# CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Javarius Puckett v. Western Express, Inc., No. 25C1496

If you received pre-recorded calls from Western Express on your cellphone, you received a number that had been previously assigned to another person and you did not provide your telephone number to Western Express or through a website seeking information about jobs with Western Express, you may be entitled to a payment from a class action settlement.

A court authorized this notice. You are **not** being sued. This is **not** a solicitation from a lawyer.

- Call records indicate that you may be affected by a Settlement<sup>1</sup> of a class action lawsuit claiming that Defendant Western Express, Inc. ("Western Express") violated a federal law called the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") by sending pre-recorded calls to cellular telephone numbers. Western Express denies that it violated the law.
- The lawsuit is called *Javarius Puckett v. Western Express, Inc.*, Case. No 25C1496. Judge Lynn T. Ingram decided that this settlement should be a class action on behalf of a Class, or group of people that could include you, and a Settlement has been reached affecting this Class.
- The Settlement offers payments to Class Members who file valid Claims.
- Your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act. Read this notice carefully.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:	
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	If you are a member of the Class, you must submit a completed Claim Form to receive payment of up to \$120. If you submit a Claim Form and the Court approves the Settlement and it becomes final and effective, you will receive your payment by check.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	You may request to be excluded from the Settlement and if you do, you will receive no benefits from the Settlement.
OBJECT	Write to the Court and appear at a hearing if you do not like the Settlement.
DO NOTHING	You will not receive a payment if you fail to timely submit a completed Claim Form, and you will give up your right to bring your own lawsuit against Western Express about the claims in this case.

- These rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this notice.
- The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If it does, and after any appeals are resolved, benefits will be distributed to those who submit qualifying Claim Forms. Please be patient.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms herein have the same meanings as those defined in the Settlement Agreement.

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#### **BASIC INFORMATION**

#### 1. Why was this notice issued?

The Court authorized this notice because you have a right to know about a proposed Settlement of a class action lawsuit. You have legal rights and options that you may exercise before the Court decides whether to give final approval to the Settlement, as described below. Judge Lynn T. Ingram of the Chancery Court for the Twentieth Judicial District, Davidson County, Tennessee is overseeing this class action. The lawsuit is called *Puckett v. Western Express, Inc.*, Case. No 25C1496.

#### 2. What is this lawsuit about?

Plaintiff Puckett claims that Western Express violated the Federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) when they sent pre-recorded calls to cellular telephones allegedly without consent. Western Express denies these allegations.

#### 3. What is a class action and who is involved?

In a class action, one or more people called "class representatives" (in this case, Jarvarius Puckett) sue on behalf of a group of people who may have similar claims. The people together are a "class" or "class members." The individual who sues—and all the class members like them—is called the plaintiff. The company that they sued (in this case, Western Express) is called the Defendant. In a class action, the Court resolves the issues for all class members, except for those who exclude themselves from the class.

## 4. Why is this lawsuit a class action?

The Court decided that this lawsuit can be a class action because it meets the requirements of Tennessee Rule of Civil Procedure 23.05, which governs class actions in Tennessee courts.

#### 5. Why is there a settlement?

The Court has not found in favor of Plaintiff or Western Express. Instead, the parties have agreed to a Settlement. By agreeing to the Settlement, the parties avoid the costs and uncertainty of a trial, and if the Settlement is approved by the Court, Class Members will receive the benefits described in this notice. Western Express denies all legal claims in this case but is settling to avoid the uncertainties and costs attendant with litigation. Plaintiff and his lawyers think the proposed Settlement is best for everyone who is affected.

#### WHO IS PART OF THE CLASS AND SETTLEMENT

You need to determine whether you are affected by this lawsuit.

# 6. Am I part of the class and included in the Settlement?

The Settlement includes the following Court certified class from May 28, 2020 through September 19, 2025: All persons (1) whose telephone numbers were assigned to a cellular telephone, (2) who were sent at least one pre-recorded call, (3) despite not providing their telephone number to Western Express or any of its vendors, and (4) their cellular telephone number had been reassigned from another person who did provide that same cellular telephone number to Western Express or any of its vendors

The parties agree that the class size will not exceed 14,697.

You may be part of the class if you received a pre-recorded call from Western Express and:

- Your phone number appeared in calling records obtained for this case, in which case you may have received a postcard from the settlement administrator.
- Even if you did not get a postcard, you may still be part of the class if your cell phone number appears in the calling records obtained for this case.

#### 7. What if I'm still not sure if I am included?

If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can call the *Puckett v. Western Express, Inc.* Settlement Administrator at (833) 630-8403. Or you can get free help by calling the lawyers in this case at the phone numbers listed in question 15.

#### THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

#### 8. What does the Settlement provide?

Western Express has agreed to pay Approved Claims up to \$120 per person, to be reduced pro rata such that the total Approved Claims, Administrative Expenses, and Attorney's Fees, expenses and costs do not exceed the Settlement Cap of \$2,718,945. Only one claim per Class Member will be validated and deemed an Approved Claim. There may be tax consequences to the Class Member associated with this recovery.

#### 9. How do I file a claim?

If you qualify for a cash payment you must complete and submit a valid Claim Form. You can file your Claim Form online at www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com or send it by U.S. Mail to the address below. The deadline to file a Claim online or by email is 11:59 p.m. CT on December 15, 2025.

Claim Forms submitted by mail must be postmarked on or before **December 15, 2025** to:

Western Express TCPA Settlement c/o Kroll Settlement Administration PO Box 225391 New York, NY 10150-5391

No matter which method you choose to file your Claim Form, please read the Claim Form carefully and provide all the information required.

## 10. When will I receive my payment?

Payments to Class Members will be made only after the Court grants Final Approval to the Settlement and after any appeals are resolved (*see* "Final Approval Hearing" below). If there are appeals, resolving them can take time. Please be patient.

#### EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM SETTLEMENT

If you do not want benefits from the Settlement, and you want to keep the right to sue or continue to sue Western Express on your own about the legal issues in this case, then you must take steps to get out of the Settlement. This is called excluding yourself – or it is sometimes referred to as "opting-out" of the Class.

#### 11. How do I get out of the Settlement?

To exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must send a timely letter by mail to:

Western Express TCPA Settlement c/o Kroll Settlement Administration PO Box 225391 New York, NY 10150-5391

Your request to be excluded from the Settlement must be personally signed by you, be dated, include your full name, address, and the telephone number that allegedly received calls from Western Express during the Class Period, and must clearly state that the Person wishes to be excluded from the Litigation and the Agreement. Absent excluding yourself or "opting-out" you are otherwise a member of the Class.

Your exclusion request must be postmarked no later than **December 15, 2025**. You cannot ask to be excluded on the phone, by email, or at the website. Opt-outs must be made individually and cannot be made on behalf of other members of the Class.

# 12. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue the defendant for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up the right to sue Western Express or any of the Released Parties for the claims that the Settlement resolves. You must exclude yourself from this Settlement to pursue your own lawsuit.

#### 13. What am I giving up to stay in the settlement?

Unless you opt-out of the Settlement, you cannot sue or be part of any other lawsuit against Western Express or any of the Released Parties about the issues in this case, including any existing litigation, arbitration, or proceeding. Unless you exclude yourself, all of the decisions and judgments by the Court will bind you.

The Settlement Agreement is available at <a href="www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com">www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com</a>. The Settlement Agreement provides more detail regarding the Release and describes the Released Claims with specific descriptions in necessary, accurate legal terminology, so read it carefully.

#### 14. If I exclude myself, can I still get a payment?

No. You will not get a payment from the Settlement if you exclude yourself.

#### THE LAWYERS AND THE PLAINTIFF REPRESENTING YOU

# 15. Do I have a lawyer in the case?

The Court has appointed Paronich Law, Stranch, Jennings & Garvey, PLLC Strauss Borrelli PLLC, to represent the Class. They are called "class counsel." They are experienced in handling similar class action cases.

## 16. Should I get my own lawyer?

You are not required to hire your own lawyer because class counsel is working on your behalf. <u>If you want to hire your own lawyer, you certainly can, but you will have to pay that lawyer</u> yourself. If you do hire your own lawyer, they may enter an appearance for you and represent you individually in this case.

# 17. How will the lawyers be paid?

You do not have to pay class counsel, or anyone else, to participate. Instead, Class Counsel intends to request attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed \$906,315.00, plus reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the litigation of \$30,000. The fees and expenses awarded by the Court will be paid by the Settlement amount before making payments to Class Members who submit a valid Claim Form. The Court will decide the amount of fees and expenses to award.

#### **OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT**

## 18. How do I tell the Court if I do not like the Settlement?

If you are a member of the Class (and do not exclude yourself from the Class), you can object to any part of the Settlement. To object, you must timely submit a letter that includes the following:

- 1) A caption or title that identifies it as "Objection to Class Settlement in *Puckett v. Western Express, Inc.* No.25C1496"
- 2) Your name, address, email address, and telephone number;
- 3) The name, address, email address, and telephone number of any attorney for you with respect to the objection;
- 4) The factual basis and legal grounds for the objection, including any documents sufficient to establish the basis for your standing as a Class Member, including the phone number(s) at which you received call(s) covered by this Settlement;
- 5) Identification of the case name, case number, and court for any prior class action lawsuit in which you and/or your attorney (if applicable) has objected to a proposed class action settlement; and
- 6) Submit yourself immediately to discovery and/or deposition by the parties.

If you wish to object, you must file your objection with the Court by (a) using the Court's electronic filing system, (b) mailing it to the Clerk's Office for the Twentieth Judicial District in Davidson County, Tennessee, 1 Public Square, Suite 302, Nashville, Tennessee 3720 or (c) filing it in person at that location. Your objection must be filed and/or postmarked by **December 15, 2025**.

#### 19. What is the difference between objecting and asking to be excluded?

Objecting is telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. You can object to the Settlement only if you do not exclude yourself. Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Settlement. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object to the Settlement because it no longer affects you.

#### THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

#### 20. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement and any requests for attorneys' fees and expenses ("Final Approval Hearing"). The Court has not yet scheduled a Final Approval Hearing. The hearing may be moved to a different date or time, or may be set for remote appearances, without additional mailed notice, so it is a good idea to check <a href="https://www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com">www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com</a> for updates. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will also consider the requests by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and expenses. If there are objections, the Court will consider them at that time. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. It is unknown how long these decisions will take.

# 21. Do I have to attend the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have. You are welcome to attend the hearing at your own expense.

# 22. May I speak at the hearing?

If you attend the Final Approval Hearing, you may ask the Court for permission to speak if you have timely objected and you so choose. However, you cannot speak at the hearing if you exclude yourself from the Settlement.

#### IF YOU DO NOTHING

# 23. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you are a member of the Class and do nothing, meaning you do not file a timely Claim Form, you will not get benefits from the Settlement. Further, unless you exclude yourself, you will be bound by the judgment entered by the Court.

## **GETTING MORE INFORMATION**

#### 24. Where do I get more information?

For more information, call the Settlement Administrator at **(833) 630-8403**, write to the Settlement Administrator, via the contact us page on the website, <a href="www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com">www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com</a>, or call Class Counsel at 617-485-0018. For a complete, definitive statement of the Settlement terms, refer to the Settlement Agreement at <a href="www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com">www.WesternExpressTCPAsettlement.com</a>.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS