”) (“Defendant”) in California
9 and during that time period I have been classified by Defendant as a non-exempt employee.

10 4. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in both class action and PAGA representative
11 action litigation and claims against employers for violations of the California Labor Code. I have
12 no personal relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the Court. I am not aware
13 of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with another class member in this case nor
14 am I aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with ILYM Group, Inc., the
15 settlement administrator. I am not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims
16 that will be extinguished or adversely affected by this settlement.

17 5. I decided to pursue this class action lawsuit and be a plaintiff/class representative
18 because I felt that my legal rights as an employee and others like me were violated. I often did not
19 receive compliant meal and rest breaks which were late, interrupted or missed entirely. For
20 example, I was told by my supervisors that if there were patients present, I had to stay in my
21 assigned room until lunch without rest breaks. Even if there were no patients, I was told not to
22 leave my assigned room for rest breaks in case someone came who needed their temperature
23 taken. Sometimes I had to cut my meal breaks short to come back early to take patients
24 temperature. Even if I had clocked out already, sometimes I was told by my supervisors to take
25 patients temperature before leaving to take my lunch break. I also did not receive all the meal and
26 rest break premiums I was entitled to and, when I did receive premium payments, they were often
27 an incorrect amount.

28
DECLARATION OF ISMAEL ORTEGA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT

1 6. I spoke to my attorneys several times and discussed how Defendants implemented their
2 company policies and procedures. I also assisted my attorneys in their investigation into my claims
3 by providing them documents and answering their questions. I reviewed the complaint before it
4 was filed and, after it was filed, I was given access to an electronic file sharing program that
5 alerted me via email when important documents were filed so that I could review them and keep
6 up with the developments in the case which I understood was one of my duties as a class
7 representative. I would also contact my attorneys from time to time if I had any questions about
8 the case.

9 7. Even though this action is in the process of settling, I was and remain prepared to perform
10 all the duties of a class representative. I understand that as a class representative I have assumed a
11 fiduciary responsibility to prosecute this class action on behalf of the absent class members. I
12 have understood that as a fiduciary, I have a duty to prosecute this action for the benefit of the
13 class members and surrender any right to compromise the group action for an individual gain.

14 8. I understood that being a plaintiff/class representative in this case meant that I was seeking
15 damages not only for myself but also other current and/or former non-exempt employees working
16 for Defendants in California who make up the class. I felt that these individuals were not aware of
17 their labor law rights and even if they were they would probably be apprehensive about speaking
18 up or even simply because of the time, effort and risk involved in filing a class action lawsuit.

19 9. I understood that being a part of this lawsuit involved risks. For example, my attorneys
20 explained to me that if the case went to trial and we lost, I could be held responsible to pay for all
21 or part of the attorney fees and costs paid by Defendants to defend this lawsuit. Also, I knew there
22 was a risk that future employers, if they ever find out about this lawsuit, could hold it against me
23 or downgrade me as a potential hire. As one of only two named Plaintiffs in this case, it would
24 not be difficult for a future employer to become aware that I sued my employer for labor law
25 violations. Ultimately I decided these risks were worth it and decided to fight for my rights and
26 the rights of others regardless of the risks, time and effort I spent on this case.

27 10. During the lawsuit I stayed in touch with my attorneys by phone and email. I also kept up

28 DECLARATION OF ISMAEL ORTEGA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT

1 to date on important developments by reviewing court filings that were made available to me
2 electronically as I described above.

3 11. A mediation took place on December 13, 2023 with Tripper Ortman, Esq., a well-respected
4 and experienced mediator of wage and hour class actions. During the mediation, the parties were
5 able to reach an agreement to settle the action. I communicated with my attorneys regarding the
6 terms of the settlement which was reached between the parties and understood that I was
7 representing absent class members and therefore wanted the best possible result to be obtained for
8 the class members and I believe a very positive result was in fact achieved via settlement. I
9 reviewed and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on December 15, 2023, and when the
10 final settlement papers were ready, I closely reviewed the Settlement Agreement which I signed
11 on May 6, 2024.

12 12. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit performing the duties described above.
13 Although I did not keep time records, I was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court
14 filings, and spent a significant amount of time on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in the
15 settlement process. I estimate that I spent approximately 40-50 hours working on this case up
16 until this point. I believe I have been diligent and have done what is expected of a named plaintiff
17 and a proposed class representative to date, and will continue to do so. I have and always will
18 maintain the best interest of the class members.

19 13. My attorneys explained to me that the settlement process involves a two-step review by the
20 Court to determine whether the settlement is fair before approving the settlement. I know this
21 process also involves notifying all class members of the settlement terms and of their rights to
22 make a claim for their settlement share, to opt out of the settlement or to object to the settlement.

23 14. I believe I did the right thing by filing this case on behalf of the class members who,
24 subject to court approval, are in line to receive monetary payments as a result of this case and
25 settlement. This is money they may never have ever gotten if I did not pursue this action on their
26 behalf. I feel significant personal satisfaction to know that I played a role in the class members
27 being entitled to monetary payments as a result of the filing of this lawsuit. I also believe that the

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DECLARATION OF ISMAEL ORTEGA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT

1 requested Class Representative Service Payment of \$12,500 from the settlement is fair
2 compensation for the work I performed and the risks I undertook.

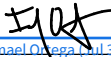
3 15. As part of the settlement it was necessary for me to sign a general release of all claims I
4 may have against Defendants. I believe the Class Representative Service Payment I have requested
5 provides me with some compensation for this agreed release.

6 16. In light of all the time and effort I have spent on this case, the risk I undertook by suing my
7 employer, the exposure to being responsible for paying Defendants' costs in the event we did not
8 win the case, the reputational risk that future employers may hold this lawsuit against me, the
9 general release and in light of the size of the settlement, I believe the request for \$12,500 as a
10 Class Representative service payment is fair and reasonable.

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1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
2 true and correct.

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4 Executed on Jul 30, 2024, at Earlimart California.
5 (city, state)

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7 Ismael Ortega (Jul 30, 2024 11:48 PDT)
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28 DECLARATION OF ISMAEL ORTEGA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT