NOTICE REGARDING RIGHT TO BENEFIT FROM CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Akshit Dhadwal v. Fair Collections & Outsourcing of New England, Inc., 2381CV02513 Superior Court for the County of Middlesex of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Settlement Agreement has been reached in a class action lawsuit alleging that Fair Collections & Outsourcing of New England, Inc. ("FCO") violated the law by placing in excess of two telephone calls in a seven-day period to Massachusetts consumers to collect a debt. FCO's records show that you may be a class member under the Settlement Agreement reached in the case.

A settlement fund of \$124,200 has been established to pay valid claims, attorney's fees, costs, any incentive award to the Class Representative (Akshit Dhadwal) and settlement administration costs. You may be entitled to receive an equal share of the fund. The final cash payment will depend on the total number of valid and timely claims filed by all Class Members. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or don't act so <u>read this notice carefully</u>.

YOUR OPTIONS	
Option 1:	Complete and submit a Claim Form and receive an equal share of the Settlement Fund
Submit a Claim Form Deadline: June 27, 2025	By completing and submitting a Claim Form you may recover an equal share of the Settlement Fund. This is the only way to claim and receive from the Fund.
Option 2: Object Deadline: June 27, 2025	Object to the terms of the Settlement Agreement. You may object to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and have your objections heard at the August 6, 2025 Fairness Hearing.

1. What is this lawsuit about?

In the lawsuit, the Plaintiff alleges that FCO violated the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 93A § 2, *et seq.* ("MCPA"), and the Massachusetts Debt Collection Regulations, 940 CMR § 7.00, *et seq.* ("MDCR"), by placing in excess of two calls regarding a debt within a seven-day period to Plaintiff and other Massachusetts consumers.

FCO denies any wrongdoing, denies that that it violated the MCPA, the MDCR or any other law.

Both sides have agreed to settle the lawsuit to avoid the cost, delay, and uncertainty of further litigation.

You can read Plaintiff's Complaint, the Settlement Agreement, other case documents, and submit a claim form at <u>www.CollectionsSettlement.com</u>.

2. Why is this a class action?

In a class action, a Class Representative (in this case Plaintiff Akshit Dhadwal) sues on behalf of a group (or a "Class") of people. Here, the Class Representative sued on behalf of people who have similar claims regarding allegedly excessive debt collection calls.

3. Why is there a settlement?

To avoid the cost, risk, and delay of litigation, the Parties reached a settlement agreement as to Plaintiff and the Class claims.

4. How do I know if I am a part of the settlement?

For settlement purposes, the Court has certified a Class consisting of all people who meet the following definition:

All persons residing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to whom, between September 5, 2019 to March 26, 2025 FCO made in excess of two telephone calls regarding a debt within a seven-day period to their residence, cellular telephone, or other provided telephone number as reflected on the Class List.

5. How do I recover?

Submit a Claim Form. This is the only way to get a payment. You have the right as a member of the Settlement Class to receive an equal share of the Settlement Fund.

The final cash payment will depend on the total number of valid and timely claims filed by all Class Members. Each claiming Class Member will be entitled to an equal share of the Settlement Fund, after deductions from the fund for administrative costs, attorney's fees and expenses, any incentive award to the plaintiff.

You can submit a claim form online at <u>www.CollectionsSettlement.com</u>.

Or, you can download the Claim Form online and mail it to:

Dhadwal v. Fair Collections & Outsourcing of New England, Inc. c/o CPT Group, Inc. 50 Corporate Park Irvine, CA 92606

All claim forms must be mailed or filed online no later than June 27, 2025.

After all valid claim forms are counted, and the settlement is given final approval by the Court, the Settlement Administrator will provide each claiming Settlement Class Member their share of the Settlement Fund after the deductions above. Any excess settlement funds or benefit checks not cashed by Settlement Class Members will be provided to a charitable organization.

6. What am I giving up to receive these benefits?

By staying in the Class, all of the Court's orders will apply to you, and you give a "release" for any claims arising from allegedly excessive telephone calls to you. A release means you cannot sue or be part of any other lawsuit against FCO and the Released Parties about the claims or issues in this lawsuit and you will be bound by the Settlement Agreement.

7. How much will the Class Representative receive?

The Class Representative will receive their portion of the settlement as a Class Member and an incentive award for having pursued this action. Any incentive payment is subject to Court Approval. The Class Representative will request an Incentive Award of \$7,500.

8. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

To represent the class, the Court has appointed attorneys with the law firm of Lemberg Law, LLC, 43 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897 as "Class Counsel."

Class Counsel will request an award of attorney's fees of up to one-third of the Settlement Fund and for reimbursement of expenses. Any attorney's fee and expense award is subject to Court Approval. You may hire your own attorney, but only at your own expense.

9. How do I object?

Any Settlement Class Member may object to the Settlement. In order to exercise this right, you must submit your objection to the Court by the Objection Deadline. Your objection must (i) set forth the Settlement Class Member's full name, current address, and telephone number; (ii) contain the Settlement Class Member's original signature or the signature of counsel for the Settlement Class Member; (iii) state that the Settlement Class Member objects to the Settlement, in whole or in part; (iv) set forth the complete legal and factual bases for the Objection; (v) provide copies of any documents that the Settlement Class Member wishes to submit in support of his/her position; and (vi) state whether the objecting Settlement Class Member intends on appearing at the Final Approval Hearing either *pro se* or through counsel and whether the objecting Settlement Class Member that fails to do object in the manner set forth herein shall be foreclosed from making such objection or opposition, by appeal, collateral attack, or otherwise and shall be bound by all of the terms of this Settlement upon Final Approval and by all proceedings, orders and judgments, including but not limited to the Release in the Action.

Objections must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and delivered or postmarked no later than June 27, 2025.

The Court's address is: Clerk of the Court, 200 Tradecenter Drive, 2nd Floor, Woburn, MA 01801.

The Fairness Hearing

The Court will hold a fairness hearing on **August 6**, **2025**, **at 2 P.M. ET** in Middlesex County Superior Court, 200 Tradecenter Drive, 2nd Floor, Woburn, MA 01801. The purpose of the hearing will be for the Court to determine whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Class and to rule on applications for compensation for Class Counsel and an incentive award for the Class Representative. At that hearing, the Court will be available to hear any objections and arguments concerning the fairness of the proposed settlement.

YOU ARE <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS HEARING TO BENEFIT FROM THIS SETTLEMENT. The hearing may be postponed to a later date without notice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information and documents, including case documents, are available at <u>www.CollectionsSettlement.com</u>, emailing CollectionsSettlement@cptgroup.com, or you can call 1-888-502-7731.