

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

If Texas Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists, PLLC (“Texas ENT”) Notified You of a Data Incident, You May be Eligible For Benefits From a Class Action Settlement.

This is not a solicitation from a lawyer, junk mail, or an advertisement. A court authorized this Notice.

- A proposed Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit known as *Lee et al. v. Texas Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists, PLLC*, Case No. 2021-84322 (“Lawsuit”), filed in the 113th Judicial District Court for Harris County, Texas.
- This Lawsuit arises out of unauthorized access to Texas ENT’s systems and certain files containing sensitive information about Texas ENT’s current and former patients and employees, including, but not limited to, names, dates of birth, medical record number, procedure codes, Social Security Numbers, and other types of personally identifiable information (collectively “Personal Information”), and which occurred between August 9, 2021, and August 15, 2021 (the “Data Incident”). Texas ENT disagrees with Plaintiffs’ claims and denies any wrongdoing.
- All Settlement Class Members can receive the following benefits from the Settlement: (1) up to \$300 for documented out-of-pocket expenses, (2) reimbursement for up to three hours of lost time spent dealing with the Data Incident (\$20 per hour), (3) reimbursement for extraordinary losses up to \$3,000 for documented expenses, and (4) credit/identity monitoring services described below. Texas ENT also agrees to provide various security related improvements.
- Settlement Class Members whose Social Security Numbers were involved in the Data Incident can elect to enroll in two years of three-bureau credit monitoring. Settlement Class Members who did NOT have Social Security Numbers involved in this Incident can elect to enroll in two years of Identity Force Rapid Response ID (or a similar product).
- You are included in this Settlement as a Settlement Class Member if you reside in the United States and were mailed written notification by Texas ENT that your Personal Information was or may have been compromised in the Data Incident.
- Your legal rights are affected regardless of whether you do or do not act. Read this Notice carefully.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS & OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
Submit a Claim	You must submit a Valid Claim to get money from this Settlement or to request Credit Monitoring. Claim Forms must be submitted online by October 23, 2023 or, if mailed, postmarked no later than October 23, 2023 .
Do Nothing	If you do nothing, you remain in the Settlement. You give up your rights to sue, and you will not get any money or credit monitoring.
Exclude Yourself	Get out of the Settlement. Get no money. Keep your rights. This is the only option that allows you to keep your right to sue about the claims in this lawsuit. You will not get any money from the Settlement. Your request to exclude yourself must be postmarked no later than October 23, 2023 .
File an Objection	Stay in the Settlement but tell the Court why you think the Settlement should not be approved. Objections must be postmarked no later than October 23, 2023 .
Go to a Hearing	You can ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement at your own expense. <i>See</i> Question 18 for more details. The Final Fairness Hearing is scheduled for December 5, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

WHAT THIS NOTICE CONTAINS

BASIC INFORMATIONPAGE 3

1. How do I know if I am affected by the lawsuit and Settlement?
2. What is this case about?
3. Why is there a Settlement?
4. Why is this a class action?
5. How do I know if I am included in the Settlement?

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS PAGES 4-5

6. What does this Settlement provide?
7. How do I submit a Claim?
8. What am I giving up as part of the Settlement?
9. Will the Class Representative receive compensation?

EXCLUDE YOURSELFPAGE 5

10. How do I exclude myself from the Settlement?
11. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue later?
12. What happens if I do nothing at all?

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU.....PAGES 5-6

13. Do I have a lawyer in the case?
14. How will the lawyers be paid?

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT PAGES 6-7

15. How do I tell the Court that I do not like the Settlement?
16. What is the difference between objecting and asking to be excluded?

THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARINGPAGE 7

17. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?
18. Do I have to come to the hearing?
19. May I speak at the hearing?

DO NOTHINGPAGE 7

20. What happens if I do nothing?

GET MORE INFORMATION.....PAGE 7

21. How do I get more information about the Settlement?

BASIC INFORMATION

1. How do I know if I am affected by the Lawsuit and Settlement?

You are a Settlement Class Member if you reside in the United States and were mailed written notification by Texas ENT that your Personal Information was or may have been compromised in the Data Incident, which occurred between August 9, 2021, and August 15, 2021. Settlement Class Members should have also received a postcard notice of the Settlement that includes their Class Member ID Number.

The Settlement Class specifically excludes: (i) Texas Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists (“Texas ENT”), the Related Entities, and their officers and directors; (ii) all Settlement Class Members who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class; (iii) any judges assigned to this case and their staff and family; and (iv) 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. This Notice explains the nature of the lawsuit and claims being settled, your legal rights, and the benefits to the Settlement Class.

2. What is this case about?

This case is known as *Lee et al. v. Texas Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists, PLLC*, Case No. 2021-84322 filed in the 113th Judicial District Court for Harris County, Texas. The people who sued are called the “Plaintiffs” and the company they sued, Texas ENT, is known as the “Defendant” in this case. Texas ENT will be called “Defendant” in this Notice.

Plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against Defendant, individually and on behalf of anyone whose personally identifiable information (“PII”) or personal health information (“PHI”) was potentially impacted as a result of the Data Incident.

This Lawsuit arises out of unauthorized access to Texas ENT’s systems and certain files containing sensitive information about Texas ENT’s current and former patients and employees, including, but not limited to, names, dates of birth, medical record number, procedure codes, Social Security Numbers, and other types of personally identifiable information (collectively “Personal Information”), and which occurred between August 9, 2021, and August 15, 2021 (the “Data Incident”). Texas ENT disagrees with Plaintiffs’ claims and denies any wrongdoing. After learning of the Data Incident, notification was mailed to persons whose Personal Information may have been impacted by the Data Incident. Subsequently, this lawsuit was filed asserting claims against Texas ENT relating to the Data Incident.

3. Why is there a Settlement?

By agreeing to settle, both sides avoid the cost, disruption, and distraction of further litigation. The Class Representatives, Defendant, and their attorneys believe the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and, thus, best for the Settlement Class Members. The Court did not decide in favor of the Plaintiffs or Defendant. Full details about the proposed Settlement are found in the Settlement Agreement available at www.TXENTSettlement.com.

4. Why is this a class action?

In a class action, one or more people called a “Class Representative” sue on behalf of all people who have similar claims. All of these people together are the “Settlement Class” or “Settlement Class Members.” Here, Plaintiffs and Class Representatives Cliff Lee, Daniel Flading, and Carolyn Toepfer have sued on behalf of themselves and all Settlement Class Members.

5. How do I know if I am included in the Settlement?

You are included in the Settlement if you reside in the United States and were mailed written notification by Texas ENT that your Personal Information was or may have been compromised in the Data Incident which occurred between August 9, 2021, and August 15, 2021. If you are not sure whether you are included as a Settlement Class Member, or have any other questions about the Settlement, visit www.TXENTSettlement.com, call toll-free 1-877-685-2830, or write to Texas ENT Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 2440, Portland, OR 97208-2440.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

6. What does this Settlement provide?

The proposed Settlement will provide the following benefits to Settlement Class Members:

Expense Reimbursement

Documented Out-of-Pocket Expense Reimbursement (Ordinary Losses): All Settlement Class Members who submit a Valid Claim using the Claim Form are eligible for the following documented out-of-pocket expenses, not to exceed \$300 per Settlement Class Member, that were incurred as a result of the Data Incident: (i) long-distance phone charges; (ii) cell phone charges (only if charged by the minute); (iii) internet usage charges (if either charged by the minute or incurred solely as a result of the Data Incident); (iv) costs of credit reports purchased between August 9, 2021, and October 23, 2023; and (v) documented costs associated with credit monitoring services and/or fraud resolution services purchased between August 9, 2021, and October 23, 2023, with a statement that the monitoring or service was purchased primarily because of the Data Incident and not for other purposes. To receive reimbursement for any of the above-referenced out-of-pocket expenses, Settlement Class Members must submit a valid and timely claim, including necessary supporting documentation, to the Claims Administrator.

Lost Time Reimbursement: Settlement Class Members are also eligible to receive reimbursement for up to three (3) hours of lost time spent dealing with the Data Incident (calculated at the rate of \$20 per hour), but only if at least one (1) full hour was spent. Settlement Class Members may receive reimbursement for lost time if the Settlement Class Member (i) attests that any claimed lost time was spent responding to issues raised by the Data Incident; and (ii) provides a check-box style description, or written description if no checkbox is applicable, of how the claimed lost time was spent related to the Data Incident. Claims made for lost time can be combined with reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses and are subject to the same \$300 cap for all Settlement Class Members.

Documented Extraordinary Loss Reimbursement: Settlement Class Members are also eligible to receive reimbursement for extraordinary losses, not to exceed \$3,000 per Settlement Class Member for documented monetary loss that: (i) is actual, documented, and unreimbursed; (ii) was more likely than not caused by the Data Incident; (iii) occurred between August 9, 2021, and October 23, 2023; and (iv) is not already covered by any of the above-referenced documented out-of-pocket expenses or lost time reimbursement categories. Settlement Class Members must also provide documentation that he or she made reasonable efforts to avoid, or seek reimbursement for, the loss, including but not limited to exhaustion of all available credit monitoring insurance and identity theft insurance.

Credit Monitoring: Settlement Class Members whose Social Security Numbers were involved in the Data Incident can elect to enroll in two years of three-bureau credit monitoring services. For the remaining Settlement Class Members who did NOT have Social Security Numbers involved in the Data Incident, those class members can elect to enroll in two years of Identity Force Rapid Response ID. Settlement Class Members who wish to claim credit monitoring must do so by the Claims Deadline on **October 23, 2023**, by selecting the applicable credit monitoring option on the Claim Form.

Information Security Improvements: Texas ENT will implement and keep in place various security-related improvements for a period of one year. Costs associated with these security improvements will be paid by Texas ENT separate and apart from other settlement benefits.

7. How do I submit a claim?

All claims will be reviewed by the Claims Administrator and/or a claims referee. You must file a Claim Form to get any money from the proposed Settlement. Claim Forms must be **submitted online by October 23, 2023**, or **postmarked no later than October 23, 2023**. You can download a Claim Form at www.TXENTSettlement.com or you can call the Claims Administrator at 1-877-685-2830.

8. What am I giving up as part of the Settlement?

If you stay in the Settlement Class, you will be eligible to receive benefits, but you will not be able to sue Texas ENT and its Related Entities and each of their past or present parents, subsidiaries, divisions, and related or affiliated entities, and each of their respective predecessors, successors, directors, officers, principals, agents, attorneys, insurers, and reinsurers regarding the claims in this case. The Settlement Agreement, which includes all provisions about settled claims, releases, and Released Persons, is available at www.TXENTSettlement.com.

The only way to keep the right to sue is to exclude yourself (*see* Question 10), otherwise you will be included in the Settlement Class, if the Settlement is approved, and you give up the right to sue for the claims in this case.

9. Will the Class Representative receive compensation?

Yes. The Class Representatives will each request a service award of up to \$1,500 to compensate them for their services and efforts in bringing the lawsuit. The Court will make the final decision as to the amount, if any, to be paid to the Class Representatives.

EXCLUDE YOURSELF

10. How do I exclude myself from the Settlement?

If you do not want to be included in the Settlement, you must send a timely written request for exclusion. Your request for exclusion must be individually signed by you. Your request must clearly state your intent to be excluded from the Settlement.

Your written request for exclusion must be **postmarked no later than October 23, 2023**, and mailed to the following address:

Texas ENT Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 2440
Portland, OR 97208-2440

Instructions on how to submit a request for exclusion are available at www.TXENTSettlement.com or from the Claims Administrator by calling 1-877-685-2830.

If you exclude yourself, you will not be able to receive any cash benefits from the Settlement and you cannot object to the Settlement. You will not be legally bound by anything that happens in this lawsuit and you will keep your right to sue the Defendant on your own for the claims that this Settlement resolves.

11. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue later?

No. If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, and the Settlement is approved by the Court, you forever give up the right to sue the Released Persons (listed in Question 8) for the claims this Settlement resolves.

12. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing, you will be bound by the Settlement if the Court approves it, you will not get any money from the Settlement, and you will not be able to start or proceed with a lawsuit or be part of any other lawsuit against the Released Persons (listed in Question 8) about the settled claims in this case at any time.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

13. Do I have a lawyer in the case?

Yes. The Court has appointed Danielle Perry and Gary Mason of the law firm MASON LLP (called “Class Counsel”) to represent the interests of all Settlement Class Members in this case. You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

14. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$195,000. A copy of Class Counsel's Application for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses will be posted on the Settlement Website, www.TXENTSettlement.com, before the Final Fairness Hearing. The Court will make the final decisions as to the amounts to be paid to Class Counsel, and may award less than the amount requested by Class Counsel.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

15. How do I tell the Court that I do not like the Settlement?

If you want to tell the Court that you do not agree with the proposed Settlement or some part of it, you can submit an objection telling it why you do not think the Settlement should be approved. Objections must be submitted in writing and include all the following information:

Such notice shall state:

- (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 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.

Your Objection must include the case name and docket number, *Lee et al. v. Texas Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists, PLLC*, Case No. 2021-84322 (the "Texas ENT Action"), and be submitted to the Clerk of the Court by First-Class Mail, **received no later than October 23, 2023**, at the following address:

Harris County Clerk
P.O. Box 1525
Houston, TX 77251-1525

In addition, you must mail a copy of your objection to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel at the addresses listed below. Objections must be postmarked no later than October 23, 2023.

CLASS COUNSEL	DEFENSE COUNSEL
Gary Mason Danielle Perry MASON LLP 5335 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Suite 640 Washington, D.C. 20015-2052	Michelle Gomez Chris Wiech Baker & Hostetler, LLP 1801 California St. Suite 4400 Denver, CO 80202-2662

If you do not submit your objection with all requirements, or if your objection is not received by **October 23, 2023**, you will be considered to have waived all objections and will not be entitled to speak at the Final Fairness Hearing.

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

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you don't like something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Class. Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you don't want to be part of the Settlement Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the Settlement no longer affects you.

THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING

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

The Court will hold the Final Fairness Hearing at on **December 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.**, at 201 Caroline St., 10th Floor, Houston, TX 77002. The hearing may be moved to a different date, time, or location without additional notice, so it is recommended that you periodically check www.TXENTSettlement.com for updated information.

At the hearing, the Court will consider whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and is in the best interests of Settlement Class Members, and if it should be approved. If there are valid objections, the Court will consider them and will listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing if the request was made properly. The Court will also consider the award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses to Class Counsel and the request for a service award to the Class Representatives.

18. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. You are not required to come to the Final Fairness Hearing. However, you are welcome to attend the hearing at your own expense.

If you submit an objection, you do not have to come to the hearing to talk about it. If your objection was submitted properly and on time, the Court will consider it. You also may pay your own lawyer to attend the Final Fairness Hearing, but that is not necessary.

19. May I speak at the hearing?

Yes. You can speak at the Final Fairness Hearing but you must ask the Court for permission. To request permission to speak, you must file an objection according to the instructions in Question 15, including all the information required. You cannot speak at the hearing if you exclude yourself from the Settlement.

DO NOTHING

20. What happens if I do nothing?

If you do nothing, you will not get any money from the Settlement, you will not be able to sue for the claims in this case, and you release the claims against Defendant described in Question 8.

GET MORE INFORMATION

21. How do I get more information about the Settlement?

This is only a summary of the proposed Settlement. If you want additional information about this lawsuit, including a copy of the Settlement Agreement, the Complaint, the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, Class Counsel's Application for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, and more, please visit www.TXENTSettlement.com or call 1-877-685-2830. You may also contact the Claims Administrator at Texas ENT Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 2440, Portland, OR 97208-2440.

PLEASE DO NOT ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OR LITIGATION TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, DEFENDANT, OR DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL.