

FILED
DEC 17 2025
DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

DANE COUNTY

WILLIAM GEIGER and DENISE GALLAGHER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 24-CV-002072

DISABILITY RIGHTS WISCONSIN, INC.,

Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND NOTICE
PLAN**

WHEREAS, the above-captioned class action is pending in this Court (the "Action");

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs William Geiger and Denise Gallagher ("Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and Defendant Disability Rights Wisconsin, Inc. ("Defendant") have entered into a Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement") that settles the above-captioned litigation and provides for a complete dismissal with prejudice of the claims asserted against Defendant in the above-captioned action (the "Action") on the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement, subject to the approval of the Court;

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs have made an application, pursuant to Rule 803.08 of the Wisconsin Rules of Civil Procedure, for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement in

accordance with the Settlement Agreement, certifying the Settlement Class for purposes of the Settlement only, appointing Plaintiffs as Class Representatives, appointing Class Counsel as counsel for the Settlement Class, appointing the Settlement Administrator, and allowing notice to Settlement Class Members as more fully described herein;

WHEREAS, the Court has read and considered: (a) Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and Notice Plan, 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 Wisconsin Rule of Civil Procedure 803.08, the Court certifies, solely for purposes of effectuating the proposed Settlement, a Settlement Class in this matter defined as follows:

All individuals residing in the United States whose Private Information was affected by the data breach discovered by Defendant that occurred in or around October 2023.

The Settlement Class includes approximately 19,150 people. The Settlement Class specifically excludes: (i) Defendant; (ii) the Related Entities; (iii) all Settlement Class Members who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class; (iv) any judges assigned to this case and their staff and family; and (v) any other Person found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty under criminal law of initiating, causing, aiding, or abetting the criminal activity occurrence of the Data Incident or who pleads nolo contendere to any such charge.

2. **Class Findings:** The Court provisionally finds, for settlement purposes only, 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 common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims

of the Class Representatives 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 Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel 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 have 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 Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel:** William Geiger and Denise Gallagher are hereby provisionally designated and appointed as the Class Representatives. The Court provisionally finds that the Class Representatives are similarly situated to absent Settlement Class Members and therefore typical of the Settlement Class and that they will be adequate Class Representatives. The Court further finds that Philip J. Krzeski of Chestnut Cambronne PA and Alex Phillips of Straus Borrelli PLLC are experienced and adequate counsel and are hereby provisionally designated as Settlement 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. For the purposes of preliminary approval, the Court finds the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

5. **Final Approval Hearing.** A Final Approval Hearing shall be held at 1:30 p.m. on April 30, 202~~7~~₆, in the Wisconsin Circuit of Dane County

located at 215 S. Hamilton, Courtroom 4A, Madison WI for the following purposes:

- a. To determine whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Class and should be approved by the Court;
- b. To determine whether to grant Final Approval, as defined in the Settlement Agreement;
- c. To determine whether the notice plan conducted was appropriate;
- d. To determine whether the claims process under the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate and should be approved by the Court;
- e. To determine whether the requested Class Representatives Service Awards are not exceeding \$3,000 to each Class Representative, and Class Counsel's attorneys' fees in the amount of \$205,000.00 should be approved by the Court;
- f. To determine whether the settlement benefits are fair, reasonable, and adequate; and,
- g. To rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

6. **Retention of Claims Administrator and Manner of Giving Notice.** Class Counsel is hereby authorized to retain Atticus Administration (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 below.

7. **Approval of Form and Content of Notice.** The Court (a) approves, as to form and content, the Long Form Notice, Summary (or Postcard) Notice, and Claim Form attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits A, B and C, and (b) finds that the Notice provided to Settlement Class Members 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 Class Representatives' requests for Service Award Payments, of their right to object to the Settlement, Class Counsel's request for Fee Award and Costs, and/or Class Representatives' requests for Service Award Payments, 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 Rule 803.08 of the Wisconsin Rules of Civil Procedure, 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 it is distributed so long as that date is known at the time of Notice.

8. **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 Notice is mailed to the Settlement Class Members. If a Final Approval 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 Approval Order and Judgment.

9. **Claims Process and Distribution and Allocation Plan.** The Settlement Agreement contemplates a process for the Settlement Administrator to assess and determine 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.

10. **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 after the date Notice is mailed to the Settlement Class Members** (the “Opt-Out/Objection Deadline”). The written notification must include (a) state his or her full name, address, and telephone number; (b) contain the Settlement Class Member’s personal and original signature (or the original signature of a person previously authorized by law, such as a trustee, guardian, or person acting under a power of attorney to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Member with respect to a claim or right, such as those in the Lawsuit); (c) clearly manifest the Settlement Class Member’s intent to be excluded from the Settlement Class, to be excluded from the Settlement, to not participate in the Settlement, and/or to waive all rights to the benefits of the Settlement; and (d) be postmarked no later than the final date of the Opt-Out Period. Any Settlement Class Member who does not timely and validly exclude himself or herself from the Settlement shall be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement. If a Final Approval 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 Approval Order and Judgment, including Settlement Class Members who have previously initiated or who subsequently initiate any litigation against any or all of the Released Parties 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.

11. **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 mailed first-class postage prepaid to the Settlement Administrator at the address listed in the Notice, and postmarked by no later than the Objection Deadline, as specified in the Notice. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must also include all of the information set forth in Paragraph 7.1 of the Settlement Agreement, which is as follows: (i) state the objecting Settlement Class Member's full name, current address, telephone number, and email address (if any); (ii) contain the objecting Settlement Class Member's original signature; (iii) set forth information identifying the objector as a Settlement Class Member, including proof that the objector is within the Settlement Class (e.g., copy of the Notice or copy of original notice of the Data Incident); (iv) set forth a statement of all grounds for the objection, including any legal support for the objection that the objector believes applicable; (v) identify all counsel representing the objector; (vi) state whether the objector and/or his or her counsel will appear at the Final Approval Hearing, and; (vii) contain the signature of the objector's duly authorized attorney or other duly authorized representative (if any), along with documentation setting forth such representation.

12. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to comply with the provisions in Paragraph 7.1 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 a Final Approval Order and Judgment is entered. If a Final Approval 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 motion for Service Award Payments, or the motion for Fee Award and Costs.

13. **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.

14. **Use of Order.** This Order shall be of no force or effect if a Final Approval 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 Settlement Class Representatives 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.

15. **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 bars and enjoins Plaintiffs, and all other

members of the Settlement Class, from commencing or prosecuting any and all of the Released Claims against the Released Entities.

16. **Settlement Fund**. The contents of the Settlement Fund shall be deemed and considered to be *in custodia legis* of the Court and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as funds shall be distributed pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and/or further order(s) of the Court.

17. **Taxes**. The Settlement Administrator is authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns and any other tax reporting form for or in respect to the Settlement Fund, to pay from the Settlement Fund any taxes owed with respect to the Settlement Fund, and to otherwise perform all obligations with respect to taxes and any reporting or filings in respect thereof without further order of the Court in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

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

18. **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:

SETTLEMENT TIMELINE

<u>FROM DATE OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL</u>	
DRW provides Class List to the Settlement Administrator	+10 days
Notice Date	+30 days
Class Counsel's Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Class Representative Service Award	+21 days
Opt-Out & Objection Deadline	+60 days after the Notice Date
Claims Deadline	+90 days after the Notice Date

<u>FROM DATE OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL</u>	
<u>Final Approval Hearing</u>	+120 days from Preliminary Approval (at least)
Motion for Final Approval	-14 days before Final Approval Hearing Date

<u>FROM ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL</u>	
Effective Date	+1 day after the date when each and all of the following conditions have occurred in ¶ 14
DRW Pays Balance of Settlement Fund	+30 days after Effective Date (assuming no appeal)
Payment of Fee Award and Expenses	+21 days after Effective Date (assuming no appeal)
Payment of Service Awards	+21 days after Effective Date (assuming no appeal)
Payment of Valid Claims	+60 days after Effective Date (assuming no appeal)
Settlement Website Deactivation	+30 days after the Final Order and Judgment

12/16/2025
Dated

Am M. Peacock
Judge