LW

CAUSE NO. DC-2024-CV-0569

DAWN RICE, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,
v.

LUBBOCK COUNTY, TEXAS

FALCON HEALTHCARE, INC. d/b/a
INTERIM HEALTHCARE OF LUBBOCK
TEXAS,

Defendant.

99TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the Settlement Class, and Defendant have agreed, subject to Court approval, to settle this Action upon the terms and conditions stated in the Agreement:

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the Agreement, all the files, records, and proceedings herein, statements of counsel, and it appearing to the Court that a Final Approval Hearing should be held to determine whether the proposed settlement described in the Agreement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- All capitalized terms herein shall have the same meanings as those defined in Section II of the Agreement.
- 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Action and the Parties, including Plaintiff and all Settlement Class members.
- 3. The Court preliminarily approves of the Settlement, including the Notice Program, finding that the proposed Settlement is sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing Notice to the Settlement Class, but such finding is not to be deemed as an admission of SMRH:4900-0424-2790.1

fault or liability by Defendant or a finding of the validity of any claims asserted in the Action or of any wrongdoing or of any violation of law by Defendant. Defendant shall maintain all rights to assert that, but for settlement purposes, the Action should not be certified as a class.

4. For purposes of determining whether the terms of the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, the following Settlement Class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes only:

All living individuals residing in the United States whose personal information may have been impacted in the Data Incident.

- 5. Excluded from the Settlement Class are all persons who are: (a) directors and of Defendant; and (b) the Judge assigned to the Action, that Judge's immediate family, and Court staff.
- 6. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement are fair, adequate, and reasonable. In so finding, the Court has considered several factors, including: (1) the complexity and duration of the litigation; (2) the reaction of the class to the settlement; (3) the stage of the proceedings; (4) the risk of establishing liability; (5) the risk of establishing damages; (6) the risk of maintaining a class action; (7) the ability of the defendant to withstand a greater judgment; (8) the reasonableness of the settlement in light of the best recovery; and (9) the range of reasonableness of the settlement in light of all the attendant risks of litigation.
- 7. The Court finds that, for purposes of settlement: the number of members of the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable; there are questions of law and fact common to the members of the Settlement Class; the claims of the Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the members of the Settlement Class; the Plaintiff is an adequate representative for the Settlement Class, and have retained experienced and adequate Class Counsel; the questions of law and fact common to the members of the Settlement Class predominate over any questions affecting

any individual members of the Settlement Class; and a class action is superior to the other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

- 8. For purposes of settlement only, the Court finds and determines that Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class in enforcing their rights in the Action, and appoints him as Class Representative, and the following attorneys are preliminarily appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class: Jeff Ostrow of Kopelowitz Ostrow P.A., David Lietz of Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman PLLC, and Joe Kendall of Kendall Law Group, LLP.
- 9. Plaintiff has selected Angeion Group LLC to serve as the Settlement Administrator.

 The Court hereby approves of and appoints Angeion and directs it to commence the Notice

 Program and initiate the Claims Process and to otherwise comply with all obligations of the

 Settlement Administrator as outlined in the Agreement.
- 10. The Parties have prepared the Notices, which are attached to the Agreement. The Court preliminarily finds that the Notice provided to Settlement Class members is the most practicable notice; is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class members of the pendency of the Action and of their right to object or to exclude themselves from the Settlement; and is reasonable and constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class members entitled to receive notice.
- 11. The Court has carefully reviewed and hereby approves the Notices as to form and content and directs that they be without material alteration unless otherwise modified by agreement of the Parties and approved by the Court. The Court directs that the Notice Program be implemented as outlined in the Agreement.
 - 12. Settlement Class members who wish to opt-out of the Settlement and exclude

themselves from participation may do so by submitting timely and valid requests at any time before the Opt-Out Deadline (60 days after the earliest date in which Notice is distributed). The process to opt-out is set forth in the Agreement and in the Notices. Settlement Class members who opt-out shall have no rights under the Settlement, shall not share in any Settlement Class Member Benefits, and shall not be bound by the Settlement or by the Final Approval Order.

- 13. All Settlement Class Members who do not submit a timely, written request for exclusion in the manner set forth in the Notice and Agreement shall be bound by any Final Approval Order and final judgment entered, even if such Settlement Class Members never received actual notice of this Action or the Settlement. If Final Approval of the Settlement is granted, they shall be barred, now and in the future, from asserting any of the Released Claims, as defined in the Agreement, against any Released Parties as defined in the Agreement.
- Counsel's Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards shall file any objections before the end of the Objection Period (60 days after the earliest date Notice is first distributed) and pursuant to the requirements of this paragraph. To be considered, the objection must include: (a) the objector's full name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address (if any); (b) all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to the objector or objector's counsel; (c) the number of times the objector has objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date that the objector files the objection, the caption of each case in which the objector has made such objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon the objector's prior objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case; (d) the identity of all counsel who represent the objector, including any former or current counsel who may be entitled to compensation for any reason related to the objection to the

Settlement and/or Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards; (e) the number of times in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date of the filed objection, the caption of each case in which counsel or the firm has made such objection and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon counsel's or the counsel's law firm's prior objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the preceding five years; (f) the identity of all counsel (if any) representing the objector, and whether they will appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (g) a list of all persons who will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection (if any); (h) a statement confirming whether the objector intends to personally appear and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing; and (i) the objector's signature (an attorney's signature is not sufficient). Class Counsel and/or Defendant's Counsel may conduct limited discovery on any objector or objector's counsel, including taking depositions and propounding written document requests. Objections to the Settlement and/or the Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards must be filed with the Court, and sent by U.S. Mail to Class Counsel, Defendant's Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator. If submitted by mail, an objection shall be deemed to have been submitted on the date the mail is postmarked. If submitted by private courier, an objection shall be deemed to have been submitted on the shipping date reflected on the shipping label.

15. In advance of the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall prepare a declaration for the Parties confirming that the Notice Program was completed in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and this Preliminary Approval Order, describing how the Notice Program was completed, indicating the number of Claim Forms received, providing the

names of each Settlement Class member who timely and properly requested to opt out from the Settlement Class, indicating the number of objections received, and other information as may be necessary to allow the Parties to seek and obtain Final Approval.

16. The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing to consider the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement on February 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The Court will advise the Parties in advance of the Final Approval Hearing whether the hearing will be held virtually or in person. The date and time of the Final Approval Hearing will be set forth in the Notice and published on the Settlement Website. During the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and whether the Court should enter the proposed Final Approval Order and final judgment approving the Settlement and dismissing this Action on the merits, with prejudice. The Court will also consider the amount of any attorneys' fees and costs to be awarded to Class Counsel and whether to approve the amount of any Service Award to the Class Representative. The Final Approval Hearing may be postponed, adjourned, or rescheduled by order of the Court without further notice to Settlement Class members other than on the Settlement Website and the Court's docket.

17. The Court confirms the following schedule (which the court, upon showing of good cause by the Parties, may extend any of the deadlines):

Deadline for Defendant to Provide Class List	Within 15 days of Preliminary Approval Order
to Settlement Administrator	
Deadline to Commence Notice Program	Within 45 days after Preliminary Approval
Deadline to complete Notice Program	45 days before the intial scheduled Final Approval Hearing
Deadline to file Motion for Final Approval, including Class Counsel's Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards]	45 days before the initial scheduled Final Approval Hearing

Opt-Out Deadline	60 days after Notice first begins
Objection Deadline	60 days after Notice first begins
Claim Form Deadline	15 days before the initial scheduled Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	February 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

18. The Court stays all proceedings in this Action until further Order of the Court, except that the Parties may conduct such limited proceedings as may be necessary to implement the Settlement or to effectuate the term of the Agreement.

	DONE	AND ORDERED	in chambers i	in Lubbock	County,	Texas,	on this	9th	day	of
Octob	er	, 2025.		0.0	1 00	\sim	/			

PRESIDING JUDGE

Automated Certificate of eService

This automated certificate of service was created by the efiling system. The filer served this document via email generated by the efiling system on the date and to the persons listed below. The rules governing certificates of service have not changed. Filers must still provide a certificate of service that complies with all applicable rules.

Joe Kendall on behalf of Joe Kendall

Bar No. 11260700

administrator@kendalllawgroup.com

Envelope ID: 106586297

Filing Code Description: ORDR - Order

Filing Description: Order Granting Unopposed Motion for Preliminary

Approval of Class Action Settlement Status as of 10/9/2025 2:08 PM CST

Case Contacts

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
William B.Mateja		bmateja@sheppardmullin.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Joe Kendall		jkendall@kendalllawgroup.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Helena Gurtu		hgurtu@kendalllawgroup.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Sandra Passanisi		spassanisi@milberg.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Gary Klinger		gklinger@milberg.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Jeff Ostrow		ostrow@kolawyers.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Heather Sheflin		hsheflin@milberg.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Mark Ratway		mratway@sheppardmullin.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Wynter Deagle		wdeagle@sheppardmullin.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Cathie Nolen		cnolen@sheppardmullin.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
Steven Sukert		sukert@kolawyers.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT
David K.Lietz		dlietz@milberg.com	10/8/2025 10:30:13 AM	SENT