



D2608818

NOTICE OF SIGNING JUDGMENT

TO: KELLY, KEENAN K.
KELLY & TOWNSEND
P. O. BOX 756
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

July 22, 2025

JACQUELINE HORTON,
INDIVIDUALLY AND O/B/O OTHERS
SIMILARLY SITUATED

Tenth Judicial District Court

VS

Parish of Natchitoches

WILLIS KNIGHTON MEDICAL
CENTER

State of Louisiana

DOCKET NUMBER: C-93767 B

RECEIVED & FILED
CLERK OF COURT
JULY 22 2025
11:30 AM

In accordance with Article 1913, C.C.P., you are hereby notified that a Judgment in the above entitled and numbered cause was signed on **JULY 21, 2025**, as per copy of the said Judgment attached.

I hereby certify that a certified copy of the above and foregoing judgment has been forwarded to all counsel of record and unrepresented parties, by placing a copy of the same in the United States Mail, properly addressed, with postage prepaid on the JULY 22, 2025.

DAVID STAMEY
Clerk of Court

BY: Danielle B. Green
Deputy Clerk of Court
Natchitoches Parish

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEs

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NUMBER: 93767

DIVISION: B

JACQUELINE HORTON,
Individually and on behalf of others similarly situated

VERSUS

WILLIS-KNIGHTON MEDICAL CENTER

FILED: _____

DEPUTY CLERK

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Before the Court is Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (the "Motion"), the terms of which are set forth in a Settlement Agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendant Willis-Knighton Medical Center ("WKMC") (collectively with Plaintiffs, the "Parties"), with accompanying exhibits attached as Exhibit 1 to Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law in Support of their Motion (the "Settlement Agreement").¹

Having fully considered the issue, the Court hereby **GRANTS** the Motion and **ORDERS** as follows:

1. **Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only.** The Settlement Agreement

provides for the following three Settlement Classes defined as follows:

The Request an Appointment Settlement Class: All WKMC patients who requested an appointment online with WKMC between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2023.

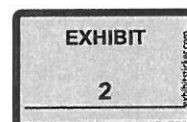
The IntelliChart Settlement Class: All WKMC patient account holders who logged into the WKMC IntelliChart patient portal account.

The Meditech Settlement Class: All WKMC patient account holders who logged into the WKMC Meditech patient portal account.

Specifically excluded from the Settlement Class are:

- (1) Any Judge presiding over this Action, any members of the Judges' respective staffs, and immediate members of the Judge's family; (2) officers and directors of the Defendant, its agents, affiliates, subsidiaries, parent companies, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest; (3) persons who timely and validly request exclusion from and/or opt-out of the Settlement Class; (4) the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons; and (5) Class Counsel.

¹ All defined terms in this Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Preliminary Approval Order") have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, unless otherwise indicated.



Pursuant to Article 591 and Article 594 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, the Court finds that giving notice to the Settlement Class is justified. The Court finds that it will likely be able to approve the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate under Article 594(D) of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure. Specifically, the Court finds for settlement purposes that: (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all Settlement Class Members would be impracticable; (b) there are issues of law and fact that are common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of the Class Representatives are typical of and arise from the same operative facts and the Class Representatives seeks similar relief as the claims of the Settlement Class Members; (d) the Class Representatives will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class as the Class Representatives have no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with the Settlement Class and has retained experienced and competent counsel to prosecute this Litigation on behalf of the Settlement Class; and (e) a class action and class settlement is superior to other methods available for a fair and efficient resolution of this Litigation.

2. **Settlement Class Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel.** The Court finds that Plaintiffs Jacqueline Horton, Crystal LaRue, and Chelsey Giddings will likely satisfy the adequacy requirements of Article 591(A)(4) of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure and should be appointed as the Class Representative. Additionally, the Court finds that Kennan Kelly of Kelly & Townsend, L.L.C., Foster C. Johnson of Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Mensing, PLLC, Jed Cain of Herman Katz Gisleson Cain, Steven J. Herman of Fishman Haygood, LLP should be appointed as Class Counsel.

3. **Preliminary Settlement Approval.** Upon preliminary review, the Court finds the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class and accordingly is preliminarily approved. In making this determination, the Court has considered the monetary and non-monetary benefits provided to the Settlement Class through the Settlement, the specific risks faced by the Settlement Class in prevailing on their claims, the good faith, arms' length negotiations between the Parties and absence of any collusion in the Settlement, the effectiveness of the proposed method for distributing relief to the Settlement Class, the proposed manner of allocating benefits to Settlement Class Members, the Settlement treats the Settlement Class Members equitably, and all of the other factors required by Article 591 and Article 594 and relevant case law.

4. **Jurisdiction.** The Court has subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction over the parties before it. Additionally, venue is proper in this county because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Martin's claims occurred in this county.

5. **Final Approval Hearing.** A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on January 22, 2026, before the Honorable Lala B. Sylvester, Division B, in the Civil District Court for the Parish of Natchitoches, 200 Church Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457, where the Court will determine, among other things, whether: (a) this Litigation should be finally certified as a class action for settlement purposes under Articles 591 and 594 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure; (b) the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and finally approved; (c) this Litigation should be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (d) Settlement Class Members (who have not timely and validly excluded themselves from the Settlement) should be bound by the releases set forth in the Settlement Agreement; (e) the application of Class Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Expenses should be approved; and (f) the application of the Class Representatives for Service Awards should be approved.

6. **Settlement Administrator.** The Court appoints Simpluris as the Settlement Administrator, with responsibility for class notice and settlement administration. The Settlement Administrator is directed to perform all tasks the Settlement Agreement requires. The Settlement Administrator's fees will be paid pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

7. **Notice.** The proposed notice program set forth in the Settlement Agreement and the Notices and Claim Form attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibits A, B, and C** are hereby approved. Non-material modifications to these Exhibits may be made by the Settlement Administrator in consultation with the Parties, and without further order of the Court.

8. **Findings Concerning Notice.** The Court finds that the proposed form, content, and method of giving Notice to the Settlement Class as described in the Notice program and the Settlement Agreement and its exhibits: (a) will constitute the best practicable notice to the Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation, the terms of the proposed Settlement, and their rights under the proposed Settlement, including, but not limited to, their rights to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement and other rights under the terms of the

Settlement Agreement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class Members and other persons entitled to receive notice; (d) meet all applicable requirements of law, including Article 592 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, and (e) and meet the requirements of the Due Process Clause(s) of the United States and Louisiana Constitutions. The Court further finds that the Notice provided for in the Settlement Agreement is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class Members.

The Settlement Administrator is directed to carry out the Notice program in conformance with the Settlement Agreement.

10. **Exclusion from Class.** Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class must individually sign and timely submit written notice of such intent to the designated Post Office box established by the Settlement Administrator in the manner provided in the Notice. The written notice must clearly manifest a Person's intent to be excluded from the Settlement Class. To be effective, such requests for exclusion must be postmarked no later than the Opt-Out Date, which is no later than sixty (60) days from the date on which notice program commences pursuant to ¶ 3.2(d) in the Settlement Agreement, and as stated in the Notice.

Within seven (7) days after the Opt-Out Date, the Settlement Administrator shall furnish to Class Counsel and to WKMC's counsel a complete list of all timely and valid requests for exclusion (the "Opt-Out List").

If a Final Order and Judgment is entered, all Persons falling within the definition of the Settlement Class who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall be bound by the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the Final Order and Judgment. All Persons who submit valid and timely notices of their intent to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall not receive any benefits of and/or be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

11. **Objections and Appearances.** A Settlement Class Member (who does not submit a timely written request for exclusion) desiring to object to the Settlement Agreement may submit a timely written notice of his or her objection by the Objection Date and as stated in the Notice. The Long Notice shall instruct Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement Agreement to file their objections with the Court and to mail copies to Class Counsel and WKMC's counsel. The Notice shall advise Settlement Class Members of the deadline for submission of any objections—the "Objection Date." Any such notices of an intent to object to the Settlement

Agreement must be written and must include all of the following: (i) the objector's full name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if any); (ii) information identifying the objector as a Settlement Class Member, including proof that the objector is a member of the Settlement Class (e.g., copy of notice, copy of original notice of the Data Incident); (iii) a written statement of all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection the objector believes applicable; (iv) the identity of any and all counsel representing the objector in connection with the objection; (v) a statement as to whether the objector and/or his or her counsel will appear at the Final Fairness Hearing; (vi) the objector's signature and the signature of the objector's duly authorized attorney or other duly authorized representative (along with documentation setting forth such representation); and (vii) a list, by case name, court, and docket number, of all other cases in which the objector and/or the objector's counsel has filed an objection to any proposed class action settlement within the last three (3) years.

To be timely, written notice of an objection in the appropriate form must contain the case name and docket number, *Horton v. Willis-Knighton Medical Center*, No. 93767, and must be filed with the Clerk of Court by the Objection Date, which is no later than sixty (60) days from the date on which notice program commences pursuant to ¶ 3.2(d) in the Settlement Agreement, and served concurrently therewith upon Class Counsel and WKMC's Counsel, postmarked by the Objection Date, established by this Preliminary Approval Order and as stated in the Notice.

Any Settlement Class Member who fails to comply with the requirements for objecting shall waive and forfeit any and all rights he or she may have to appear separately and/or to object to the Settlement Agreement, and shall be bound by all the terms of the Settlement Agreement and by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in the Litigation. The provisions stated in ¶ 5 of the Settlement Agreement shall be the exclusive means for any challenge to the Settlement Agreement. Any challenge to the Settlement Agreement, or the Final Order and Judgment to be entered upon final approval shall be pursuant to appeal under the Louisiana Rules of the Courts of Appeal and not through a collateral attack.

12. **Claims Process.** Settlement Class Counsel and WKMC have created a process for Settlement Class Members to claim benefits under the Settlement. The Court preliminarily approves this process and directs the Settlement Administrator to make the Claim Form or its substantial equivalent available to Settlement Class Members in the manner specified in the Notice.

The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for effectuating the claims process.

Settlement Class Members who qualify for and wish to submit a Claim Form shall do so in accordance with the requirement and procedures specified in the Notice and the Claim Form. If the Final Order and Judgment is entered, all Settlement Class Members who qualify for any benefit under the Settlement but fail to submit a claim in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the Notice and the Claim Form shall be forever barred from receiving any such benefit, but will in all other respects be subject to and bound by the provisions in the Final Order and Judgment, including the releases contained therein.

13. **Termination of Settlement.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall become null and void and shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Parties, all of whom shall be restored to their respective positions existing before the Court entered this Preliminary Approval Order and before they entered the Settlement Agreement, if: (a) the Court does not enter this Preliminary Approval Order; (b) Settlement is not finally approved by the Court or is terminated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement; or (c) there is no Effective Date. In such event, (i) the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Litigation and shall jointly request that all scheduled Litigation deadlines be reasonably extended by the Court so as to avoid prejudice to any Party or Party's counsel; (ii) the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in the Litigation or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and (iii) any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*.

14. **Use of Order.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall be of no force or effect if the Final Order and Judgment is not entered or there is no Effective Date and shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or liability. Nor shall this Preliminary Approval Order be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against the Class Representatives or any other Settlement Class Member that his or her claims lack merit or that the relief requested is inappropriate, improper, unavailable, or as a waiver by any Party of any defense or claims they may have in this Litigation or in any other lawsuit.

15. **Continuance of Hearing.** The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Final Fairness Hearing and related deadlines without further written notice to the Settlement Class.

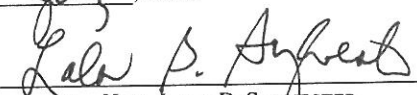
If the Court alters any of those dates or times, the revised dates and times shall be posted on the Settlement Website maintained by the Settlement Administrator. The Court may approve the Settlement, with such modifications as may be agreed upon by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class.

16. **Stay of Litigation.** All proceedings in the Litigation, other than those related to approval of the Settlement Agreement, are hereby stayed. Further, any actions brought by Settlement Class Members concerning the Released Claims are hereby enjoined and stayed pending Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement.

17. **Schedule and Deadlines.** The Court orders the following schedule of dates for the specified actions/further proceedings:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Defendant Provides Class Member Information To Settlement Administrator	Within 30 Days Of Entry Of Preliminary Approval Order
Deadline For Settlement Administrator To Begin Sending Short Form Notice (By Email)	Within Sixty (60) Days Of Entry Of Preliminary Approval Order (the "Notice Commencement Date")
Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, Expenses, and Service Award to Be Filed by Settlement Class Counsel	At Least 14 Days Prior To Opt-Out/Objection Dates
Opt-Out/Objection Date Deadlines	60 Days After Notice Commencement Date
Settlement Administrator Provides Parties With List Of Timely, Valid Opt-Outs	7 Days After Opt-Out Date
Claims Deadline	90 Days After Notice Commencement Date
Motion For Final Approval To Be Filed By Class Counsel	At Least 14 Days Prior To Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	January 22, 2026 @ 9:00 No Earlier Than 135 Days After Entry Of Preliminary Approval Order

DONE AND ORDERED on this 21 day of July, 2025.


HON. LALA B. SYLVESTER