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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

IN RE: FACEBOOK, INC. CONSUMER
PRIVACY USER PROFILE LITIGATION,

CASE NO. 3:18-MD-02843-VC

This document relates to:

ALL ACTIONS

**ORDER CERTIFYING SETTLEMENT
CLASS; GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO FEDERAL
RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 23(e)(1);
AND APPROVING FORM AND CONTENT
OF CLASS NOTICE**

1 WHEREAS, plaintiffs Steven Akins, Jason Ariciu, Anthony Bell, Bridgett Burk, Terry Fischer,
2 Tyler King, Jordan O’Hara, and Cheryl Senko (together, “Settlement Class Representatives”), and
3 Defendant Meta Platforms, Inc. (“Meta”) (collectively “Parties”), entered into a Settlement Agreement
4 on December 22, 2022 (ECF No. 1096-2), which, together with the exhibits and appendices thereto,
5 sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed resolution of this Action and for its dismissal with
6 prejudice;

7 WHEREAS, this Court has reviewed the Settlement entered into by the Parties, all exhibits
8 thereto, the record in this case, and the Parties’ arguments;

9 WHEREAS, this Court preliminarily finds, for the purpose of settlement only, that the
10 Settlement Class meets all the prerequisites of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) for class
11 certification—numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequacy—and meets the requirements of
12 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3)—predominance of common issues, and superiority;

13 GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:¹

14 **Preliminary Certification of Settlement Class for Purpose of Settlement Only**
15 **and Appointment of Class Counsel and Settlement Class Representatives**

16 1. This Court reviews class action settlements just as carefully at the initial stage as it does
17 at the final stage. *See Cotter v. Lyft, Inc.*, 193 F. Supp. 3d 1030, 1036–37 (N.D. Cal. 2016). At the
18 initial stage, the inquiry is whether the settlement is “fair, reasonable, and adequate,” Fed. R. Civ. P.
19 23(e)(2), based on publicly available information and the information received from the parties.

20 2. The Settlement is hereby preliminarily approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate such
21 that notice thereof should be given to members of the Settlement Class. Under Federal Rule of Civil
22 Procedure 23(b)(3), the Settlement Class, as set forth in paragraph 46 of the Settlement Agreement and
23 defined as follows, is preliminarily certified for the purpose of settlement only:

24 All Facebook users in the United States between May 24, 2007, and December
25 22, 2022, inclusive.

26
27
28 ¹ All terms and definitions used herein have the same meanings as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

1 Excluded from the Settlement Class are (i) Meta and its employees, alleged co-conspirators, officers,
2 directors, legal representatives, heirs, successors, and wholly or partly owned subsidiaries or affiliated
3 companies; (ii) counsel for any plaintiff whose case was consolidated into this MDL and their
4 employees, including but not limited to the undersigned counsel for Plaintiffs and the undersigned
5 counsel's employees; (iii) the Discovery Mediators, Special Master, Settlement Mediator who assisted
6 in this action and their staff; and (iv) the Judges and Court staff to whom this Action is or was assigned.

7 3. The Court preliminarily finds, for purposes of settlement only, that the proposed
8 Settlement Class as defined above meets the numerosity requirement of Rule 23(a)(1) such that joinder
9 would be impractical; that there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class as
10 required by Rule 23(a)(2); that these common questions predominate over individual questions as
11 required by Rule 23(b)(3); and that the claims of the proposed Settlement Class Representatives are
12 typical of the claims of the Settlement Class under Rule 23(a)(3).

13 4. In addition, the Court preliminarily finds that the Class Counsel and Settlement Class
14 Representatives will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class under Rule 23(a)(4), have
15 done so, and meet the requirements of Rule 23(g) and, therefore, appoints them as Class Counsel and
16 Settlement Class Representatives under Rules 23(c)(1)(B) and 23(g).

17 5. If the Settlement Agreement is not finally approved by this Court, or if such final
18 approval is reversed or materially modified on appeal by any court, this Order (including but not limited
19 to the certification of the class) shall be vacated, null and void, and of no force or effect, and Meta and
20 Settlement Class Representatives shall be entitled to make any arguments for or against certification
21 for litigation purposes.

22 6. Class Counsel and the Settlement Class Representatives are appointed as adequate
23 representatives of the Settlement Class.

24 **Notice to the Settlement Class**

25 7. The Court approves the Settlement Administration Protocol & Notice Plan, amended
26 Summary Notice (Dkt. No. 1114-8), second amended Class Notice (Dkt. No. 1114-6), In-App Notice,
27 amended Claim Form (Dkt. No. 1114-2), Opt-Out Form (Dkt. No. 1122-1), and Objection Form (Dkt.
28 No. 1122-2) and finds that their dissemination substantially in the manner and form set forth in the

1 Settlement Agreement and the subsequent filings referenced above meets the requirements of Federal
2 Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process, constitutes the best notice practicable under the
3 circumstances, and is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise members of the
4 Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, the effect of the proposed Settlement (including the
5 releases contained therein), the anticipated motion for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses Award and for
6 Service Awards, and their rights to participate in, opt out of, or object to any aspect of the proposed
7 Settlement.

8 8. By **April 12, 2023** [fourteen (14) calendar days after the issuance of this Order], Meta
9 shall pay or cause to be paid a portion of the Settlement Fund in an amount sufficient to effectuate the
10 Notice Plan to the Settlement Administrator (the "Initial Deposit").

11 9. Following issuance of this Order, and after payment of the Initial Deposit, Meta shall
12 pay or cause to be paid all subsequent amounts for Notice and Administration Costs (as invoiced by
13 the Settlement Administrator or Escrow Agent and approved by Class Counsel) (the "Periodic
14 Payments") within thirty (30) calendar days after the submission of an invoice by the Settlement
15 Administrator or Escrow Agent. The deadline may be extended by mutual consent of the Parties.

16 10. By **April 28, 2023** [thirty (30) calendar days after the issuance of this Order], Meta
17 shall, for the purpose of facilitating Notice, provide or cause to be provided to the Settlement
18 Administrator information about the Settlement Class Members required by the Settlement
19 Administrator to effectuate the Notice Plan.

20 11. The Settlement Administrator and Meta shall provide Notice consistent with the Notice
21 Plan outlined in Exhibit B, and Notice shall be disseminated to Settlement Class Members beginning
22 on the Notice Date on **April 12, 2023** [fourteen (14) calendar days after the issuance of this Order].

23 Settlement Administration

24 12. The Court appoints Angeion Group to serve as the Settlement Administrator. Angeion
25 shall establish the Escrow Account as a qualified settlement fund for U.S. federal income tax purposes
26 within the meaning of Treas. Reg. §§ 1.468B-1 through 1.468B-5 as set forth in the Settlement
27 Agreement, supervise and administer the notice procedures, establish and operate the Settlement
28 Website, administer the claims processes, distribute cash payments according to the processes and

1 criteria set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and perform any other duties that are reasonably
2 necessary and/or provided for in the Settlement Agreement.

3 13. The Settlement Administrator shall act in compliance with Pretrial Order No. 10
4 (Protective Order, Dkt. No. 122), including but not limited to making all necessary efforts and
5 precautions to ensure the security and privacy of Settlement Class Member information and protect it
6 from loss, misuse, unauthorized access and disclosure, and to protect against any reasonably anticipated
7 threats or hazards to the security of Settlement Class Member information; not using the information
8 provided by Meta or Class Counsel in connection with the Settlement or this notice plan for any
9 purposes other than providing notice or conducting claims administration; and not sharing Settlement
10 Class Member information with any third parties without advance consent from the Parties.

11 14. Settlement Class Members who wish to make a claim must do so by submitting a Claim
12 Form by **August 25, 2023** [one hundred forty-nine (149) days after the issuance of this Order], in
13 accordance with the instructions contained therein. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the
14 eligibility of claims submitted and allocate the Settlement Fund in accordance with the Settlement
15 Agreement.

16 15. Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement should object in writing
17 and: (i) clearly identify the case name and number; (ii) include the objector's full name, address,
18 telephone number, email address; Facebook account URL (if reasonably available); the email address
19 and telephone number associated with the Settlement Class Member's Facebook account; (iii) state that
20 the objector was a Facebook user during the Class Period and the dates of such use; (iv) state whether
21 the objection applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Settlement Class, or to the entire
22 class; (v) state the number of times in which the objector (and, where applicable, objector's counsel)
23 has objected to a class action settlement, along with the caption of each case in which the objector has
24 made such objection; (vi) state whether the objector has sold or otherwise transferred the right to their
25 recovery in this Action to another person or entity, and, if so, the identity of that person or entity; (vii)
26 state with specificity the grounds for the objection, including any legal and factual support and any
27 evidence in support of the objection; (viii) state whether the objecting Settlement Class Member intends
28 to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, and if so, whether personally or through counsel; and (ix)

1 include the objector's signature. Objections must be filed with the Court or post-marked by **July 26,**
2 **2023** [no later than one hundred nineteen (119) days from the issuance of this Order], to the Court at
3 the following address: Class Action Clerk, United States District Court for the Northern District of
4 California, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102. The Court will require only
5 substantial compliance with these requirements for submitting an objection. Objectors may appear at
6 the Final Approval Hearing without submitting a written objection upon a showing of good cause.

7 16. Any Settlement Class Member who seeks to be excluded from the Settlement Class
8 must submit a written request for exclusion that shall be postmarked and mailed to the Settlement
9 Administrator or submitted online through the claims portal no later than the Opt-Out Deadline, **July**
10 **26, 2023** [no later than one hundred nineteen (119) days from issuance of this Order]. To be an effective
11 and valid written request for exclusion, the request must include the following information: (i) identify
12 the case name of the Action; (ii) identify the name and address of the individual seeking exclusion from
13 the Settlement; (iii) be personally signed by the individual seeking exclusion; (iv) include a statement
14 clearly indicating the individual's intent to be excluded from the Settlement; (v) request exclusion only
15 for that one individual whose personal signature appears on the request; (vi) include the Facebook
16 account URL (if reasonably available) and the email address and telephone number associated with the
17 Facebook account of the individual seeking exclusion; and (vii) state that the individual seeking
18 exclusion was a Facebook user during the Class Period. Any member of the Settlement Class who
19 does not file a valid and timely request for exclusion shall be bound by the final judgment dismissing
20 the Action on the merits with prejudice.

21 **Final Approval Hearing**

22 17. The Final Approval Hearing shall be held by the Court via video conference on
23 **September 7, 2023, beginning at 1 p.m.**, to determine whether the requirements for certification of
24 the Settlement Class have been met; whether the proposed settlement of the Action on the terms set
25 forth in the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the
26 Settlement Class Members; whether Class Counsel's motion or application for an Attorneys' Fees and
27 Expenses Award and application for the Service Awards should be approved; and whether final
28 judgment approving the Settlement and dismissing the Action on the merits with prejudice against the

1 Settlement Class Representatives and all other Settlement Class Members should be entered. The Final
2 Approval Hearing may, without further notice to the Settlement Class Members (except to those who
3 have filed timely and valid objections and requested to speak at the Final Approval Hearing), be
4 continued or adjourned by order of the Court.

5 18. Any objector who timely submits an objection has the option to appear and request to
6 be heard at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through the objector's counsel. Any objector
7 wishing to appear and be heard at the Final Approval Hearing should include a notice of intention to
8 appear in the body of the objector's objection. Objectors who fail to submit or include such timely
9 notice of intention to appear may be excused from this prerequisite to appearing in Court to object to
10 the Settlement upon a showing of good cause.

11 19. By **June 21, 2023** [not later than eighty-four (84) days after the issuance of this Order],
12 Class Counsel shall file all papers in support of the application for Attorneys' Fees and an Expenses
13 Award and/or for Service Awards. All opposition papers shall be filed by **July 21, 2023** [one hundred
14 fourteen (114) days after the issuance of this Order], and any reply papers shall be filed **by August 4,**
15 **2023** [one hundred twenty-eight (128) days after the issuance of this Order].

16 20. By **July 11, 2023** [one hundred four (104) days after issuance of this Order], Class
17 Counsel shall file all papers in support of the application for the Final Approval Order and Final
18 Judgment. Any reply papers regarding objections to the settlement and to update the Court regarding
19 notice and administration shall be filed by **August 4, 2023** [one hundred twenty-eight (128) days after
20 the issuance of this Order].


21 21. Class Counsel's motion or application for Attorneys' Fees and an Expenses Award and
22 for Service Awards will be considered separately from the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of
23 the Settlement. Any appeal from any order relating solely to Class Counsel's motion for Attorneys'
24 Fees and an Expenses Award, and/or for Service Awards, or any reversal or modification of any such
25 order, shall not operate to terminate, vacate, or cancel the Settlement.

26 22. Defense Counsel and Class Counsel are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable
27 procedures in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially
28 inconsistent with either this Order or the Settlement Agreement.

1 23. For the reasons discussed at the preliminary approval hearing and in the March 6 Order
2 (Dkt. No. 1127), the concerns raised by the New Mexico Attorney General—regarding Meta’s potential
3 arguments about the effect of this settlement on the ability of state authorities to recover restitution for
4 residents—do not provide a basis for rejecting the settlement or for requiring anything else of Meta.
5 No other state or local government entity filed a brief in response to the invitation contained in the
6 March 6 Order.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8
9 DATED: March 29, 2023



Hon. Vince Chhabria
United States District Judge