

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ERIE**

J.C., on behalf of herself and all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CATHOLIC HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.

Defendant.

Index No. ~~811986/2025~~ *811968/2025*

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

WHEREAS, a putative class action is pending in this Court entitled *J.C., on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated v. Catholic Health System, Inc.*, Index No. 811986/2025 (the “Action”);

WHEREAS, Plaintiff J.C., on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (“Plaintiff”) and Defendant Catholic Health System, Inc. (“Defendant” or “CHS” and collectively with Plaintiff “the Parties”) have entered into a Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”) that settles the above-captioned action and provides for a complete dismissal with prejudice of the claims asserted against Defendant in the Action on the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement, subject to the approval of the Court;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff has made an application, pursuant to Article 9 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules, for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, certifying the Settlement Class for purposes of the Settlement only, appointing Plaintiff as Class Representative, appointing Philip J. Krzeski of Chestnut Cambronne PA; Gary M. Klinger of Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, PLLC; and Joseph M. Lyon of The Lyon Firm as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class, appointing Kroll Settlement

Administration LLC as Settlement Administrator (“Kroll”), and allowing notice to Settlement Class Members as more fully described herein;

WHEREAS, the Court has read and considered: (a) Plaintiff’s motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, and the papers filed and arguments made in connection therewith; and (b) the Settlement Agreement and exhibits attached thereto; and

WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined herein, the capitalized terms herein shall have the same meaning as they have in the Settlement Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only**. For settlement purposes only and pursuant to CPLR §§ 901(a), 903, and 907, the Court certifies, solely for purposes of effectuating the proposed Settlement, a Settlement Class in this matter defined as follows:

Settlement Subclass 1: All current or former patients who logged into CHS’s MyChart patient portal from January 1, 2020 through the date of this Order.

Settlement Subclass 2: All other former or current patients of CHS or individuals who sought and/or received treatment from CHS from January 1, 2020 through the date of this Order.

Excluded from the Settlement Classes are: (a) Defendant’s officers and directors; and (b) the affiliates, legal representatives, attorneys, successors, heirs, and assigns of Defendant. Also excluded from the Settlement Classes are members of the judiciary to whom this case is assigned, their families and members of their staff.

The Settlement Class includes approximately 300,000 people.

2. **Class Findings**: The Court provisionally finds, for settlement purposes only, that the requirements of CPLR § 901(a) have been met, including: (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 common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of the Class Representative are

typical of and arise from the same operative facts and seek similar relief as the claims of the Settlement Class Members; (d) the Class Representative and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class as the Class Representative has no interest antagonistic to or in conflict with the Settlement Class and has retained experienced and competent counsel to prosecute this matter on behalf of the Settlement Class; (e) questions of law or fact common to Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; and (f) a class action and class settlement is superior to other methods available for a fair and efficient resolution of this controversy.

3. **Class Representative and Class Counsel:** Plaintiff J.C. is hereby provisionally designated and appointed as the Class Representative. The Court provisionally finds that the Class Representative is similarly situated to absent Class Members and therefore typical of the Class and that she will be an adequate Class Representative.

The Court finds that Philip J. Krzeski of Chestnut Cambronne PA; Gary M. Klinger of Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, PLLC; and Joseph M. Lyon of The Lyon Firm are experienced and adequate counsel and are hereby provisionally designated as Class Counsel.

4. **Preliminary Settlement Approval.** The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement, as embodied in the Settlement Agreement, as being fair, reasonable and adequate to the Settlement Class, subject to further consideration at the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted as described below.

5. **Final Approval Hearing.** A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on April 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m./p.m., [by videoconference] for the following purposes: (a) to determine whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate to the Settlement Class; (b) to determine whether a final Judgment

should be entered dismissing the Action with prejudice against Defendant; (c) to determine whether the motion of Class Counsel for a Fee Award and Costs should be approved; (d) to determine whether the motion of the Class Representative for a Service Award Payment should be approved; and (e) to consider any other matters that may be properly brought before the Court in connection with the Settlement. Notice of the Settlement and the Final Approval Hearing shall be given to the Settlement Class Members as set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Order.

6. The Court may adjourn the Final Approval Hearing without further notice to the Settlement Class Members, and may approve the proposed Settlement with such modifications as the Parties may agree to, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class Members.

7. **Retention of Claims Administrator and Manner of Giving Notice.** Class Counsel is hereby authorized to retain Kroll (the "Settlement Administrator") to supervise and administer the notice procedure in connection with the proposed Settlement as well as the processing of Claims as set forth more fully in the Settlement Agreement.

8. **Approval of Form and Content of Notice.** The Court (a) approves, as to form and content, the Claim Form, the Long Form Notice, and Email Notice attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits A, B, and C and (b) finds that the direct emailing or mailing and distribution of the Email/Postcard Notices as set forth in the Settlement Agreement (i) is the best notice practicable under the circumstances; (ii) constitutes notice that is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise the Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, of the effect of the proposed Settlement (including the releases to be provided thereunder), of Class Counsel's request for Fee Award and Costs, of Settlement Class Representative's request for a Service Award Payment, of their right to object to the Settlement, Class Counsel's request for Fee Award and Costs, and/or Class Representative's request for a Service Award Payment, of their

right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class, and of their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (iii) constitutes due, adequate and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice of the proposed Settlement; and (iv) satisfies the requirements of CPLR §§ 904 and 908, the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), and all other applicable law and rules. The date and time of the Final Approval Hearing shall be included in the Notice before they are mailed and distributed.

9. **Participation in the Settlement.** Settlement Class Members who qualify for and wish to submit a Claim Form shall do so in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the Notice and the Claim Form, and must do so within ninety (90) days after the Notice Date. If 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 Settlement Agreement, the Release included in that Settlement Agreement, and the Final Order and Judgment.

10. **Claims Process and Distribution and Allocation Plan.** The Class Representative and Defendant have created a process for assessing and determining the validity and value of claims and a payment methodology to Settlement Class Members who submit a timely, valid Claim Form. The Court preliminarily approves the claims process described in the Settlement Agreement and directs that the Settlement Administrator effectuate the distribution of Settlement consideration according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, should the Settlement be finally approved.

11. **Exclusion from Class.** Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class must mail a written notification of the intent to exclude himself or herself from the Settlement Class to the Settlement Administrator at the address provided in the Notice, postmarked no later than **60 Days from the date of this Order** (the “Opt-Out Period”). Any Settlement Class Member’s written notification must include: (i) his or her name and address, (ii) a signature, (iii) the name and number of the case, and (iv) a statement that he or she wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class for purposes of this Settlement.

12. Any Settlement Class Member who does not timely and validly exclude herself or himself from the Settlement shall be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement. If Final Order and Judgment is entered, any Settlement Class Member who has not submitted a timely, valid written notice of exclusion from the Settlement Class shall be bound by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in this matter, including but not limited to the Release set forth in the Final Order and Judgment, including Settlement Class Members who have previously initiated or who subsequently initiate any litigation against any or all of the Released Persons relating to the claims and transactions released in the Settlement Agreement. All Settlement Class Members who submit valid and timely notices of exclusion from the Settlement Class shall not be entitled to receive any benefits of the Settlement.

13. **Objections and Appearances.** No Settlement Class Member shall be heard, and no papers, briefs, pleadings, or other documents submitted by any Settlement Class Member shall be received and considered by the Court, unless the objection is filed with the Court and mailed to Class Counsel and Defendant’s Counsel no later than the Objection Date, as specified in the Notice. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must be in writing, which must be personally signed by the objector, and postmarked within 60 days of this Order, and must

include: (1) the objector's name and address; (2) an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Settlement Class Member; (3) all grounds for the objection, including all citations to legal authority and evidence supporting the objection; (4) the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting the objector in connection with the preparation or submission of the objection; (5) a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing (either personally or through counsel who file an appearance with the Court in accordance with the Local Rules); and (6) if the objector or any of their counsel has objected to any class action settlement where the objector or their counsel asked for or received any payment in exchange for dismissal of the objection, or any related appeal, without any modification of the settlement, then the objection must include a statement identifying each such case by full case caption and amount of payment received.

14. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to comply with the provisions in Paragraph 13 may waive and forfeit any and all rights he or she may have to object, and shall be bound by all the terms of the Settlement Agreement, this Order, and by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in this matter, including, but not limited to, the release in the Settlement Agreement if Final Order and Judgment is entered. If Final Order and Judgment is entered, any Settlement Class Member who fails to object in the manner prescribed herein shall be deemed to have waived his or her objections and shall be forever barred from making any such objections in this action or in any other proceeding or from challenging or opposing, or seeking to reverse, vacate, or modify any approval of the Settlement Agreement, the Service Award Request, or the Fee Request.

15. **Termination of Settlement.** This 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 as of the date of the execution of the Settlement Agreement if the Settlement is

not finally approved by the Court or is terminated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. In such event, the Settlement and Settlement Agreement shall become null and void and be of no further force and effect, and neither the Settlement Agreement nor the Court's orders, including this Order, relating to the Settlement shall be used or referred to for any purpose whatsoever.

16. **Use of Order.** This 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, liability, or the certifiability of any class. Nor shall this Order be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against the Class Representative or any other Settlement Class Member that his or her claim lacks merit or that the relief requested is inappropriate, improper, unavailable, or as a waiver by any Party of any defense or claim he, she, or it may have in this litigation or in any other lawsuit.

17. **Stay of Proceedings and Temporary Injunction.** Until otherwise ordered by the Court, the Court stays all proceedings in the Action other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, the Court enjoins Plaintiff from prosecuting any and all of the Released Claims against the Released Entities.

18. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

19. **Summary of Deadlines.** The preliminarily approved Settlement shall be administered according to its terms pending the Final Approval Hearing. Deadlines arising under the Settlement Agreement and this Order include but are not limited to:

Notice Date: 30 Days after Preliminary Approval

Motion for Final Approval: 14 Days before Final Approval Hearing

Motion for Service Awards, Attorneys' Fees and Costs: 14-Days prior to the Objection Deadline and Opt-Out Deadline

Opt-Out Deadline: 60 Days after Notice is sent to the Settlement Class

Objection Deadline: 60 Days after Notice is sent to the Settlement Class

Claim Deadline: 90 Days after Notice is sent to the Settlement Class

Final Approval Hearing: at least 120 Days after Preliminary Approval

IT IS SO ORDERED this 11th day of December, 2026.


Hon. DIANE Y. DEVLIN, J.S.C.