

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PHELPS COUNTY  
STATE OF MISSOURI

**FILED**

DEC 29 2022

SONJA CHILDERS  
CIRCUIT CLERK  
PHELPS COUNTY, MO

HANNAH RAMSEY- STANDAGE,  
individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 22PH-CV00853

v.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES,

Defendant.

**FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; FINAL JUDGMENT;  
AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS, AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE  
SERVICE AWARDS; AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE**

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 2022, this Court entered an Order Preliminarily Approving Class Settlement, Approving Class Notice, Appointing Settlement Administrator, Appointing Lead Class Counsel and Class Representatives, and Scheduling Fairness Hearing ("Preliminary Approval Order") that:

- a. Conditionally certified, for settlement purposes only, pursuant to Mo. R. Civ. P. 52.08, a class consisting of "All residents of the United States who purchased the Product (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) during the Class Period (June 24, 2016 through date of Preliminary Approval) for personal and household use and not for resale. Excluded from the Settlement Class are the following: (a) Persons who purchased or acquired any Products for resale; (b) the Released Parties; (c) all Persons who file a timely and valid Opt-Out; (d) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees and counsel, as well as the household members of Plaintiff's employees and counsel; (e) Defendant's Counsel, their employees, and counsel as well as the

household members of Defendant's employees and counsel; (f) federal, state, and local governments, political subdivisions or agencies of federal, state and local governments; and (g) the judicial officers, courtroom staff, and members of their households overseeing the Action”;

- b. Appointed as Lead Class Counsel for the Settlement Class: (i) the Law Office of L. DeWayne Layfield, PLLC; (ii) KamberLaw LLC; and (iii) Steelman Gaunt Crowley. In addition, the Court preliminarily appointed as Class Counsel: (i) Law Office of L. DeWayne Layfield, PLLC; (ii) KamberLaw LLC; (iii) Steelman Gaunt Crowley; (iv) Southern Atlantic Law Group; and (v) Law Offices of Howard W. Rubinstein PA;
- c. Preliminarily approved the Settlement as fair, adequate and reasonable;
- d. Set a hearing to take place before this Court (the “Final Approval Hearing”), upon notice to Members of the Settlement Class, to determine whether the proposed settlement of the Action in accordance with the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement should be approved as fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class and whether a Final Approval Order and Judgment should be entered;
- e. Approved the Claim Form and set the Claims Deadline;
- f. Designated Kroll Settlement Administration (“Kroll”) as the Settlement Administrator and instructed Kroll to perform the following functions, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement:
  1. Process requests for exclusion (Opt-Outs) to the Settlement in accordance with Section IX of the Settlement Agreement;

2. Process Objections to the Settlement in accordance with Section IX of the Settlement Agreement;
  3. Process Claim Forms in accordance with Section VI of the Settlement Agreement;
  4. Before disseminating the Settlement Notice, establish the Settlement Website, which Settlement Class Members can visit to read and obtain additional information regarding the Settlement, including submission of Claim Forms; and
  5. Set up and operate a toll-free automated interactive voice response system through which Settlement Class Members can access Settlement information.
- g. Prescribed the method and period of time for providing notice to Members of the Settlement Class of the certification of the Settlement Class and found that the distribution of Settlement Notice substantially in accordance with Section VIII of the Settlement Agreement meets the requirements of Mo. R. Civ. P. 52.08(b)(3), 52.08(c)(2) and due process, and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto;
- h. Prescribed the method and period of time during which Members of the Settlement Class may file Objections to the Settlement and found that any Settlement Class Member who fails to serve timely and properly a written Objection containing all of the information listed in items (a) through (j) of the Preliminary Approval Order, including notice of whether he/she intends to appear at the Final Approval

Hearing, shall not be permitted to object to the Settlement and shall be foreclosed from seeking any review of the Settlement or the terms of the Settlement Agreement by any means, including but not limited to appeal; and

- i. Prescribed the method and period of time during which Members of the Settlement Class may file requests to be excluded (or “Opt-Out”) from the Settlement Class and found that any Member of the Settlement Class who does not properly and timely request exclusion from the Settlement Class will remain a Settlement Class Member and will be bound by any Orders entered by the Court, including the Final Approval Order and the Releases contemplated thereby.

**WHEREAS**, this Court finds that a single request for exclusion (“Opt-Out”) was received, on December 15, 2022, which is detailed in the Dudinsky Declaration and Report re: Objections and Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs), filed December 19, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, this Court finds that the papers are detailed and sufficient to rule on Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, and Class Representative Service Awards (“Motions”); and

**WHEREAS**, this Court, having heard from counsel in this matter, and having reviewed all other arguments and submissions presented by all interested persons and entities with respect to the Settlement and Plaintiff’s Motions; and

**WHEREAS**, all capitalized terms used herein have the meanings set forth and defined in the Settlement Agreement, it is hereby

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, DECREED, AND FOUND THAT:**

1. This case arises out of Plaintiff’s allegations that Defendant Abbott Laboratories (“Defendant”) deceptively and unlawfully packaged, marketed, and labeled certain powdered

infant formula Products as defined in the Settlement Agreement, which are sold in a variety of sizes, and collectively referred to herein as “Products” or a “Product.” Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant represented that the Products are capable of making a certain number of liquid 4-ounce bottles of formula; however, contrary to these representations, the Products do not always yield the represented number of 4-ounce bottles of liquid formula when consumers follow the “Instructions for Preparation & Use” on the labels of the Products. Defendant denies these allegations and asserts that its labelling and marketing is truthful.

2. Plaintiff’s Petition included claims for violations of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, Unjust Enrichment, Breach of Express Warranty, and Breach of Implied Warranty.

3. After extensive and numerous settlement negotiations, including a full-day, formal mediation session with a neutral mediator, and additional follow-up negotiations after the mediation, the Parties agreed to settle this case.

4. The Settlement Agreement provides substantial and meaningful programmatic relief to the Settlement Class as follows: The Defendant shall either (1) remove the Challenged Language from the Labeling of the Products or (2) revise the Challenged Language such that the representations regarding the number of bottles of formula that each Product can deliver shall be based on the number of bottles that can be made from the powder contents of the Products when following the instructions printed on the Products’ labels for preparation of an individual bottle. Defendant shall not manufacture any Products with Labeling containing the Challenged Language during the period (the “Restricted Period”) beginning on the sixth-month anniversary of the Final Approval Order (“FAO”) Date) and ending on the three-year anniversary of the FAO Date, other than Products containing demonstrably accurate information on the Label. If Class Counsel believes that the Labeling of any Product does not comply, they shall provide written notice to

Defendant of the specific facts and circumstances of any alleged non-compliance and discuss in good faith with Defendant appropriate changes, if any, to the then-existing Labeling; to the extent agreed, Defendant will then have 120 days from the date of such agreement to bring its practices into compliance. If no agreement is reached, Class Counsel may apply to the Court to enforce the Agreement.

5. The Settlement also provides substantial and meaningful monetary benefits to the Settlement Class as follows: Defendant agreed to provide cash benefits in a Settlement Fund with a two-tiered structure as part of a Maximum Settlement Amount of US \$19,500,000 (nineteen million five hundred thousand dollars) in the aggregate. Defendant will pay or cause to be paid Valid Claims based on which of the following two Tiers the Settlement Class Member elects and for which the Settlement Class Member qualifies: Tier 1 Settlement Class Members who elect to fill out the Claim Form section for Tier 1 and who do not have valid Proof of Purchase may recover \$3.00 per Unit purchased, up to a maximum of \$15.00 per Household; or Tier 2 Settlement Class Members who elect to fill out the Claim Form section for Tier 2 and who provide valid Proof(s) of Purchase may recover \$3.00 per Unit purchased for the number of Units for which a valid Proof of Purchase has been provided, up to a maximum of \$45.00 per Household. The Maximum Settlement Amount will also fund all Notice and Administration Expenses, Class Representative Service Awards, and Attorneys' Fees and Costs. However, excluded from the Maximum Settlement amount are any costs related to the Programmatic Relief, which will be born by Defendant.

6. The Preliminary Approval Order, as corrected, established a Claims Period that commenced in October, 2022 and continues through January 31, 2023.

7. The Preliminary Approval Order established an Objection and Opt-Out deadline of

December 14, 2022.

8. The Settlement Class as provided in the Preliminary Approval Order is unconditionally certified pursuant to Mo. R. Civ. P. 52.08(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3). The prerequisites for a class action under Rule 52.08 have been satisfied in that: (a) the Members of the Settlement Class are so numerous that joinder of all Members thereof is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class they seeks to represent; (d) Plaintiff has and will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class; (e) the questions of law and fact common to the Members of the Settlement Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual Members of the Settlement Class; and (f) a class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

9. For purposes of the Programmatic Relief specified in Section 5.1 of the Settlement, the prerequisites for a class action under Rule 52.08(b)(2) have been satisfied in that: (a) the number of Members of the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all Members thereof is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class they seeks to represent; (d) Plaintiff has and will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class; and (e) Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Settlement Class, thereby making appropriate final declaratory relief with respect to the Settlement Class as a whole.

10. Hannah Ramsey-Standage, Rita De Lao, and Kara Rutenbar Hatmaker are appointed as Class Representatives of the Settlement Class.

11. The Court confirms the following as Lead Class Counsel for the Settlement Class: (i) the Law Office of L. DeWayne Layfield, PLLC; (ii) KamberLaw LLC; and (iii) Steelman Gaunt

Crowley. In addition, the Court confirms the following as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class: (i) Law Office of L. DeWayne Layfield, PLLC; (ii) KamberLaw LLC; (iii) Steelman Gaunt Crowley; (iv) Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC; and (v) Law Office of Howard W. Rubinstein PA.

12. The Settlement, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, is in all respects fair, reasonable, and adequate, is in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members and is approved in all respects in accordance with Rules 52.08(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3).

13. The Settlement was negotiated at arms'-length by experienced counsel who were fully informed of the facts and circumstances of the Action and of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions. The Settlement was reached after the Parties engaged in extensive negotiations and formal mediation. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel are therefore well positioned to evaluate the benefits of the Settlement, taking into account the expense, risk, and uncertainty of protracted litigation over numerous questions of fact and law.

14. Notice to the Members of the Settlement Class required by Mo. R. Civ. P. 52.08(b)(3) has been provided as directed by this Court in the Preliminary Approval Order, and such notice constituted the best notice practicable, including, but not limited to, the forms of notice and methods of identifying and providing notice to the Members of the Settlement Class, and satisfied the requirements of the Missouri Rules of Civil Procedure, and all other applicable laws.

15. No Objections to the Settlement were received and only a single Settlement Class Member requested to Opt Out of the Settlement (on December 15, 2022). This positive reaction by the Settlement Class demonstrates the strength of the Settlement.

16. Plaintiff and Defendant are directed to promptly consummate the Settlement in accordance with the Class Action Settlement Agreement and all its terms.



17. The Settlement shall not be deemed to constitute an admission or finding of liability or wrongdoing on the part of the Defendant, Plaintiff, Class Representatives, or any of the Settlement Class Members or Released Parties.

18. The Action is hereby dismissed, with prejudice, on the merits, by the Plaintiff, Class Representatives, and all Members of the Settlement Class, on the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and without costs to any party except as provided herein and in the Settlement.

19. The Action is hereby dismissed, with prejudice, on the merits, as against Defendant presently or previously named in the Action.

20. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff, Class Representatives, each Settlement Class Member, and each Releasing Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Claims against the Released Parties in the manner(s) set forth in Section XII of the Settlement.

21. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff, Class Representatives, each Settlement Class Member, and each Releasing Party shall be permanently barred and enjoined from asserting, commencing, prosecuting, or continuing any of the Released Claims.

22. Service Awards are hereby awarded in the total amount of \$19,500, comprised of \$6,500 to each of the three Class Representatives: Hannah Ramsey-Standage, Rita De Leo, and Kara Rutenbar Hatmaker. Lead Class Counsel shall cause the Settlement Administrator to pay these Service Awards to the Class Representatives following payment of this amount by Defendant as compensation for their efforts in bringing the Action and achieving the benefits of the Settlement on behalf of the Settlement Class.

23. Class Counsel are hereby awarded \$5,850,000 in (i) attorneys' fees and (ii) reimbursement of their reasonable expenses in accordance with Section VII of the Settlement. Defendant shall deposit the sums awarded and approved by the Court in an account established and maintained by the Settlement Administrator no later than twenty (20) business days following the earlier of (i) the Effective Date or (ii) such date that Class Counsel provides payment security in a form agreed by Class Counsel and Defendant in its sole discretion (which security shall provide for recovery of all fees and expenses paid to Class Counsel in the event that the final judgment or the Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award is reversed or otherwise reduced); provided, that the date described in clause (ii) shall not occur prior to the following entry of the Final Approval Order and the Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award.

24. The award of attorneys' fees to Class Counsel shall be allocated among Class Counsel in a fashion that, in the opinion of Lead Class Counsel, fairly compensates them for their respective contributions in the prosecution of the Action. In making its award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs, in the amounts described in paragraph 23 above, the Court has considered and finds as follows:

- a. The Settlement has provided significant relief to the Settlement Class.
- b. Defendant's adoption of the Programmatic Relief was a negotiated, material term of Settlement.
- c. The Settlement Notice constituted the best notice practicable to Settlement Class Members.
- d. Class Counsel have conducted the litigation and achieved the Settlement with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy on behalf of Plaintiff, Class Representatives, and the Settlement Class as a whole.

- e. The Action involves complex factual and legal issues and, in the absence of Settlement, would involve further lengthy proceedings and uncertain resolution of such issues.
- f. Had the Settlement not been achieved, there would remain a significant risk that the Settlement Class may have recovered less or nothing from Defendant, and that any recovery would have been significantly delayed, which would have resulted in the continued exposure of Settlement Class Members to the challenged representations.
- g. The amount of attorneys' fees and reimbursable expenses awarded to Lead Class Counsel is fair and reasonable given: the results of the Settlement, which are substantial; that there are a substantial number of Products sold by Defendant; Class Counsel was able to secure a significant benefit for the Class in terms of both programmatic and monetary relief; significant skill was required to prosecute this case, including the experience, reputation, and ability of Class Counsel; the fact that the fees were always contingent; and the fee is not disproportionately excessive in light of the benefits conferred on the Members of the Settlement Class. Moreover, the amount awarded is within the norms in class action cases in the state of Missouri.

25. Defendant and the Released Parties shall not be liable for any additional fees or expenses for Class Counsel or counsel of any Plaintiff, Class Representative or Settlement Class Member in connection with the Action, beyond those expressly provided in the Settlement.

26. By reason of the Settlement, and approval hereof, there is no just reason for delay and this Final Order and Judgment shall be deemed a final judgment pursuant to Rule 74 of the

Missouri Rules of Civil Procedure.

27. Jurisdiction is reserved, without affecting the finality of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, over:

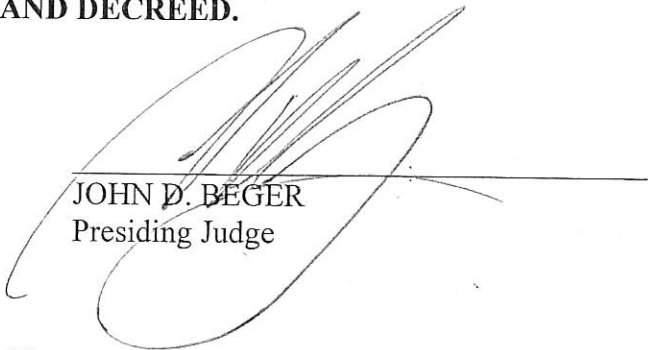
- a. Effectuating the Settlement and the terms of the Class Action Settlement Agreement, including the payment of Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses, including any interest accrued thereon;
- b. Supervising all aspects of the administration of the Settlement;
- c. Determining whether, in the event an appeal is taken from any aspect of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, notice should be given at the appellant's expense to some or all Settlement Class Members apprising them of the pendency of the appeal and such other matters as the Court may order;
- d. Enforcing and administering the Settlement, including any releases executed in connection therewith, and the provisions of this Final Approval Order and Judgment;
- e. Adjudicating any disputes that arise under the Settlement; and
- f. Any other matters related or ancillary to the foregoing.

28. Callie Green, is excluded from the Settlement.

29. The above-captioned Action is dismissed in its entirety with prejudice.

**IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED.**

Dated: 12.29.22

  
JOHN D. BEGER  
Presiding Judge