

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SALINE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

D'LISA WILLIAMS, individually, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

JRN, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 2024LA34

FILED
JAN 03 2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

[PROPOSED] PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

This matter having come before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement of the above-captioned matter, and the Court having duly considered the arguments therein, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

1. Unless defined herein, all defined terms in this order shall have the meanings ascribed to the same terms in the Settlement Agreement.
2. The Court has conducted a preliminary evaluation of the settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Based on this preliminary evaluation, the Court finds that the Settlement Class meets all applicable requirements of Section 2-801 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure for settlement purposes only, including that the Settlement Class is sufficiently numerous, that there are questions of law and fact common to members of the Settlement Class that predominate, that the proposed Class Representative fairly and adequately protects the interest of the Settlement Class, and that class treatment is an appropriate method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the Action.

3. The Court further preliminarily finds common issues of law and fact predominate insofar as Plaintiff's and the proposed Settlement Class's claims are based on the same common contention and alleged conduct by Defendant.

4. The Court also preliminarily finds that Plaintiff's interests are representative of and consistent with the interests of the proposed Settlement Class and that Plaintiff has demonstrated that she can, has, and will continue to fairly and adequately represent the class.

5. The Court likewise preliminarily finds that Settlement Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of Settlement Class Members.

6. The Court preliminarily finds that a class action is the most appropriate way to fairly and efficiently resolve the claims at issue, as it allows the Court to swiftly evaluate common issues regarding Defendant's alleged biometric collecting practices, generating a uniform result that will apply to all similarly-situated persons.

7. Pursuant to Section 2-801 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, and for settlement purposes only, the Court certifies the Settlement Class as defined in the Settlement Agreement.

8. All individuals who timely and properly exclude themselves from the Settlement Class are excluded. It is further Ordered that no person shall solicit any Settlement Class Member to opt-out or request exclusion without express leave of this Court.

9. The Court further finds that: (1) there is good cause to believe that the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, (2) the Settlement Agreement has been negotiated at arm's length between experienced attorneys familiar with the legal and factual issues of this case, and (3) the Settlement warrants Notice of its material terms to the Settlement Class for their consideration and reaction. Therefore, the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement.

10. For settlement purposes only, the Court hereby approves the appointment of Plaintiff D'Lisa Williams as Class Representative and approves the appointment of Patrick H. Peluso as Class Counsel.

11. The Court further appoints RG2 Claims as Settlement Administrator. RG2 shall be required to perform all of the duties of the Administrator as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

12. The Court approves the proposed plan for giving Notice to the Settlement Class, which includes direct notice and the creation of a Settlement Website, as fully described in the Settlement Agreement. The plan for giving Notice fully complies with the requirements of 735 ILCS 5/2-803 and is due and sufficient notice to all persons in the Settlement Class.

13. The Court hereby directs the Parties and the Settlement Administrator to disseminate the Notice to the Settlement Class no later than thirty (30) days after entry of this Order. All persons who meet the definition of the Settlement Class and who wish to submit a claim form must submit the form no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the deadline for Plaintiff to file a Motion for Final Approval. The Claims Deadline shall be clearly set forth on the Notice and the Claim Form.

14. All persons who meet the definition of the Settlement Class and who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class must submit their request for exclusion in writing no later than fourteen (14) days after papers supporting Class Counsel's requested Fee Award are filed with the Court. To be valid, any request for exclusion must timely send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator providing his/her name and address, the name and number of the case, and a statement that such Person intends to be excluded from the Settlement. A request to be excluded that does not include all of this information, that is sent to an address

other than that designated in the Notice, or that is not postmarked within the time specified shall be invalid, and the Person(s) serving such a request shall be a member(s) of the Class and shall be bound as Class Members by the Agreement, if finally approved. Any Class Member who elects to be excluded shall not: (i) be bound by any orders of the Final Order; (ii) be entitled to relief under this Settlement Agreement; (iii) gain any rights by virtue of this Agreement; or (iv) be entitled to object to any aspect of this Agreement. The request for exclusion must be personally signed by the Person requesting exclusion. So-called “mass” or “class” opt-outs shall not be allowed.

15. All persons who meet the definition of the Settlement Class and who wish to object to the Settlement must submit their objection in writing no later than fourteen (14) days after papers supporting the Fee Award are filed with the Court. Any member of the Class who intends to object to the Settlement must include in the objection his/her name and address; include all arguments, citations, and evidence supporting the objection (including copies of any documents relied on); state that he or she is a Class Member; and provide a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing and, if so, whether the appearance will be with or without counsel. Any Class Member who fails to timely file a written objection with the Court and notice of his or her intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, and at the same time provide copies to designated counsel for the Parties, shall not be permitted to object to this Agreement at the Final Approval Hearing, and shall be foreclosed from seeking any review of this Settlement by appeal or other means and shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its objections and be forever barred from making any such objections in the Action or any other action or proceeding. To be valid, the objection must be filed with the Court and delivered or postmarked and sent via mail to Plaintiff’s Counsel and JRN’s Counsel on or before the

Objection/Exclusion Deadline.

16. The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on 5-5-25 at 1pm to discuss the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of the Settlement, and to determine whether final approval should be granted and whether Class Counsel's application for a Fee Award and an incentive award to the Class Representative should be granted.

17. Class Counsel shall file papers in support of their Fee Award and the Class Representative's incentive award at least 28 days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

18. Plaintiff shall file paper in support of final approval of the Settlement Agreement, and in response to any objections, at least 7 days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 1-3-25

Hon. 