

**IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
WARREN COUNTY**

ROBERT PESSIA, PETER HETTMAN,
HEIDI TULLER, ROBERT MARRONE, and
JEAN BERRY individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WARREN GENERAL HOSPITAL,

Defendant.

CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO. 501-2023

CONSOLIDATED CLASS ACTION

WARREN COUNTY
PROTHONOTARY/
CLERK OF COURTS

2025 MAY -5 AM 11:44

FILED

**ORDER GRANTING FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2025, a Preliminary Approval Order was entered by the Court preliminarily approving the proposed Settlement pursuant to the terms of the Parties' Settlement Agreement, and directing that Notice be given to the Settlement Class.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the notice requirements set forth in the Settlement Agreement and in the Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement Class was notified of the terms of the proposed Settlement, of the right of members of the Settlement Class to object or opt-out, and of the right of members of the Settlement Class to be heard at a Final Approval Hearing to determine, *inter alia*: (1) whether the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate for the release of the claims contemplated by the Settlement Agreement; and (2) whether the Final Approval Order and Judgment should be entered dismissing this Action with prejudice;

WHEREAS, a Final Approval Hearing was held on May 5, 2025. Settlement Class Members were notified of their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing in support of or in opposition to the proposed Settlement, the award of attorney's fees, costs, and expenses to Class Counsel, and requested Service Awards to Class Representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Court having heard the presentation of Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant, having reviewed all of the submissions presented with respect to the proposed Settlement, having determined that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, having considered the application for attorney's fees, expenses, and costs made by Class Counsel and the application for a Service Awards to the Class Representatives, and having reviewed the materials in support thereof, and good cause appearing:

THIS COURT FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The capitalized terms used in this Final Approval Order shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement except as may otherwise be ordered.

2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over all claims raised therein and all parties thereto, including the Settlement Class.

3. The Court hereby approves the Settlement, including the plans for implementation and distribution of the settlement relief, and finds that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class Members, within the authority of the parties and the result of extensive arm's-length negotiations. The parties shall effectuate the Settlement Agreement in accordance with its terms. The Settlement Agreement and every term and provision thereof shall be deemed incorporated herein as if explicitly set forth and shall have the full force of an Order of this Court.

4. At the expiration of the Objection and Opt-Out Periods, there were no objections and three opt outs to the Settlement. Those Settlement Class Members who timely and properly opted out from the settlement are identified in **Exhibit 1** to this order.

5. The Settlement Class, which will be bound by this Final Approval Order, shall include all members of the Settlement Class who did not submit timely and valid requests to be

excluded from the Settlement Class.

6. For purposes of the Settlement and this Final Approval Order, the Court hereby:
 - a. certifies the following Settlement Class pursuant to Pa. R. Civ. P. 1702: all natural persons in the United States whose Private Information was accessed as a result of the Data Incident, including those who were sent a notification from Defendant of the Data Incident. Excluded from the Settlement Class are (a) all persons who are governing board members of the Defendant; (b) governmental entities; and (c) the Court and any Judge(s) presiding over this matter, the Court's immediate family, and Court staff.
 - b. appoints Plaintiffs Robert Pessia, Peter Hettman, Heidi Tuller, Robert Marrone, and Jean Berry for settlement purposes only, as representatives of the Settlement Class. The Court finds that the Class Representatives are similarly situated to absent Settlement Class Members and are typical of the Settlement Class, and, therefore, they will be adequate Class Representatives.
 - c. appoints Andrew W. Ferich of Ahdoot & Wolfson, PC and Danielle L. Perry of Mason LLP as Class Counsel; and
 - d. finds that the dissemination of Notice to Settlement Class Members: (a) was implemented in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order; (b) constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances; (c) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Class Members of (1) a description of the material terms of the Settlement; (2) how to submit a Claim Form; (3) the Claim Form Deadline; (4) the last day of the Opt-Out Period for individuals in the Settlement Class to opt-out of the Settlement Class; (5) the last day of the Objection Period for Settlement Class Members to object to the Settlement and/or Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs

and Service Awards; (6) the Final Approval Hearing date; and (7) the Settlement Website address at which Settlement Class members may access this Agreement and other related documents and information; (d) constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all natural persons entitled to receive notice of the proposed Settlement; and (e) satisfied the requirements of Pennsylvania Rule 1714, the Constitution of the United States (including the Due Process Clause), and all other applicable laws and rules.

7. All persons who have not made their objections to the Settlement in the manner provided in the Settlement Agreement are deemed to have waived any objections by appeal, collateral attack, or otherwise.

8. Within the time periods set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement benefits provided for in the Settlement Agreement shall be paid to the Settlement Class Members submitting valid Claim Forms, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement.

9. Upon the Effective Date, Settlement Class Members who did not validly and timely opt-out shall, by operation of this Final Approval Order, have fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished and discharged Defendant from all claims that were or could have been asserted in the action.

10. All Settlement Class Members who did not validly and timely opt-out are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from filing, commencing, prosecuting, maintaining, intervening in, participating in, conducting or continuing, either directly or in any other capacity, any action or proceeding in any court, agency, arbitration, tribunal or jurisdiction, asserting any claims against Defendant released pursuant to the Settlement Agreement.

11. The terms of the Settlement Agreement and this Final Approval Order shall have maximum *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, and all other preclusive effect in any and all claims for

relief, causes of action, suits, petitions, demands in law or equity, or any allegations of liability, damages, debts, contracts, agreements, obligations, promises, attorney's fees, costs, interest or expenses which were or could have been asserted in the Action or in any third party action.

12. The Final Approval Order, the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement which it reflects, and all acts, statements, documents, or proceedings relating to the Settlement are not, and shall not be construed as, or used as an admission by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability on the part of Defendant or of the validity or certifiability for litigation of any claims.

13. The Court finds Service Awards of \$2,000 per Class Representative are fair and reasonable. These amounts are to be paid out of the Settlement Fund, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

17. The Court hereby approves an award of attorney's fees in an amount of \$455,000.00 and litigation costs and expenses in an amount of \$19,367.77. These amounts are to be paid out of the Settlement Fund, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds these amounts to be fair and reasonable pursuant to the non-exclusive factors set forth in Pa. R. Civ. P. 1716 to determine a reasonable fee in a class action. Specifically, the Court finds:

a. Class Counsel expended significant time and resources in the prosecution of this case, warranting a 35% contingency fee payment.

b. Class Counsel are experienced in the fields of class actions and data breach cases and possessed the experience, skills, and reputations to achieve the results secured.

c. This Settlement reflects a significant monetary recovery for the Settlement Class which could not have occurred without the diligence and hard work of Class Counsel and is an excellent result.

d. This was a novel and complex case involving data breach claims and law.

e. Class Counsel undertook the significant risk of no recovery and had to forego other lucrative work to prosecute this case on behalf of the class.

18. At the expiration of the Objection Period, there were no objections to the Settlement.

19. The above-captioned Action is hereby dismissed against Defendant in its entirety, with prejudice. Except as otherwise provided in this Final Approval Order, the parties shall bear their own costs and attorney's fees. Without affecting the finality of the Judgment entered, the Court reserves jurisdiction over the implementation of the Settlement, including enforcement and administration of the Settlement Agreement.

20. Should any non-distributable residual of the Settlement Fund remain following distribution of the Settlement benefits, the Court hereby approves the distribution of not less than 100% of any such residue from the Settlement Fund to the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board to support activities and programs which promote the delivery of civil legal assistance to the indigent in Pennsylvania by non-profit corporations, consistent with Pa. R. Civ. P. 1716.

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

Date: May 5, 2025


HONORABLE ROBERT G. YEATTS

WARREN COUNTY
PROTHONOTARY
CLERK OF COURTS
2025 MAY -5 AM 11:30

FILED

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Defendant.

CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO. 501-2023

CONSOLIDATED CLASS ACTION

JUDGMENT

On this 5th day of May, 2025, the Court hereby grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of the Class Action Settlement with Warren General Hospital, and Plaintiffs' Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards to the Class Representatives. Judgment is hereby entered.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

So Ordered this 5th day of May, 2025.



Honorable Robert G. Yeatts

WARREN COUNTY
PROTHONOTARY/
CLERK OF COURTS

2025 MAY -5 AM 11:30

FILED