IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA SAVANNAH DIVISION

CRYSTAL CHAPMAN and JOSEPH : NELUMS, on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated, :

NO. 4:21-cv-00245-RSB-CLR

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMERICA'S LIFT CHAIRS, LLC

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Class Action Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Representative Plaintiffs Crystal Chapman and Joseph Nelums, on behalf of themselves and the Settlement Class and America's Lift Chairs, LLC ("Defendant") to settle and compromise this action and settle, resolve, and discharge the Released Claims, as defined below, according to the terms and conditions herein.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Chapman v. America's Lift Chairs, LLC, No. 21-cv-245, was filed August 31, 2021 and is currently pending before the Honorable R. Stan Baker of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, alleging Defendant violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.

Last update: 24 Jan 2023, by Guest

WHEREAS, Nelums v. America's Lift Chairs, LLC, No. 22-cv-739, was

filed May 6, 2022 and was pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern

District of Ohio, alleging Defendant violated the Telephone Consumer Protection

Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq. Prior to this settlement agreement being

filed, the Chapman action was amended to include Mr. Nelums's claim.

WHEREAS, Defendant denies each and every one of Representative

Plaintiffs' allegations of unlawful conduct, damages, or other injuries and maintains

that it complied with the TCPA and all applicable laws;

WHEREAS, based upon the investigation, and evaluation of the facts and

law relating to the matters alleged in the pleadings, motions practice to date, plus the

risks and uncertainties of continued litigation and all factors bearing on the merits of

settlement, Representative Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have agreed to settle the

claims asserted in the Litigation pursuant to the provisions of this Settlement;

WHEREAS, in an effort to facilitate a resolution of the Litigation, the Settling

Parties participated in lengthy, arms' length negotiations, including a day long

mediation with Hon. Steven Gold (Ret.) of JAMS and follow up negotiations;

WHEREAS, the Parties understand, acknowledge and agree that the

execution of this Agreement constitutes the settlement and compromise of disputed

claims. This Agreement is inadmissible as evidence except to enforce the terms of

the Agreement and is not an admission of wrongdoing or liability on the part of any

Party to this Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, subject to the Final Approval Order of the Court as

required herein and applicable law and rules, the Settling Parties hereby agree, in

consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, that all

Released Claims against any Released Parties shall be settled, compromised and

forever released upon the following terms and conditions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT

1. **DEFINITIONS**

1.1 As used herein, the following terms have the meanings set forth below.

1.1.1 "Agreement or Settlement Agreement" means this document,

including all exhibits.

1.1.2 "Appeal" means a request for appellate review of any order or

judgment of the Court entered in this Litigation, including but not limited to appeals

as of right, discretionary appeals, interlocutory appeals, any order reinstating an

appeal, and proceedings involving writs of certiorari and/or any proceedings thereon.

1.1.3 "Approved Claim" means a claim submitted by a Class Member

that: (a) is received by the Settlement Administrator or postmarked on or before the

Claims Deadline; (b) is fully and truthfully completed by a Class Member with all

information requested in the Claim Form, and in accordance with the directions on

the Claim Form; (c) is signed by the Class Member, physically or electronically; and

(d) is approved by the Settlement Administrator pursuant to the provisions of this

Agreement as a valid claim eligible to receive payment from the Settlement Sum

under the Agreement and the Final Approval Order and Judgment.

1.1.4 "CAFA Notice" means the notice of this Settlement to the

appropriate federal and state officials, as provided by the Class Action Fairness Act

of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, and as further described in Paragraph 6.4.

1.1.5 "Claims Deadline" means the date that is set by the Court and

approximately sixty (60) days after the Notice Date.

1.1.6 "Claim Form" means the document to be submitted by Claimants

seeking payment pursuant to this Settlement, attached as Exhibit A.

1.1.7 "Claim Settlement Payment" means the payment to be made to

Class Members who submit Approved Claims.

1.1.8 "Claimant" means a Class Member who submits a Claim Form.

1.1.9 "Class" means All users or subscribers to telephone numbers that

received a pre-recorded telemarketing call by Prospects DM, Inc. and any related

entities on behalf of America's Lift Chairs, LLC and/or that were on the national Do

Not Call Registry and received a telemarketing call from Prospects DM, Inc. and

any related entities on behalf of America's Lift Chairs, LLC from August 31, 2017

through the date of preliminary approval.

- 1.1.10 "Class Counsel" means Avi R. Kaufman of Kaufman P.A. and Anthony Paronich of Paronich Law, P.C.
- 1.1.11"Class Member" means a person who falls within the definition of the Class and who does not opt out of the Settlement.
- 1.1.12"Class Period" means from August 31, 2017 through the date of preliminary approval.
- 1.1.13 "Court" means the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.
- 1.1.14"Complaint" means the operative complaint in this Litigation at the time the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order.
 - 1.1.15 "Defendant" means America's Lift Chairs, LLC.
- 1.1.16"Defense Counsel" means Defendant's counsel of record in the Litigation.
- 1.1.17 "Effective Date" means the first date by which any Judgment entered pursuant to the Agreement becomes Final. If the settlement contained in this Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Court and does not result in Judgment, or if the Judgment is set aside, materially modified, or overturned by the trial court or on appeal, and is not fully reinstated on further appeal, this Agreement will never become effective and will be terminated and cancelled and the Parties will be

Last update: 24 Jan 2023, by Guest

returned to their positions status quo ante with respect to the Action as if this

Agreement had not been entered into.

1.1.18"Fee Award" means the amount of attorneys' fees and

reimbursement of expenses that may be awarded by the Court and that will be paid

out of the Settlement Sum.

1.1.19"Final" means one business day following the later of the

following events: (i) the expiration of the time to file a motion to alter or amend a

judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e) has passed without any such motion having

been filed; (ii) the expiration of the time in which to file an Appeal of any judgment

entered pursuant to this Agreement has passed without any Appeal having been

taken; and (iii) the resolution of any such Appeal in a manner that does not reverse

or vacate the Judgment and in a manner that permits the consummation of the

Settlement substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of this

Agreement. Any proceeding or order, or any Appeal pertaining solely to any request

or order regarding the Fee Award will not in any way delay or preclude the Judgment

from becoming Final.

1.1.20"Final Approval Hearing" means the final hearing, held after the

Preliminary Approval Order is issued and Class Members have been given

reasonable notice and an opportunity to object or to exclude themselves from the

Settlement, at which the Court will determine whether to finally approve the

Settlement and to enter Judgment.

1.1.21 "Final Approval Order" means an order, providing for, among

other things, final approval of the Settlement.

1.1.22 "Judgment" means the judgment to be entered by the Court

pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

1.1.23 "Litigation" means Chapman v. America's Lift Chairs, LLC, No.

21-cv-245, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of

Georgia.

1.1.24"Notice" means a document substantially in the form of Exhibit

B hereto, and "Summary Notice" means a document substantially in the form of

Exhibit C hereto, to be disseminated in accordance with the Preliminary Approval

Order, informing Persons who fall within the Class of, among other things, the

pendency of the Litigation, the material terms of the proposed Settlement, and their

options with respect thereto.

1.1.25 "Notice Date" means the last date by which the Notice is first

disseminated by mail and by email pursuant to the Notice Plan.

1.1.26"Notice Plan" shall mean the proposed plan of disseminating to

Class Members notice of the proposed Settlement and of the Final Approval

Hearing, as approved by the Court.

1.1.27"Opt-Out Deadline" means the date set by the Court for Class

Members to opt-out of or object to the Settlement that is approximately sixty (60)

days after the Notice Date.

1.1.28"Parties" means, collectively, Representative Plaintiff and

Defendant.

1.1.29 "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited

partnership, association, joint stock company, estate, legal representative, trust,

unincorporated association, government or any political subdivision or agency

thereof, any business or legal entity, and such individual's or entity's spouse, heirs,

predecessors, successors, representatives, and assignees.

1.1.30"Preliminary Approval Order" means an order, providing for,

among other things, preliminary approval of the Settlement and dissemination of the

Notice to the Class according to the Notice Plan.

1.1.31"Released Claims" shall mean any and all claims, liabilities,

demands, causes of action, or lawsuits, whether known or Unknown Claims, whether

legal, statutory, equitable, or of any other type or form, whether under federal, state,

or local law (such as any violations of the TCPA, the FCC's related regulations—

including internal Do Not Call requirements, or unfair or deceptive practices act),

and whether brought in an individual, representative, or any other capacity, that were

brought in the Litigation or that arise from or relate to consumer outreach or

consumer direct marketing activity by telephone done by Prospects DM, Inc. and

any related entities for America's Lift Chairs, LLC from four years prior to the filing

of the initial complaint through the date of the Judgment. However, Prospects DM,

Inc. and any related entities are not released by this settlement and class members

expressly may continue their claims against Prospects DM, Inc. and any related

entities.

1.1.32 "Released Parties" means Defendant and any respective

corporate parent, subsidiary, or affiliated entities, along with each of their current,

former, and future owners, members, partners, officers, directors, shareholders,

employees, assigns, successors, servants, insurers, representatives, and attorneys or

agents, without limitation. Defendant's marketers, vendors, and third-party

contractors are also Released Parties but only insofar as any Released Claim relates

to actions taken on behalf of Defendant. However, Prospects DM, Inc. and any

related entities are not released by this settlement and class members expressly may

continue their claims against Prospects DM, Inc. and any related entities.

1.1.33 "Releasing Parties" means: (a) Representative Plaintiffs, their

heirs, assigns, successors in interest, and personal representatives; (b) Class

Members who do not timely opt out; (c) to the extent that a Class Member is not an

individual, all of its present, former, and future predecessors, successors, assigns,

parents, subsidiaries, joint ventures, and affiliates, and all employees, agents,

representatives, consultants, independent contractors, insurers, directors, officers,

partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, investors,

investment bankers, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, and auditors of any of the

foregoing Persons; and (d) to the extent the Class Member is an individual, any

present, former, and future spouses, as well as the present, former, and future heirs,

executors, estates, administrators, representatives, agents, attorneys, partners,

successors, predecessors, and assigns of each of them, and any other representatives

of any of the foregoing Persons.

1.1.34"Representative Plaintiffs" means Plaintiffs Crystal Chapman

and Joseph Nelums.

1.1.35 "Settlement" means the settlement set forth in this Agreement.

1.1.36"Settlement Administration Expenses" means the expenses

incurred by the Settlement Administrator administering this Settlement, including in

providing notice, processing claims, administering the Settlement, and mailing

checks for Approved Claims. Settlement Administration Expenses of up to \$75,000

shall be paid and deducted from the Settlement Sum. Any Settlement Administration

Expenses over \$75,000 shall be borne by Representative Plaintiffs.

1.1.37 "Settlement Administrator" means Kroll.

1.1.38"Settlement Sum" means \$1,700,000. The Settlement Sum

represents the maximum possible payment by Defendant under this Agreement from

which payments for (a) all Approved Claims to Class Members, (b) up to \$75,000

of Settlement Administration Expenses, including CAFA Notice, and (c) any Fee

Award, will be made.

1.1.39"Settling Parties" means, collectively, Defendant,

Representative Plaintiffs, and all Class Members.

1.1.40The plural of any defined term includes the singular, and the

singular of any defined term includes the plural.

2. DENIAL OF WRONGDOING AND LIABILITY

2.1 Defendant denies the material factual allegations and legal claims

asserted by Representative Plaintiffs in the Litigation, including any and all charges

of wrongdoing or liability arising out of any of the conduct, statements, acts or

omissions alleged, or that could have been alleged, in the Litigation. Further,

Defendant maintains that it has strong, meritorious defenses to the claims alleged in

the Litigation and that it was prepared to vigorously defend all aspects of the

Litigation.

2.2 This Agreement, any negotiations or proceedings related to it, the

implementation of it, and any papers submitted in support of the motions for

approval of it (collectively, the "Settlement Proceedings") are not to be construed as

or deemed to be evidence of any admission or concession by any of the Parties

regarding liability, damages, or the appropriateness of class treatment, and are not

to be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding for any purpose

whatsoever; provided, however, that this Agreement and the Settlement Proceedings

may be presented to the Court in connection with the implementation or enforcement

of this Agreement, or as may be necessary or appropriate to further the purposes

sought to be achieved by this Agreement.

3. THE BENEFITS OF SETTLEMENT

3.1 Class Counsel and Representative Plaintiffs recognize and

acknowledge the expense and length of continued proceedings that would be

necessary to prosecute the Litigation against Defendant through trial and appeals.

Class Counsel also has taken into account the strength of Defendant's defenses,

difficulties in proving vicarious liability, and the uncertain outcome and risks of

litigation, especially in complex actions such as this one, and the inherent delays in

such litigation. Class Counsel believes that the proposed Settlement confers

substantial benefits upon the Class. Based on their evaluation of all of these factors,

Representative Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement is

in the best interests of Representative Plaintiffs and the Class.

4. SETTLEMENT TERMS

4.1 Defendant will fund the Settlement Sum as set forth in this paragraph.

The Settlement Sum, less any payments made for counsel fees contemplated under

Paragraph 5.4, will be paid to the Administrator as follows: \$75,000 for Settlement

Administration Expenses within 30 days after preliminary approval; 5 monthly

payments of \$107,222.23 in 30 day increments thereafter; and any remaining amounts

required for payment of Approved Claims to Class Members and any Fee Award

within 30 days of Final Approval. Any part of the Settlement Sum that is not used to

pay Settlement Administration Expenses, Approved Claims, or any approved Fee

Award shall remain with the Defendant. Defendant shall have no responsibility to

segregate or escrow any funds to account for the Settlement Sum and, in no event shall

Defendant's total financial liability with respect to this Agreement, the Released

Claims, and the Settlement exceed the Settlement Sum.

4.2 Payment to Class Members

4.2.1 Each Class Member shall be entitled to submit one claim per

telephone number he or she used or subscribed to.

4.2.2 Adequate and customary procedures and standards will be used

by the Settlement Administrator to prevent the payment of fraudulent claims and to

pay only legitimate claims, including, but not limited to, verifying claimed calls with

information provided by the Parties. No fraudulent claim or other claim except a

claim containing all required components—including the signature of a valid Class

Member and a claim ID—shall be an Approved Claim.

4.2.3 Claim Settlement Payments will be made to Class Members who

timely submit a valid Claim Form by the Claims Deadline.

4.2.4 Each Class Member who makes an Approved Claim shall be

entitled to a Claim Settlement Payment in an amount not to exceed forty dollars and

three cents \$40.03 less each Class Member's share of any Fee Award. In the event

that the total amount of Claim Settlement Payments for Approved Claims would

exceed the threshold at which there would be insufficient funds in the Settlement

Sum to pay all Approved Claims, any Fee Award, and Settlement Administration

Expenses, the amount on a per claim basis will also be reduced by each Class

Member's share of Settlement Administration Expenses so that the Settlement Sum

is exhausted but not exceeded.

4.2.5 Payments will be made directly to the Class Member by the

Settlement Administrator.

4.3 Separate and apart from the Settlement Sum, subject to Court approval,

Defendant shall pay each Representative Plaintiff \$5,000 in the interest of

compromising Plaintiffs' individual claims not released in the Agreement against

Defendant, as well as resolving all outstanding issues between the Parties through

the Effective Date. In the event the Court approves the Settlement, but does not

approve the separate payment to Representative Plaintiffs, the Settlement will

nevertheless be binding on the Parties and the Class Members.

4.4 Without admission of guilt, and as further non-monetary relief to the

class, Defendant agrees as a result of this Action, Defendant will institute enhanced

policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the TCPA, including, but not

limited to, enhanced policies and procedures to ensure Defendant obtains adequate

and proper consent and ensuring that pre-recorded telemarketing calls are not made

on their behalf.

5. ATTORNEYS' FEES, EXPENSES, AND COSTS

5.1 Class Counsel shall apply to the Court for attorneys' fees of up to one-

third of the Settlement Sum and documented and reasonable expenses and costs of

up to \$25,000. Class Counsel's application for fees, expenses, and costs shall be

filed no later than thirty-five (35) days prior to the Opt-Out Deadline. Any Fee

Award approved by the Court shall be paid solely out of the Settlement Sum and

shall not increase Defendant's total financial liability with respect to this Agreement

or Settlement.

5.2 In the event the Court approves the Settlement, but declines to award a

Fee Award in the amount requested by Class Counsel, the Settlement will

nevertheless be binding on the Parties and the Class Members.

5.3 Defendant shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Person

arising from any claim regarding the division of the Fee Award between and among

Class Counsel or any other counsel who may claim entitlement to any portion of the

Fee Award.

5.4 The Fee Award, if approved by the Court, shall be paid by wire transfer

from the Settlement Administrator with fifteen (15) business days following the

Effective Date, provided that the law firm or attorney being paid has executed and

provided to Defendant a Form W-9.

5.5 The Court shall retain jurisdiction of any dispute regarding the Fee

Award and any repayment of any amount of the Fee Award.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE

6.1 Up to \$75,000 of the costs and expenses of administering the Settlement

and providing reasonable Notice in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order

shall be paid out of the Settlement Sum, including the cost of CAFA Notice.

6.2 Responsibilities of Settlement Administrator

6.2.1 The Settlement Administrator will facilitate the notice process by

assisting the Parties in the implementation of the Notice Plan, as well as CAFA

Notice.

6.3 Class Settlement Website

6.3.1 The Settlement Administrator will create and maintain the Class

Settlement Website, to be activated within thirty (30) days of Preliminary Approval.

The Settlement Administrator's responsibilities will also include securing an

appropriate URL to be agreed upon by the Parties. The Class Settlement Website

will contain information about the Settlement and case-related documents such as

the Settlement Agreement, the Long-Form Notice in the form attached hereto as

Exhibit B, subject to Court modification and/or approval, the Claim Form, and the

Preliminary Approval Order. Copies of the Summary Notice, Long-Form Notice,

and Claim Form translated into Spanish will also be made available on the

Settlement Website. Class Members shall have the option to file a claim

electronically using the Class Settlement Website.

6.3.2 The Class Settlement Website will terminate (be removed from

the internet) and no longer be maintained by the Settlement Administrator thirty (30)

days after either (a) the Effective Date or (b) the date on which the Settlement

Agreement is terminated or otherwise not approved in full, if the Settlement is

terminated or otherwise not approved in full. The Settlement Administrator may

destroy documents generated in the administration of the Settlement one year after

the void date on settlement checks.

6.3.3 All costs and expenses related to the Class Settlement Website

shall be paid out of the Settlement Sum.

6.4 CAFA Notice

6.4.1 The Parties agree that the Settlement Administrator shall serve

notice of the settlement that meets the requirements of CAFA, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, on

the appropriate federal and state officials no later than 10 days after the filing of this

Settlement Agreement with the Court.

6.4.2 All costs and expenses related to the CAFA Notice shall be paid

out of the Settlement Sum as a Settlement Administration Expense.

6.4.3 The Settlement Administrator will file a certification with the

Court stating the date(s) on which the CAFA Notices were sent. Each Party will

provide the other Parties with any substantive responses received in response to any

CAFA Notice. Any fees and costs incurred by Class Counsel to respond to any

substantive responses—or otherwise incurred to defend challenges to the Settlement

Agreement—shall be paid exclusively from the Settlement Sum, subject to Court

approval.

6.5 Notice Plan

6.5.1 The Notice shall conform to all applicable requirements of the

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the U.S. Constitution (including the Due Process

Clauses), and any other applicable law, and shall otherwise be in the manner and

form agreed upon by the Parties and approved by the Court.

6.5.2 The Parties shall provide the telephone numbers, and all

reasonably available demographic information including addresses and email

addresses where available, for the Class Members to the Settlement Administrator

within five (5) calendar days after the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order

or as soon as reasonably possible. This information and data shall remain

confidential.

6.5.3 Subject to Court approval, within thirty (30) days after the Court

enters the Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement Administrator shall send

direct notice substantially in the form of the Summary Notice in Exhibit C, as

modified and/or approved by the Court, via U.S. Postal Service with Postage Pre-

Paid, to Class Members for whom the Parties identify addresses or for whom the

Administrator can identify addresses. The Administrator shall use up to three data

vendors to try to identify addresses if necessary.

6.5.4 Subject to Court approval, within thirty (30) days after the Court

enters Preliminary Approval, the Settlement Administrator shall also send direct

notice substantially in the form of the Summary Notice in Exhibit C, as modified

and/or approved by the Court, via email, to Class Members for whom the Parties

identify email addresses. The Administrator shall use up to three data vendors to try

to identify email addresses if necessary.

7. CLAIMS PROCESS

7.1 Submission of Claims. Class Members must timely submit, by mail or

online, a valid Claim Form substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, as

modified and/or approved by the Court, by the Claims Deadline. All Claim Forms

must be postmarked or submitted to the Settlement Administrator, either in hard

copy form or electronically via the Settlement Website, by the Claims Deadline and

contain a valid Claim ID. Regardless of the manner in which it is submitted, a valid

Claim Form means a Claim Form containing all required information, including a

valid, unique claim identification number to be assigned by the Settlement

Administrator, which is signed by a Class Member and is timely submitted. Any

Claim Form which is not timely submitted shall be denied. In the event a Class

Member submits a Claim Form by the Claims Deadline but the Claim Form is not

complete, then the Settlement Administrator shall give such Class Member a

reasonable opportunity to provide any requested missing information. For any Class

Member who submits a Claim Form determined by the Settlement Administrator to

be incomplete, the Settlement Administrator may mail a notice directly to such Class

Member, notifying him or her of the missing information and providing him or her

with an opportunity to cure (the "Cure Notice"). Class Members must cure

incomplete claims on or before the Effective Date.

7.2 Claims Processing. The Settlement Administrator shall apply the terms

of this Settlement Agreement and the requirements set forth in the Claim Form, and

any Claim Form submitted that does not meet the requirements of this Agreement is

not eligible to be an Approved Claim. The Settlement Administrator also shall

employ reasonable procedures to screen claims for abuse, fraud, or duplication, and

shall deny Claim Forms where there is evidence of abuse, fraud, or duplication. The

Settlement Administrator's decisions regarding the Claimant's eligibility for a

claims payment shall be final, assuming the Settlement Administrator applies

reasonable practices to assure that no invalid, incomplete, untimely or fraudulent

claims are treated as Approved Claims. The Parties, the Released Parties, and their

respective counsel shall have no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the

Settlement Administrator's conduct, omissions, or actions.

7.3 Payment of Claims. Within sixty (60) days after the later of (i) the final

determination by the Administrator of the number of Approved Claims, and (ii) the

Effective Date, or such other date as the Court may set, the Settlement Administrator

shall pay from the Settlement Sum all Approved Claims by check made payable to

the Class Member submitting each Approved Claim, and shall mail the checks via

first-class mail.

7.4 All payments to Class Members via check will state on the face of the

check that the check will expire and become null and void unless cashed within one

hundred eighty (180) days after the date of issuance. To the extent that any checks

to Class Members expire and become null and void, the Settlement Administrator

shall distribute the funds associated with those checks on a per claim basis to Class

Members who submitted an Approved Claim and who cashed their Settlement Claim

Payments. In the event that the Settlement Administration Expenses associated with

the redistribution together with the amount to be redistributed would exceed the

funds in the Settlement Sum, the amount of the redistribution will be reduced by

each Class Member's share of Settlement Administration Expenses associated with

the redistribution so that the Settlement Sum is exhausted but not exceeded. Any

remaining monies after the redistribution shall be paid to Defendant.

7.5 No decisions by the Settlement Administrator shall be deemed to

constitute a finding, admission, or waiver by Defendant as to any matter of fact, law,

or evidence having any collateral effect on any Claim hereunder or in any other

proceeding or before any other forum or authority. Further, such decisions shall not

be submitted to or admissible in any other proceeding or before any other forum or

authority.

8. RELEASES

8.1 Upon entry of the Judgment, Representative Plaintiffs and each Class

Member will be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment will have, fully,

finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged each of the Released

Parties from all Released Claims.

8.2 After entering into this Settlement Agreement, Representative Plaintiffs

or Class Members may discover facts other than, different from, or in addition to,

those that they know or believe to be true with respect to the Released Claims.

Representative Plaintiff and Class Members expressly waive and fully, finally, and

forever settle and release any known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected,

contingent or noncontingent claim, whether or not concealed or hidden, without

regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such other, different, or additional

facts.

8.3 Upon entry of the Final Approval Order, Representative Plaintiffs, and

any Class Member who does not Opt Out as set forth in Paragraph 9.4 is hereby

barred against continuing or bringing any action against any of the Released Parties

for any of the Released Claims, regardless of whether such action was commenced

prior to the Final Approval Order. Additionally, Representative Plaintiffs and Class

Members agree and covenant, and each Class Member will be deemed to have

agreed and covenanted, not to sue any of the Released Parties with respect to any of

the Released Claims, or otherwise assist others in doing so, and agree to be forever

barred from doing so, in any court of law, equity, or any other forum.

9. APPROVAL PROCESS

9.1 Court Approval

9.1.1 Class Counsel shall submit the Agreement together with its

Exhibits to the Court and request that the Court grant preliminary approval of the

Settlement, issue a Preliminary Approval Order, and schedule a hearing on whether

the Settlement should be granted final approval (collectively, "Motion for

Preliminary Approval").

9.1.2 In the Motion for Preliminary Approval, Class Counsel shall

request that the Court allow for a period of no less than ninety (90) days between

entry of the Preliminary Approval Order and the Final Approval Hearing and that

the Court schedule a Final Approval Hearing for a date no less than ninety (90) days

from entry of the Preliminary Approval Order.

9.1.3 The date the Motion for Preliminary Approval is filed is the date

by which the Settlement shall be deemed "filed" within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. §

1715.

9.1.4 If the Motion for Preliminary Approval is granted, Class Counsel

shall be responsible for asking the Court to grant final approval of the Settlement

and to enter a Final Approval Order and Judgment, in accordance with the date set

by the Court for the Final Approval Hearing.

9.1.5 If the Court does not enter a Preliminary Approval Order or a

Final Approval Order and Judgment or if the Final Approval Order is reversed or

vacated, by any court, this Agreement shall terminate and be of no force or effect,

except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, unless the Parties voluntarily agree

to modify this Agreement in the manner necessary to obtain Court approval.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement, the Parties agree that any decision

by any court as to any Fee Award to Class Counsel or any separate payment to the

Representative Plaintiffs, described in Paragraphs 4.3 and 5.1 above, including any

decision by any court to award less than the amounts sought, shall not prevent the

Agreement from becoming effective, prevent Final Judgment from being entered, or

provide any grounds for termination of the Agreement or the Settlement.

9.2 Procedures for Objecting to the Settlement

9.2.1 Class Members shall have the right to appear and show cause, if

they have any reason why the terms of this Agreement should not be given final

approval, subject to each of the sub-provisions contained in this paragraph. Any

objection to this Settlement Agreement, including any of its terms or provisions,

must be in writing, filed with the Court or mailed to the Clerk's Office of the United

States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, 8 Southern Oaks Ct.,

Savannah, GA, by no later than the Opt-Out Deadline. Class Members may object

either on their own or through an attorney hired at their own expense.

9.2.2 Any objection regarding or related to the Agreement shall

contain a caption or title that identifies it as "Objection to Class Settlement in

Chapman v. America's Lift Chair, LLC, No. 21-cv-245" and also shall contain the

following information: (i) the objector's name, address, and telephone number; (ii)

the name, address, and telephone number of any attorney for the objector with

respect to the objection; (iii) the factual basis and legal grounds for the objection,

including any documents sufficient to establish the basis for his or her standing as

a Class Member, including the phone number(s) at which he or she received call(s)

or text(s) covered by this Settlement; and (iv) identification of the case name, case

number, and court for any prior class action lawsuit in which the objector and the

objector's attorney (if applicable) has objected to a proposed class action settlement.

If an objecting party chooses to appear at the hearing, no later than the Opt-Out

Deadline, a notice of intention to appear, either in person or through an attorney,

must be filed with the Court and list the name, address, and telephone number of

the person and attorney, if any, who will appear.

9.2.3 A Class Member who appears at the Final Approval Hearing,

either personally or through counsel, may be permitted to argue only those matters

that were set forth in the timely and validly submitted written objection filed by such

Class Member. No Class Member shall be permitted to raise matters at the Final

Approval Hearing that the Class Member could have raised in his/her written

objection, but failed to do so, and all objections to the Settlement Agreement that are

not set forth in a timely and validly submitted written objection will be deemed

waived.

9.2.4 If a Class Member wishes to present witnesses or evidence at the

Final Approval Hearing in support of a timely and validly submitted objection, all

witnesses must be identified in the objection, and true and correct copies of all

supporting evidence must be appended to, or filed and served with, the objection.

Failure to identify witnesses or provide copies of supporting evidence in this manner

waives any right to introduce such testimony or evidence at the Final Approval

Hearing. Representative Plaintiffs or Defendant or both may take discovery

regarding any objector, their attorney (if applicable), and the basis of any objection,

subject to Court approval.

9.2.5 Any Class Member who fails to comply with the applicable

provisions of the preceding paragraphs concerning their objection shall waive and

forfeit any and all rights he or she may have to object, appear, present witness

testimony, and/or submit evidence, shall be barred from appearing, speaking, or

introducing any testimony or evidence at the Final Approval Hearing, shall be

precluded from seeking review of this Agreement by appeal or other means, and

shall be bound by all the terms of this Agreement and by all proceedings, orders and

judgments in the Litigation. By filing an objection, objectors and their counsel

submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for all purposes, including but not limited to

subpoenas and discovery.

9.3 Right to Respond to Objections

9.3.1 Class Counsel and the Parties shall have the right, but not the

obligation, to respond to any objection no later than seven (7) days prior to the Final

Approval Hearing. The Party so responding shall file a copy of the response with the

Court, and shall serve a copy, by hand, overnight delivery, or email to the objector

(or counsel for the objector).

9.4 Opt Outs

9.4.1 Any Class Member who does not wish to participate in this

Settlement must write to the Settlement Administrator stating an intention to be

"excluded" from this Settlement. This written request for exclusion must be sent

via first class United States mail to the Settlement Administrator at the address set

forth in the Notice and postmarked no later than the Opt-Out Deadline. A request

for exclusion must be signed by the Class Member, and must include the Class

Member's name, address, and the telephone number that allegedly received a call

made by or on behalf of Defendant during the Settlement Class Period, and must

clearly state that the Person wishes to be excluded from the Litigation and the

Agreement. A request for exclusion that does not include all of this information, or

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 serving such

a request shall be a member of the Class and shall be bound as a Class Member by

the Court's Orders in this Litigation and by this Agreement, if approved. The

request for exclusion must be personally signed by the Class Member. So-called

"mass" or "class" opt-outs shall not be allowed.

9.4.2 Any Person in the Class who submits a request for exclusion may

not file an objection to the Settlement. If a Class Member submits a written request

for exclusion pursuant to Paragraph 9.4.1 above, he or she shall be deemed to have

complied with the terms of the opt-out procedure and shall not be bound by the

Agreement if approved by the Court.

9.4.3 After Notice is disseminated and at least fifteen (15) days prior

to the Final Approval Hearing, the Parties shall request and seek to obtain from the

Court a Final Approval Order and Judgment, which will (among other things):

(i) find that the Court has personal jurisdiction over all Class

Members and that the Court has subject-matter jurisdiction to

approve the Agreement, including all exhibits hereto;

(ii) approve the Settlement Agreement and the proposed Settlement

as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to, and in the best interests

of, Class Members; direct the Parties and their counsel to

implement and consummate the Agreement according to its

terms and provisions; and declare the Agreement to be binding

on, and have preclusive effect on all pending and future lawsuits

or other proceedings maintained by or on behalf of

Representative Plaintiff and the Releasing Parties;

(iii) find that the Notice and the Notice Plan implemented pursuant to

the Agreement (1) constitute the best practicable notice under the

circumstances; (2) constitute notice that is reasonably calculated,

under the circumstances, to apprise members of the Class of the

pendency of the Litigation, their right to object to or exclude

themselves from the proposed Settlement, and to appear at the

Final Approval Hearing; (3) are reasonable and constitute due,

adequate, and sufficient notice to all Persons entitled to receive

notice; and (4) meet all applicable requirements of the Federal

Rules of Civil Procedure, the Due Process Clause of the United

States Constitution, and the rules of the Court;

(iv) dismiss the Action (including all individual claims and Class

Member claims asserted therein) on the merits and with

prejudice, without fees or costs to any Party, except as provided

in the Settlement Agreement; incorporate the releases set forth

above in Paragraph 8, make those releases effective as of the date

of the Final Approval Order and Judgment; and

(v) forever discharge the Released Parties as set forth herein;

permanently bar and enjoin all Class Members from filing,

commencing, continuing, prosecuting, intervening in, or

participating (as class members or otherwise) in, any lawsuit or

other action in any jurisdiction related to the Released Claims.

10. TAXES

10.1 Class Members, Representative Plaintiffs, and Class Counsel shall be

responsible for paying any and all federal, state, and local taxes due on any payments

made to them pursuant to the Settlement Agreement.

10.2 Expenses Paid from Fund. Any expenses reasonably incurred by the

Claims Administrator in carrying out the duties, including fees of tax attorneys and

accountants, will be paid from the Settlement Sum, up to \$75,000.

10.3 Responsibility for Taxes on Distribution. Any Person that receives a

distribution from the Settlement Sum will be solely responsible for any taxes or tax-

related expenses owed or incurred by reason of that distribution. Such taxes and tax-

related expenses will not be paid from the Settlement Sum.

10.4 Payment Not Directed By or Incurred to Government: For purposes of

assessing deducibility of any amounts to be paid by Defendant under the Settlement

Agreement, it is expressly acknowledged by the Parties that such payments are not

made or incurred (whether by suit, agreement, or otherwise) to, or at the direction

of, a government or governmental entity in relation to the violation of any law or the

investigation or inquiry by such government or entity into the potential violation of

any law, as contemplated by 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(1).

10.5 Defendant is Not Responsible. In no event will Defendant or any of the

other Released Parties have any responsibility or liability for taxes or tax-related

expenses arising in connection with the payment or distribution of the Settlement

Sum to Representative Plaintiffs, Class Members, Class Counsel or any other person

or entity. The Class Members shall indemnify and hold Defendant and other

Released Parties harmless—through the Settlement Sum— for all such taxes and

tax-related expenses.

11. CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE DATE; EFFECT OF

TERMINATION

11.1 The Effective Date of this Agreement shall be the date defined in

Paragraph 1.1.17.

11.2 Performance of the obligations set forth in this Agreement is subject to

all of the following material conditions:

(A) execution of this Agreement by Defendant, Representative Plaintiffs,

and Class Counsel.

(B) the granting of preliminary approval by the Court.

(C) sending of the notices described herein.

(D) the granting of final approval by the Court.

(E) execution and entry of Judgment by the Court.

(F) the occurrence of all other circumstances necessary for the Effective

Date to arise.

11.3 The Parties hereby covenant and agree to cooperate reasonably and in

good faith for the purpose of achieving occurrence of the conditions set forth above,

including, without limitation, timely filing of all motions, papers and evidence

necessary to do so, and refraining from causing or encouraging directly or indirectly

any appeal or petition for writ proceedings by third parties seeking review of any

order contemplated by this Agreement. Class Counsel represent and warrant that

they have authority to take all such actions required of them pursuant to this

Agreement, and that by doing so they are not in breach or violation of any agreement

with Representative Plaintiffs or any third party.

11.4 If this Agreement is not approved by the Court or the Settlement is

terminated or fails to become effective in accordance with the terms of this

Agreement, the Settling Parties will be restored to their respective positions in the

Litigation as of the date of signature of this Settlement Agreement. In such event,

the terms and provisions of this Agreement will have no further force and effect with

respect to the Settling Parties and will not be used in this Litigation or in any other

proceeding for any purpose, and any Judgment or order entered by the Court in

accordance with the terms of this Agreement will be treated as vacated.

11.5 The Parties agree to request a stay of the Litigation pending approval

of the Settlement.

12. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

12.1 Cooperation of the Parties: The Parties acknowledge that it is their

intent to consummate this Agreement, and they agree to cooperate to the extent

reasonably necessary to effectuate and implement all terms and conditions of this

Agreement and to exercise their best efforts to accomplish the foregoing terms and

conditions of this Agreement. The Parties agree that they will not solicit, facilitate,

or assist in any way, requests for exclusions or objections by putative or actual Class

Members. Class Counsel recognize that they have an obligation to support the

Settlement and to seek the Court's approval of its terms. Class Counsel will abide

by all applicable and governing ethical rules, opinions, and obligations precluding

their representation of opt-outs.

12.2 Resolution of Dispute without Admission: The Parties intend the

Settlement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes between them with

respect to the Litigation. The Settlement covers claims that are contested and will

not be deemed an admission by any Settling Party as to the merits of any claim or

defense.

12.3 Use In Subsequent Proceedings: Neither this Agreement nor the

Settlement, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in

furtherance of this Agreement or the Settlement is or may be deemed to be or may

be used as an admission of, or evidence of, the validity of any Released Claims, or

of any wrongdoing or liability of Defendant; or is or may be deemed to be or may

be used as an admission of, or evidence of, any fault or omission of Defendant in

any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency

or other tribunal. Any party to this Litigation may file this Agreement and/or the

Judgment in any action that may be brought against it in order to support any defense

or counterclaim, including without limitation those based on principles of res

judicata, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or

reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar

defense or counterclaim.

12.4 Confidential Information: All agreements made and orders entered

during the course of the Litigation relating to the confidentiality of information will

survive this Agreement. All class member identification information supplied to, or

generated by, the Administrator in furtherance of this Agreement will be treated as

confidential.

12.5 Incorporation of Exhibits: Any and all Exhibits to this Agreement are

material and integral parts hereof and are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

12.6 Modification: This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a

written instrument signed by or on behalf of all Parties or their respective successors-

in-interest.

12.7 Integration: This Agreement and any Exhibits attached hereto

constitute the entire agreement among the Parties, and no representations,

warranties, or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement

or its Exhibits other than the representations, warranties, and covenants covered and

memorialized in such documents. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Parties

will bear their own respective costs.

12.8 Class Counsel's Authority: Class Counsel, on behalf of the Class, are

expressly authorized by Representative Plaintiffs to take all appropriate action

required or permitted to be taken by the Class pursuant to this Agreement to

effectuate its terms, and are expressly authorized to enter into any modifications or

amendments to this Agreement on behalf of the Class.

12.9 Parties' Authority: Each counsel or other Person executing this

Agreement or any of its Exhibits on behalf of any Party hereby warrants that such

Person has the full authority to do so.

12.10 Counterparts: This Agreement may be executed in one or more

counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one

and the same instrument.

12.11 No Prior Assignments: Representative Plaintiffs and Class Counsel

represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned,

transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person

or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or rights

herein released and discharged except as set forth herein.

12.12 Binding on Assigns: This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure

to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties and the Class Members.

12.13 Interpretation: None of the Parties, or their respective counsel, will be

deemed the drafter of this Agreement or its Exhibits for purposes of construing the

provisions thereof. The language in all parts of this Agreement and its Exhibits will

be interpreted according to its fair meaning, and will not be interpreted for or against

any of the Parties as the drafter thereof.

12.14 Governing Law: This Agreement and any Exhibits hereto will be

construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the internal,

substantive laws of the State of Georgia without giving effect to that state's choice-

of-law principles.

12.15 Headings: The headings used herein are used for the purpose of

convenience only and are not meant to have legal effect.

12.16 No Waiver: The waiver by one Party of any breach of this Agreement

by any other Party shall not be deemed as a waiver of any other prior or subsequent

breaches of this Agreement.

12.17 Publicity and Confidentiality. Neither the Parties nor their counsel will

initiate any public statement intended to be disseminated through the press, internet,

television, radio, or other media that includes an opinion or editorial comment about

the effect of the Settlement or the merits of any Parties' positions in the Litigation.

This provision does not apply to any communications between any Class Member

and Class Counsel or any communications with the Court. Defendant shall be

permitted to respond to requests for comment—in its sole discretion—if any such requests are initiated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement dated as of January____, 2023.

Dated:	on Behalf of Defendant America's Lift Chairs, LLC
Dated:	Crystal Chapman as Representative Plaintiff
Dated: 01/23/2023	Joseph Nelums Joseph Nelums as Representative Plaintiff
Dated: 1/24/2023	Avi Kaufman of Kaufman P.A. as Class Counsel
Dated: 1/24/2023	Anthony Paronich of Paronich Law as Class Counsel

Last update: 24 Jan 2023, by Guest