

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

IN RE ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER DATA
BREACH LITIGATION

Master File No.: 1:22-cv-0137-MMR

This Document Relates To: All Actions

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

Before the Court is Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (**Doc. No. 111**) (the “Motion”), the terms of which are set forth in a Settlement Agreement and Release between Plaintiffs and Defendants Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (“AJG”); and Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc. (“GB”) (AJG and GB are collectively referred to as “Gallagher” or “Defendants”) (together with Plaintiffs, the “Parties”), with accompanying exhibits attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Declaration of M. Anderson Berry In Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (the “Settlement Agreement”).¹

Having fully considered the issue, the Court hereby **GRANTS** the Motion and **ORDERS** as follows:

1. **Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only**. The Settlement Agreement provides for a Settlement Class defined as follows:

The approximately 3,492,654 individuals identified on the Settlement Class List who were mailed a letter from AJG or GB stating that their information may have been impacted as a result of the Data Security Incident.

¹ All defined terms in this Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (“Preliminary Approval Order”) have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, unless otherwise indicated.

Excluded from the Settlement Class are the judges presiding over this Action and members of their direct families, and Settlement Class Members who submit a valid Request for Exclusion prior to the Opt-Out Deadline.

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(e)(1), the Court finds that giving notice is justified. The Court finds that it will likely be able to approve the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also finds that it will likely be able to certify the Settlement Class for purposes of judgment on the Settlement because it meets all the requirements of Rule 23(a) and the requirements of Rule 23(b)(3). Specifically, the Court finds for settlement purposes that: (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all Settlement Class Members would be impracticable; (b) there are issues of law and fact that are common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of the Class Representatives are typical of and arise from the same operative facts and the Class Representatives seek similar relief as the claims of the Settlement Class Members; (d) the Class Representatives will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class as the Class Representatives have no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with the Settlement Class and have retained experienced and competent counsel to prosecute this Action on behalf of the Settlement Class; (e) questions of law or fact common to Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; and (f) a class action and class settlement is superior to other methods available for a fair and efficient resolution of this Action.

2. **Settlement Class Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel.** The Court finds that Plaintiffs will likely satisfy the requirements of Rule 23(e)(2)(A) and should be appointed as the Class Representatives. Additionally, the Court finds that M. Anderson Berry of Clayco C. Arnold, APC, Gary M. Klinger of Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, and John A. Yanchunis of Morgan & Morgan Complex Litigation Group will likely satisfy the

requirements of Rule 23(e)(2)(A) and should be appointed as Class Counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g)(1).

3. **Preliminary Settlement Approval.** Upon preliminary review, the Court finds the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class and accordingly is preliminarily approved. In making this determination, the Court has considered the monetary and non-monetary benefits provided to the Settlement Class through the Settlement, the specific risks faced by the Settlement Class in prevailing on their claims, the good faith, arm's length negotiations between the Parties and absence of any collusion in the Settlement, the effectiveness of the proposed method for distributing relief to the Settlement Class, the proposed manner of allocating benefits to Settlement Class Members, the Settlement treats the Settlement Class Members equitably, and all of the other factors required by Rule 23 and relevant case law.

4. **Jurisdiction.** The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) and personal jurisdiction over the parties before it. Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

5. **Final Approval Hearing.** A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on February at February 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM, at United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604, where the Court will determine, among other things, whether: (a) this Action should be finally certified as a class action for settlement purposes pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(3); (b) the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and finally approved pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e); (c) this Action should be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (d) Settlement Class Members (who have not

timely and validly excluded themselves from the Settlement) should be bound by the releases set forth in the Settlement Agreement; (e) the application of Class Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Expenses should be approved pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h); and (f) the application of the Class Representatives for a Service Award should be approved.

6. **Claims Administrator**. The Court appoints Kroll Settlement Administration LLC as the Claims Administrator, with responsibility for class notice and settlement administration. The Claims Administrator is directed to perform all tasks the Settlement Agreement requires. The Claims Administrator's fees will be paid pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement except the settlement payment will be made on or before 11/8/24.

7. **Notice**. The proposed notice program set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Claim Form and the Notices attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibits A, B, C-1 and C-2** are hereby approved. Non-material modifications to these Exhibits may be made by the Claims Administrator in consultation and agreement with the Parties, but without further order of the Court.

8. **Findings Concerning Notice**. The Court finds that the proposed form, content, and method of giving notice to the Settlement Class as described in the Settlement Agreement and its exhibits: (a) will constitute the best practicable notice to the Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, the terms of the proposed Settlement, and their rights under the proposed Settlement, including, but not limited to, their rights to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement and other rights under the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class Members and other persons entitled to receive notice; (d) meet all applicable requirements of law, including Federal Rule of

Civil Procedure 23(c); and (e) and meet the requirements of the Due Process Clause(s) of the United States and Illinois Constitutions. The Court further finds that the Notice provided for in the Settlement Agreement is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class Members.

The Claims Administrator is directed to carry out the Notice program in conformance with the Settlement Agreement.

9. **Class Action Fairness Act Notice.** Within ten (10) days after the filing of this Settlement Agreement with the Court, the Claims Administrator acting on behalf of Defendants shall have served or caused to be served a notice of the proposed Settlement on appropriate officials in accordance with the requirements under the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b).

10. **Exclusion from Class.** Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class must submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion. Valid Settlement Class Member Requests for Exclusion must (i) state a full name, current address, and telephone number; (ii) contain the Settlement Class Member’s signature; and (iii) contain a clear statement communicating that the Settlement Class Member elects to be excluded from the Settlement Class, does not wish to be a Settlement Class Member, and elects to be excluded from any judgement entered pursuant to the Settlement; and (iv) be postmarked on or before the Opt-Out Deadline, which is no later than sixty (60) days from the Notice Date.

If Defendants void the Settlement Agreement according to its terms, Defendant will be obligated to pay the Administration and Notice Costs incurred up to the date the right to cancel or terminate is exercised and shall not, at any time, seek recovery of same from any other party to the Action or from counsel to any other party to the Action.

The Claims Administrator shall promptly furnish to Class Counsel and to Defendants' counsel a complete list of all timely and valid requests for exclusion.

If a Final Order and Judgment is entered, all Persons falling within the definition of the Settlement Class who do not submit valid and timely requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement and the Final Order and Judgment. All Persons who submit valid and timely requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall not receive any benefits of and/or be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

11. **Objections and Appearances.** A Settlement Class Member (who does not submit a timely written request for exclusion) desiring to object to the Settlement Agreement may submit a timely written notice of his or her objection by the Objection Deadline and as stated in the Short Notice and Long Notice. The Long Notice and the Settlement Website shall instruct Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement Agreement to send their written objections to the Claims Administrator at the address indicated in the Long Notice. The Long Notice shall advise Settlement Class Members of the deadline for submission of any objections—the Objection Deadline – which is no later than sixty (60) days after the Notice Date. Any such notices of an intent to object to the Settlement Agreement must be written and 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; (iii) state that the objector has reviewed the Settlement Class definition and understands that they are a Settlement Class Member and provide written proof establishing that they are a Settlement Class Member; (iv) state that the Settlement Class Member objects to the Settlement in whole or in part; (v) set forth a statement of the specific legal and factual basis or bases for the Objection, including whether each objection applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Settlement Class, or to the entire Settlement Class, and

including any evidence or legal authority the Settlement Class Member wishes to bring to the Court's attention; (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 Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing.

Any Settlement Class Member who fails to comply with the requirements for objecting shall waive and forfeit any and all rights they may have to appear separately and/or to object to the Settlement Agreement and shall be bound by all the terms of the Settlement Agreement and by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in the Action. The provisions stated in Paragraphs 81 to 87 of the Settlement Agreement be the exclusive means for any challenge to the Settlement Agreement. Any challenge to the Settlement Agreement, the final order approving this Settlement Agreement, or the Final Order and Judgment to be entered upon final approval shall be pursuant to appeal under the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and not through a collateral attack.

12. **Claims Process.** Settlement Class Counsel and Defendants have created a process for Settlement Class Members to claim benefits under the Settlement. The Court preliminarily approves this process and directs the Claims Administrator to make the Claim Form or its substantial equivalent available to Settlement Class Members in the manner specified in the Notice Plan.

The Claims Administrator will be responsible for effectuating the claims process. Settlement Class Members who qualify for and wish to submit a Claim Form shall do so in accordance with the requirement and procedures specified in the Long Notice and the Claim Form. If the Final Order and Judgment is entered, all Settlement Class Members who qualify for any benefit under the Settlement but fail to submit a claim in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the Long Notice and the Claim Form shall be forever barred from receiving

any such benefit, but will in all other respects be subject to and bound by the provisions in the Final Order and Judgment, including the releases contained therein.

13. **Termination of Settlement.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall become null and void and shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Parties, all of whom shall be restored to their respective positions existing before the Court entered this Preliminary Approval Order and before they entered the Settlement Agreement, if: (a) the Court does not enter this Preliminary Approval Order; (b) Settlement is not finally approved by the Court or is terminated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement; (c) there is no Effective Date; or (d) otherwise consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. In such event, (i) the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Action and shall jointly request that all scheduled Action deadlines be reasonably extended by the Court so as to avoid prejudice to any Party or Party's counsel; (ii) the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in the Action or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and (iii) any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*.

14. **Use of Order.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall be of no force or effect if the Final Order and Judgment is not entered or there is no Effective Date and shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Defendants of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or liability. Nor shall this Preliminary Approval Order be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against the Class Representatives or any other Settlement Class Member that his or her claims lack merit or that the relief requested is inappropriate, improper, unavailable, or as a waiver by any Party of any defense or claims they may have in this Action or in any other lawsuit.

15. **Continuance of Hearing.** The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Final Fairness Hearing and related deadlines without further written notice to the Settlement Class. If the Court alters any of those dates or times, the revised dates and times shall be posted on the Settlement Website maintained by the Administrator. The Court may approve the Settlement, with such modifications as may be agreed upon by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class.

16. **Stay of Action.** All proceedings in the Action, other than those related to approval of the Settlement Agreement, are hereby stayed. Further, any actions brought by Settlement Class Members concerning the Released Claims are hereby enjoined and stayed pending Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement.

17. **Schedule and Deadlines.** The Court orders the following schedule of dates for the specified actions/further proceedings:

SETTLEMENT TIMELINE

<u>Grant of Preliminary Approval</u>	
Defendants provide list of Settlement Class Members to the Settlement Administrator	7 days after Preliminary Approval
Settlement Administrator to Provide CAFA Notice Required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b)	Within 10 days of filing of the Preliminary Approval Motion
Notice Date	46 days after Preliminary Approval.
Class Counsel's Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Class Representative Service Award	14 days before Objection and Opt-Out Deadlines
Objection Deadline	60 days after Notice Date
Opt-Out Deadline	60 days after Notice Date
Claims Deadline	90 days after Notice Date

<u>Final Approval Hearing</u>	150 days after Preliminary Approval Order (at minimum)
Motion for Final Approval	14 days before Final Approval Hearing Date
Settlement Administrator Provide Notice of Opt-Outs and/or Objections	14 days before Final Approval Hearing Date

SO ORDERED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.



Hon. Mary M. Rowland
United States District Court Judge