

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Deloise Guyton, on behalf of herself and others: similarly situated,	:	Case No.: 2023-CA-001242
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Abrahamsen Gindin, LLC,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	
	:	

AGREED ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, this Court has been advised that the parties to this action, Deloise Guyton (“Plaintiff” or “Class Representative”), and Abrahamsen Gindin, LLC (“Defendant”), through their respective counsel, have agreed, subject to Court approval following notice to the Class Members and a hearing, to settle the above-captioned lawsuit (“Lawsuit”) upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”), which has been filed with the Court, and the Court deeming that the definitions set forth in the Agreement are hereby incorporated by reference herein (with capitalized terms as set forth in the Agreement);

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the Agreement and all of the files, records, and proceedings herein, and it appearing to this Court that, upon preliminary examination, the proposed settlement appears fair, reasonable, and adequate, and that a hearing should and will be held, after Notice to the Class Members, to confirm that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and to determine whether a Final Order and Judgment should be entered in this Lawsuit:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Lawsuit and over all settling parties hereto.

Pursuant to Rule 1.220(b)(3) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Lawsuit is hereby preliminarily certified, for settlement purposes only, as a class action on behalf of the following class (hereinafter referred to as the “Class Members”) with respect to the claims asserted in the Lawsuit:

All persons (a) with a Florida address, (b) from whom Abrahamsen Gindin, LLC attempted to collect a consumer debt, (c) between June 24, 2020 and November 30, 2021.

Defendant has identified a total of 1,690 potential Class Members.

Pursuant to Rule 1.220(a)(4), the Court Deloise Guyton as the Class Representative. The Court also appoints Michael L. Greenwald and James L. Davidson of Greenwald Davidson Radbil PLLC as Class Counsel. *See, e.g., Claxton v. Alliance CAS, LLC*, No. 19-61002, 2020 WL 2759826 (S.D. Fla. May 27, 2020) (appointing Greenwald Davidson Radbil PLLC as Class Counsel); *James v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, No. 8:15-cv-2424-T-23JSS, 2016 WL 6908118, at *1 (M.D. Fla. Nov. 22, 2016) (same); *Roundtree v. Bush Ross, P.A.*, 304 F.R.D. 644, 661 (M.D. Fla. 2015) (same).

The Court preliminarily finds that the settlement of the Lawsuit, on the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement, is in all respects fundamentally fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interest of the Class Members, especially in light of (1) the strength of Plaintiff's case compared to the terms of the proposed settlement; (2) the likely complexity, length and expense of continued litigation; (3) the opinion of competent counsel; and (4) the reasonableness of the settlement in light of the best possible recovery at trial given the cap on statutory damages

under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

A third-party class administrator acceptable to the parties will administer the settlement and notification to Class Members. The Class Administrator will be responsible for mailing the approved class action notice to Class Members and settlement checks to the Participating Class Members. All reasonable costs of notice and administration will be paid by Defendant separate and apart from the Settlement Fund. Upon the recommendation of the parties, the Court appoints the following administrator: Class-Settlement.com.

The Court approves the form and substance of the written notices of the class action settlement, attached to the Addendum to the Agreement as Exhibits D and E. The proposed form and method for notifying the Class Members of the settlement and its terms and conditions meet the requirements of Rule 1.220(d)(2) and due process, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to the notice. *See Decohen v. Abbasi, LLC*, 299 F.R.D. 469, 479 (D. Md. 2014) (“Under the circumstances of this case, when all class members are known in advance, the Court finds that the method of direct mail notice to each class member’s last known address—and a second notice if the first was returned as undeliverable—was the best practicable notice.”).

The Court finds that the proposed notices are clearly designed to advise the Class Members of their rights. In accordance with the Agreement, the Class Administrator will mail the notice to the Class Members as expeditiously as possible, but in no event later than 21 days after the Court’s entry of this order. The Class Administrator will confirm, and if necessary, update the addresses for the Class Members through standard methodology that the Class Administrator currently uses to update addresses.

Any Class Member who wishes to receive a pro-rata portion of the Settlement Fund must send a valid, timely claim form to the Class Administrator with a postmark date no later than 60 days after the Court's entry of this order.

Any Class Member who desires to be excluded from the Class must send a written request for exclusion to the Class Administrator with a postmark date no later than 60 days after the Court's entry of this order. To be effective, the written request for exclusion must state the Class Member's full name, address, telephone number, and email address (if available), along with a statement that the Class Member wishes to be excluded, and must be signed by the Class Member. Any Class Member who submits a valid and timely request for exclusion will not be bound by the terms of the Agreement. Any Class Member who fails to submit a valid and timely request for exclusion will be bound by the terms of the Agreement. No Class Member, or any person acting on behalf of or in concert or participation with any Class Member, may exclude any other Class Member from the class. A Class Member may opt out on an individual basis only. "Mass" or "class" opt-outs, whether submitted by third parties on behalf of a "mass" or "class" of Class Members or multiple Class Members, where no personal statement has been signed by each individual Class Member, are not allowed.

Any Class Member who intends to object to the fairness of this settlement must file a written objection with the Court within 60 days after the Court's entry of this order. Further, any such Class Member must, within the same time period, provide a copy of the written objection to Class Counsel, attention: Michael L. Greenwald, Greenwald Davidson Radbil PLLC, 5550 Glades Road, Suite 500, Boca Raton, FL 33431; and Counsel for Defendant, Lauren M. Burnette, Messer Strickler Burnette, Ltd., 12276 San Jose Blvd., Suite 718, Jacksonville, Florida 32223.

To be effective, a notice of intent to object to the Settlement must:

- (a) Contain a heading which includes the name of the case and case number;
- (b) Provide the name, address, telephone number, and email address (if available) of the Class Member filing the objection;
- (c) Be filed with the Clerk of the Court no later than 60 days after the Court preliminarily approves the settlement;
- (d) Attach documents establishing, or provide information sufficient to allow the Parties to confirm, that the objector is a Class Member;
- (e) Be sent to Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant at the addresses above by first-class mail, postmarked no later than 60 days after the Court preliminarily approves the settlement;
- (f) Contain the name, address, bar number, and telephone number of the objecting Class Member's counsel, if represented by an attorney. If the Class Member is represented by an attorney, he/she must comply with all applicable laws and rules for filing pleadings and documents in the Circuit Court of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, in and for Duval County, Florida;
- (g) Identify any documents which such objector desires the Court to consider, including all legal authorities the objector will present at the settlement approval hearing; and
- (h) State whether the objector intends to appear at the settlement approval hearing on his or her own behalf or through counsel.

Any Class Member who has timely filed an objection may appear at the settlement approval hearing, in person or by counsel, to be heard to the extent allowed by the Court, applying applicable law, in opposition to the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the proposed settlement, and on the application for an award of attorneys' fees and costs. Any objection that includes a request for exclusion will be treated as an exclusion.

If the Court grants final approval of the settlement, the Class Administrator will mail a settlement check to each Participating Class Member. Each Participating Class Member will

receive a pro-rata portion of the \$16,900 Settlement Fund. In addition, the Class Administrator will mail a reimbursement check to each Class Member in the amount each such Class Member paid to Defendant. The total amount of reimbursements is \$2,460.

The Court will conduct a hearing ("Final Approval Hearing") on July 12, 2023, ^{at 9:30 a.m. with 15 minutes set aside} at the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court, Duval County Courthouse, ^{Hearing Room 734} 501 W. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202, to review and rule upon the following issues:

- A. Whether this action satisfies the applicable prerequisites for class action treatment for settlement purposes under Rule 23;
- B. Whether the proposed settlement is fundamentally fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interest of the Class Members and should be approved by the Court;
- C. Whether a Final Order and Judgment, as provided under the Agreement, should be entered, dismissing the Lawsuit with prejudice and releasing the Released Claims against the Released Parties; and
- D. To discuss and review other issues as the Court deems appropriate.

Attendance by Class Members at the Final Approval Hearing is not necessary. Class Members need not appear at the hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval of the proposed class action settlement. Class Members wishing to be heard are, however, required to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. The Final Approval Hearing may be postponed, adjourned, transferred, or continued without further notice to the Class Members.

Memoranda in support of the proposed settlement must be filed with the Court no later than 30 days before the Final Approval Hearing. Opposition briefs to any of the foregoing must be filed no later than 14 days before the Final Approval Hearing. Reply memoranda in support of the

foregoing must be filed with the Court no later than 7 days before the Final Approval Hearing.

Memoranda in support of any petitions for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of costs and expenses by Class Counsel, must be filed with the Court no later than 21 days before the deadline for Class Members to claim in to, object to, or exclude themselves from, the settlement. Opposition briefs to any of the foregoing must be filed no later than 21 days thereafter. Reply memoranda in support of the foregoing must be filed with the Court no later than 7 days after the filing of any opposition brief.

The Agreement and this Order will be null and void if either of the Parties terminates the Agreement for any of the following reasons:

- A. The Court rejects any material component of the Agreement, including any amendment thereto approved by the Parties; or
- B. The Court approves the Agreement, including any amendment thereto approved by the Parties, but such approval is reversed on appeal and such reversal becomes final by lapse of time or otherwise.

The events described above, however, provide grounds for terminating the Agreement only after the Parties have attempted and completed good faith negotiations to salvage the settlement but were unable to salvage the settlement.

If the Agreement and/or this Order are voided, then the Agreement will be of no force and effect and the Parties' rights and defenses will be restored, without prejudice, to their respective positions as if the Agreement had never been executed and this Order never entered.

The Court retains continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the action to consider all further matters arising out of or connected with the settlement, including the administration and

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enforcement of the Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 6, 2023



HONORABLE ROBERT M. DEES
DUVAL COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Copies Furnished to:
Electronically Served

Michael Greenwald, mgreenwald@gdrllawfirm.com
James Davidson, jdavidson@gdrllawfirm.com
Lauren M. Burnette, lburnette@messerstrickler.com
John M. Marees II, jmarees@messerstrickler.com