# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2024-010619-CA-01

SECTION: CA27

JUDGE: William Thomas

#### **Travis McClinton**

Plaintiff(s)

VS.

## **Choice Health Insurance LLC**

Defendant(s)

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# AGREED FINAL APPROVAL TO CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND FINAL JUDGMENT

On September 18, 2024, the Court granted preliminary approval to the proposed class action settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release between Plaintiff Travis McClinton, on behalf of himself and all members of the Settlement Class, and Defendant Choice Health Insurance, LLC ("Defendant") (collectively, the "Parties"). The Court also provisionally certified the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, approved the procedure for giving Class Notice to the members of the Settlement Class, and approved of a Final Approval Hearing to take place on December 11, 2024.

The November 21, 2024 deadline for the Settlement Class to either object to or exclude themselves from the terms of the Settlement Agreement has now passed, and no objections and only one (1) exclusion has been received.

On December 11, 2024, the Court held a duly noticed Final Approval Hearing to consider:
(1) whether the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate; (2) whether a judgment should be entered dismissing the Plaintiff's Complaint on the merits and with prejudice in favor of Defendant and against all persons or entities who are

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 1 of 13

Settlement Class Members herein who have not requested exclusion from the Settlement Class; and (3) whether and in what amount to award counsel for the Settlement Class as attorneys' fees and expenses and whether and in what amount to award a Service Award to Plaintiff.

Unless otherwise noted, all capitalized terms in this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Parties' Settlement Agreement.

## NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

#### I. JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

- 1. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the Parties and the Settlement Class Members, venue is proper, and the Court has subject matter jurisdiction to approve the Agreement, including all exhibits thereto, and to enter this Final Approval Order and Judgment. Without in any way affecting the finality of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, this Court hereby retains jurisdiction as to all matters relating to administration, consummation, enforcement, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, and for any other necessary purpose.
- 2. The Settlement Agreement was negotiated at arm's length by experienced counsel who were fully informed of the facts and circumstances of this litigation (the "Action") and of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions. The Settlement Agreement was reached after the Parties had engaged in mediations and in extensive settlement discussions and after the exchange of information, including information about the size and scope of the Settlement Class. Counsel for the Parties were therefore well positioned to evaluate the benefits of the Settlement Agreement, taking into account the expense, risk, and uncertainty of protracted litigation.
- 3. The Court finds that the prerequisites for a class action under Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220 have been satisfied for settlement purposes for each Settlement Class Member in that: (a) the

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 2 of 13

number of Settlement Class Members is so numerous that joinder of all members thereof is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class he seeks to represent; (d) Plaintiff has and will continue to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class for purposes of entering into the Settlement Agreement; (e) the questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting any individual Settlement Class Member; (f) the Settlement Class is ascertainable; and (g) a class action is superior to the other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

#### II. CERTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLASS

4. Pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, this Court hereby finally certifies the Settlement Class, as identified in the Settlement Agreement:

All persons in the United States, for the time period beginning July 28, 2018 through September 18, 2024 who were sent a prerecorded voice call by or on behalf of Choice Health Insurance, LLC regarding Choice Health Insurance, LLC's property, goods, and/or services where the lead data was provided by ZeetoGroup, LLC to Digital Media Services, LLC.

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

### III. APPOINTMENT OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND CLASS COUNSEL

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 3 of 13

- 5. The Court finally appoints Michael Eisenband of Eisenband Law, P.A. and Manuel S. Hiraldo of Hiraldo, P.A. as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.
  - 6. The Court finally designates Plaintiff Travis McClinton as the Class Representative.

#### IV. NOTICE AND CLAIMS PROCESS

- 7. The Court makes the following findings on notice to the Settlement Class:
- (a) The Court finds that the distribution of the Class Notice, as provided for in the Settlement Agreement, (i) constituted the best practicable notice under the circumstances to Settlement Class Members, (ii) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of, among other things, the pendency of the Action, the nature and terms of the proposed Settlement, their right to object or to exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement, and their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, (iii) was reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to be provided with notice, and (iv) complied fully with the requirements of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, the United States Constitution, the Rules of this Court, and any other applicable law.
- (b) The Court finds that the Class Notice and methodology set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, and this Final Approval Order and Judgment (i) constitute the most effective and practicable notice of the Final Approval Order and Judgment, the relief available to Settlement Class Members pursuant to the Final Approval Order and Judgment, and applicable time periods; (ii) constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice for all other purposes to all Settlement Class Members; and (iii) comply fully with the requirements of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, the United States Constitution, the Rules of this Court, and any other applicable laws.

### V. FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 4 of 13

8. The Settlement Agreement is finally approved in all respects as fair, reasonable and adequate. The terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement, including all Exhibits thereto, have been entered into in good faith and are hereby fully and finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to, and in the best interests of, each of the Parties and the Settlement Class Members.

#### VI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

- 9. The Parties are hereby directed to implement the Settlement Agreement according to its terms and provisions. The Administrator is directed to provide Claim Settlement Payments to those Settlement Class Members who submit valid, timely, and complete Approved Claims.
- 10. The Court hereby approves Class Counsel's request for attorney fees, costs, and expenses, and awards Class Counsel \$308,387.77 as reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses (the "Fee Award") incurred in this Action. Payment of Class Counsel's attorneys' fees shall be made by Defendant from the Settlement Sum.
- 11. The Court has concluded that: (a) Class Counsel achieved a favorable result for the Settlement Class by obtaining Defendant's agreement to make significant funds available to Settlement Class Members, subject to submission of valid claims by eligible Settlement Class Members; (b) Class Counsel devoted substantial effort to pre- and post-filing investigation, legal analysis, and litigation; (c) Class Counsel prosecuted the Settlement Class's claims on a contingent fee basis, investing significant time and accumulating costs with no guarantee that they would receive compensation for their services or recover their expenses; (d) Class Counsel employed their knowledge of and experience with class action litigation in achieving a valuable settlement for the Settlement Class, in spite of Defendant's possible legal defenses and its experienced and capable counsel; (e) Class Counsel have a standard contingent fee agreement with Plaintiff, who has reviewed the Settlement Agreement and been informed of Class Counsel's fee request and have

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 5 of 13

approved; and (f) the Notice informed Settlement Class Members of the amount and nature of Class Counsel's fee and cost request under the Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel filed and posted their Petition in time for Settlement Class Members to make a meaningful decision whether to object to the Class Counsel's fee request, and **0** Settlement Class Member(s) objected.

12. The Court awards a Service Award in the amount of \$7,500.00 to Plaintiff payable from the Settlement Sum and pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

# VII. RELEASE OF CLAIMS

13. Upon entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, all members of the Settlement Class who did not validly and timely submit Requests for Exclusion in the manner provided in the Agreement shall, by operation of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, have fully, finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged Defendant and the Released Parties from the Released Claims as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

# 14. As used in this Final Approval Order and Judgment:

a. "Released Claims" means any and all claims, causes of action, suits, obligations, debts, demands, agreements, promises, liabilities, damages, losses, controversies, costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees of any nature whatsoever, whether based on any federal law, state law, common law, territorial law, foreign law, contract, rule, regulation, any regulatory promulgation (including, but not limited to, any opinion or declaratory ruling), common law or equity, whether known or unknown (including Unknown Claims), suspected or unsuspected, asserted or unasserted, foreseen or unforeseen, actual or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, punitive or compensatory, of every nature and description whatsoever, that arise out of or relate in any way to telephone calls made by or on behalf of Choice Health Insurance, LLC, including but not limited to claims asserting violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq. (the "TCPA"), any corollary or state laws similar to the TCPA

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 6 of 13

- and TSR, or enactment of any other statutory, regulatory or common law claim arising thereunder.
- b. "Released Parties" means the Defendant and each of its past, present, and future members, owners, direct and indirect parents, subsidiaries, managers, divisions, predecessors, successors, holding companies, and affiliated companies and corporations, and each of the past, present, and future directors, officers, managers, employees, contractors, general partners, limited partners, investors, controlling persons, owners, trustees, principals, agents, associates, administrators, insurers, reinsurers, shareholders, attorneys, accountants, advisors, consultants, assignors, assignees, representatives, fiduciaries, predecessors, successors, divisions, joint ventures, or related entities of those companies including, but not limited to, the vendors, subvendors, contractors, subcontractors, and service providers retained to make calls (or which were involved in making calls for another of the Released Parties). In the avoidance of doubt, "Released Parties" does not include Digital Media Solutions, LLC or of its affiliates (together, "DMS"), or any person or entity that provided leads to DMS that DMS provided to Choice Health Insurance, LLC or Alight Solutions, LLC. The release of any third parties is limited to any actions taken on behalf of Choice Health Insurance, LLC.
- c. "Releasing Parties" means Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members (whether or not such Settlement Class Members submit Claim Forms), and their respective assigns, heirs, successors, predecessors, parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, members, managers, partners, principals, representatives, and employees (each solely in their respective capacity as such), and all those who claim through them or who assert claims (or could assert claims) on their behalf.
- d. "Unknown Claims" means claims that could have been raised in the Action or the First Action and that Plaintiff or any or all other Releasing Parties, or any of them, do

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 7 of 13

not know or suspect to exist, which, if known by him, her or it, might affect his, her or its agreement to release the Released Parties pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, or might affect his, her, or its decision to agree, object or not to object to the Settlement. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff and all other Releasing Parties shall be deemed to have, and shall have, expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights and benefits of § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff and all other Releasing Parties also shall be deemed to have, and shall have, waived any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, or the law of any jurisdiction outside of the United States, which is similar, comparable or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code. Plaintiff and the other Releasing Parties acknowledge that they may discover facts in addition to or different from those that they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of this release, but that it is their intention to finally and forever to settle and release the Released Claims pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, notwithstanding any Unknown Claims they may have, as that term is defined in this paragraph.

15. Furthermore, all members of the Settlement Class who did not validly and timely submit Requests for Exclusion in the manner provided in the Agreement are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from filing, commencing, prosecuting, maintaining, intervening in, participating in, conducting or continuing, either directly or in any other capacity, either individually or as a class, any action or proceeding in any court, agency, arbitration, tribunal or jurisdiction, asserting any claims released pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, or

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 8 of 13

seeking an award of fees and costs of any kind or nature whatsoever and pursuant to any authority or theory whatsoever, relating to or arising from the Action or the First Action or that could have been brought in the Action or the First Action and/or as a result of or in addition to those provided by the Settlement Agreement.

- 16. The terms of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, including all Exhibits thereto, shall be forever binding on, and shall have *res judicata* and preclusive effect in, all pending and future lawsuits maintained by Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, as well as their heirs, executors and administrators, successors, and assigns.
- 17. The Releases, which are set forth in the Settlement Agreement and which are also set forth above, are expressly incorporated herein in all respects and are effective as of the date of this Final Approval Order and Judgment; and the Released Parties (as that term is defined above and in the Settlement Agreement) are forever released, relinquished, and discharged by the Releasing Parties (as that term is defined above and in the Settlement Agreement) from all Released Claims (as that term is defined above and in the Settlement Agreement).
- (a) The Settlement Agreement and Releases do not affect the rights of Settlement Class Members who timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Agreement.
- (b) The administration and consummation of the Settlement as embodied in the Settlement Agreement shall be under the authority of the Court. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to protect, preserve, and implement the Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, enforcement of the Releases. The Court expressly retains jurisdiction in order to enter such further orders as may be necessary or appropriate in administering and implementing the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 9 of 13

- (c) The Settlement Agreement shall be the exclusive remedy for any and all Settlement Class Members, except those who have properly requested exclusion (opted out), and the Released Parties shall not be subject to liability or expense for any of the Released Claims to any Settlement Class Member(s).
- (d) The Releases shall not preclude any action to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement, including participation in any of the processes detailed therein. The Releases set forth herein and in the Settlement Agreement are not intended to include the release of any rights or duties of the Parties arising out of the Settlement Agreement, including the express warranties and covenants contained therein.
- 18. Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members who did not timely exclude themselves from the Settlement Class are, from this day forward, hereby permanently barred and enjoined from directly or indirectly: (i) asserting any Released Claims in any action or proceeding; (ii) filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating in (as class members or otherwise), any lawsuit based on or relating to any the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto; or (iii) organizing any Settlement Class Members into a separate class for purposes of pursuing as a purported class action any lawsuit (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or seeking class certification in a pending action) based on or relating to any of the Released Claims.

#### VIII. NO ADMISSION OF LIABILITY

- 19. Neither the Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms and provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor any of the documents or statements referred to therein, nor this Final Approval Order and Judgment, nor any of its terms and provisions, shall be:
  - (a) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 10 of 13

as evidence of, or construed as or deemed to be evidence of, any presumption, concession, or admission by Defendant of the truth of the facts alleged by any person, the validity of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any other litigation or judicial or administrative proceeding, the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any litigation, or of any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing by Defendant or any Released Party;

- (b) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission of any fault or violation of any law by Defendant or any Released Party; or
- (c) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding.

#### IX. OTHER PROVISIONS

- 20. This Final Approval Order and Judgment and the Settlement Agreement (including the Exhibits thereto) may be filed in any action against or by any Released Party (as that term is defined herein and the Settlement Agreement) to support a defense of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.
- 21. Without further order of the Court, the Parties may agree to reasonably necessary extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Settlement Agreement.
- 22. In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall automatically be rendered null and void and shall be vacated and, in such event, all orders entered and released delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void. In the event

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 11 of 13

that the Effective Date does not occur, the Settlement Agreement shall become null and void and be of no further force and effect, neither the Settlement Agreement nor the Court's Orders, including this Final Approval Order and Judgment, shall be used or referred to for any purpose whatsoever, and the Parties shall retain, without prejudice, any and all objections, arguments, and defenses with respect to class certification, including the right to argue that no class should be certified for any purpose, and with respect to any claims or allegations in this Action.

- 23. This Action, including all individual claims and class claims presented herein, is hereby dismissed on the merits and with prejudice against Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, without fees or costs to any party except as otherwise provided herein. Finding that there is no just reason for delay, the Court orders that this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall constitute a final judgment.
- 24. Linda Gregory has made a timely request for exclusion and is hereby excluded from the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Judgment.

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida on this <u>11th day of December</u>, 2024.

2024-010619-0A-01 1211-2024 10:18 A

2024-010619-CA-01 12-11-2024 10:18 AM

Hon. William Thomas

**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE** Electronically Signed

Final Order as to All Parties SRS #: 12 (Other)

THE COURT DISMISSES THIS CASE AGAINST ANY PARTY NOT LISTED IN THIS FINAL ORDER OR PREVIOUS ORDER(S). THIS CASE IS CLOSED AS TO ALL PARTIES.

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 12 of 13

# **Electronically Served:**

David Layden, DLayden@jenner.com Manuel Hiraldo, MHiraldo@hiraldolaw.com Michael L Eisenband, meisenband@Eisenbandlaw.com

**Physically Served:** 

Case No: 2024-010619-CA-01 Page 13 of 13