# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2021-020996-CA-01

# LUIS ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ,

individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

**CLASS ACTION** 

Plaintiff,

v.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

SUNSHINE LIFE & HEALTH ADVISORS LLC,

Defendant.	
	,

# PLAINTIFF'S AGREED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM

Plaintiff Luis Alejandro Alvarez, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, respectfully request that the Court grant Preliminary Approval<sup>1</sup> of the proposed class action settlement described in detail in the Settlement Agreement, attached hereto as *Exhibit A*.

# I. CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE PRECISE RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff files this motion requesting for this Court to preliminarily approve a class action settlement, certify a settlement class, and direct that Notice as proposed be sent to the Settlement Class. Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter an order of Preliminary Approval including, in substantially the same form, as the content of the proposed Preliminary Approval Order attached hereto as *Exhibit 5* to the Settlement Agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All capitalized terms herein shall have the same meaning as those defined in the Settlement Agreement.

Plaintiff's complaint alleges putative class claims that Defendant violated the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act ("FTSA"), Fla. Stat. § 501.059 by sending marketing text messages using an automated system. Defendant denies the allegations in the Complaint, but given the risks, uncertainties, and burdens of litigation, has agreed to settle the litigation according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement. As detailed below, the parties have reached a proposed class settlement, where Defendant has agreed to make available up to \$2,556,000 to settlement Class Members.

Subject to the Court's approval, the Settlement Fund will also be used to pay: the court-approved Service Awards in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff to compensate him for the time spent and risk incurred serving as the Class Representative; Class Counsel's attorneys' fees of approximately 20% of the fund amount; and the costs of Notice and Settlement Administration. The Parties have agreed to a direct Notice Program designed to afford Settlement Class members due process and advise them of the rights under the Settlement.

As explained below, the Settlement meets all requirements for Preliminary Approval. Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court preliminarily approve this Settlement, approve and appoint Angeion Group as the Settlement Administrator; appoint Plaintiff the Class Representative for the Settlement Class; the firms and attorneys listed in the Settlement Agreement as Class Counsel; order that the proposed Notice be disseminated in the forms presented with this Motion; and schedule a Final Approval Hearing.

# II. STATEMENT OF THE BASIS FOR THE REQUEST

The Parties reached a Settlement Agreement, wherein Defendants agree to provide to members of a Settlement Class who submit a valid and timely claim a payment in the amount of \$300.00. Moreover, the Parties have agreed to a Notice plan including direct, individual Notice to all members of the proposed Settlement Class. Thus, the terms of the Settlement are fair and reasonable, and the form of Notice comports with due process requirements. Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court preliminarily approve the Settlement and direct Notice to be issued, thereby allowing Settlement Class members to evaluate the terms of the Settlement and request exclusion or submit to the Court any reason why any contend the Settlement is not fair or reasonable. The Court should also set the Final Approval Hearing date and time.

# III. MEMORANDUM OF LEGAL AUTHORITY

#### a. Terms of the Settlement

The Settlement requires Defendant to make available a Settlement Fund pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement that will: (1) make available up to \$2,556,000.00 in cash for the purpose of payment to all settlement class members in the amount of \$300.00; (2) pay attorneys' fees and costs of approximately 20% of the fund, to be paid from the fund; (3) make payment of the Service Award of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff, to be paid from the fund and (4) pay the costs of the Class Notice ad Administration, to be paid from the fund. *See, generally*, Exhibit A. Defendant is not required to make available any amounts other than the Settlement Fund.

#### b. Certification of the Settlement Class for Settlement Purposes Is Warranted

In deciding whether to grant Preliminary Approval, some courts have also made a preliminary inquiry into whether the requirements of Rule 23 for certification of a class for settlement purposes are satisfied. *See, e.g., Legg v. E-Z Rent a Car, Inc.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS

178022, at \*3-4 (M.D. Fla. May 28, 2015) (Byron, J.) (addressing Rule 23 factors in preliminary approval Order).<sup>2</sup> Each of those requirements are satisfied here for settlement purposes, for the Settlement Class, defined as:

All persons who (1) received a text message (2) by or on behalf of Defendant (3) between July 1, 2021, and the date of final approval (4) regarding Defendant's goods and/or services.

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

The instant motion is the first step of the required court approval process to which all proposed class action settlements are subject under Rule 1.220 Fla. R. Civ. P. The Court's scope of inquiry and determination at the preliminary approval stage in limited: "First, the Court must determine whether the proposed settlement terms fall within the range of reasonableness such preliminary approval is warranted." *Holt v. Hhh Motors*, 2015 Fla. Cir. LEXIS 48982, \*2 (Fla. 4th Jud. Cir. April 15, 2015) (citing *Manual for Complex Litigation*, Third, § 30.41, at 236-37 (1995)); *see also Mase v. Archive Am.*, 2015 Fla. Cir. LEXIS 52906, \*5 (Fla. 11th Jud. Cir. March 17, 2015) (Thornton, J.) (entering preliminary approval order where proposed settlement "falls within the range of possibly approvable settlements, appears to be fair, reasonable and adequate, and is therefore hereby preliminarily approved, subject to further consideration at the Fairness

<sup>2</sup> Florida Rule of Civil Procedure is patterned after Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; consequently, Florida courts consider case law interpreting Rule 23 as persuasive. *Broin v. Philip Morris Co.* 641 So.2d 888, n.1 (Fla. 3d DCA 1994).

Hearing[.]"). After the Court grants preliminary approval, the parties then notify members of the settlement class of the existence and basic terms of the proposed class action settlement, and given the opportunity to opt-out (exclude themselves) from or object to the settlement. Once the class notice process has been completed, the Court proceeds to the final approval stage, where the Court must evaluate whether final approval is warranted. *Holt*, 2015 Fla. Cir. LEXIS 48982 at \*2.

As to Rule 1.220(a), for purposes of certifying the Settlement Class pursuant to the Settlement, there are thousands of Settlement Class members (numerosity), all of which have the same claim – that Defendants caused marketing text messages to be transmitted to their telephone in violation of the FTSA (commonality), Plaintiff's claims are the same as the rest of the Settlement Class members' claims and Plaintiffs are not subject to any unique affirmative defenses (typicality), and Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have zealously litigated the claim, secured substantial relief, and have no interests antagonistic to the Settlement Class (adequacy). As to Rule 1.220(b)(3), pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, there are no individual issues precluding class treatment (predominance), and class treatment is the best method of adjudication, as seen in the fact that every Settlement Class member shall receive relief without the need for numerous (and duplicative) individual cases (superiority). *See Sosa v. Safeway Premium Fin. Co.*, 73 So. 3d 91, 106-07 (Fla. 2011) (outlining requirements for class certification). Thus, certification of the Settlement Class is warranted.

# c. The Proposed Notice Is the Best Practicable Notice and Comports with Due Process Requirements

The notice requirements of Rule 1.220(c) are designed to provide sufficient due process to class members by sufficiently informing them of the pendency of the Action and providing an opportunity to be heard or opt out and must be the "best notice that is practicable under the circumstances." *Nelson v. Wakulla County*, 985 So. 2d 564, 576 (Fla. 1st DCA 2008). To satisfy

such requirement, individual notice should be provided to class members who can be identified through reasonable effort. *See Cordell v. World Ins. Co.*, 355 So. 2d 479, 481 (Fla. 1st DCA 1978) (citing Eisen v. Carlisle & Jacquelin, 417 U.S. 156, 173-75 (1974)).

Here, the Parties agree to send direct, individual Notice to members of the Settlement Class. Individual, direct notice clearly comports with due process requirements. *See, e.g., Juris v. Inamed Corp.*, 685 F.3d 1294, 1320 (11th Cir. 2012). Moreover, the Notice provides included a clear explanation of the terms of the Settlement, the amount sought in attorneys' fees and service awards (and that such fees and costs did not reduce the payment amount to class members), informs class members of their right to object to seek exclusion and the method by which to do so, and provides an opportunity to be heard at a Fairness Hearing to be scheduled after the Notice period and before final approval. *See, generally,* Agreement (and Notice exhibits attached thereto); *see also Nolan v. Integrated Real Estate Processing, LP*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 136890, at \*20-21 (M.D. Fla. Sep. 9, 2009) (setting forth what should be included in Notice of settlement).

Thus, the Notice provided to the Settlement Class Members constitutes the best notice practicable and comports with due process requirements.

#### d. The Terms of the Settlement are Fair and Reasonable

Preliminary approval of a class action settlement "is not binding, and it is granted unless a proposed settlement is obviously deficient." *Smith v. Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67832, \*6 (S.D. Fla. June 15, 2010). "Preliminary approval is appropriate where the proposed settlement is the result of the parties' good faith negotiations, there are no obvious deficiencies, and the settlement falls within the range of reason." *Id.* at \*7. These requirements are readily satisfied here, as demonstrated above in the Agreement and in the exhibits hereto. *City of L.A. v. Bankrate, Inc.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 115071, \*14-15 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 24, 2016) (granting

preliminary approval of proposed class action settlement where "the proposed settlement was made after mediation was conducted," "[t]he negotiations appear to have been made in good faith and there do not appear to be any obvious deficiencies," and the settlement amount "appears to be within the range of reasonableness"); *Almanzar v. Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 178149, \*5-6 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2015) (granting preliminary approval, finding that proposed class action settlement was based on "informed, good-faith, arms-length negotiations between the Parties and their capable and experienced counsel," and settlement was "within the range of reasonableness and possible judicial approval").

As will be set forth in greater detail in the Motion for Final Approval – and as demonstrated by the terms of the Agreement – all nine factors suggested by the Second District Court of Appeals to evaluate the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of a settlement favor approval here. *Griffith v. Quality Distribution*, 307 So. 3d 791 (Fla. 2d DCA 2018). The relevant factors include (1) the complexity and duration of the litigation; (2) the reaction of the class to the settlement; (3) the stage of the proceedings; (4) the risk of establishing liability; (5) the risk of establishing damages; (6) the risk of maintaining a class action; (7) the ability of the defendant to withstand a greater judgment; (8) the reasonableness of the settlement in light of the best recovery; and (9) the range of reasonableness of the settlement in light of all the attendant risks of litigation. *Id. Griffith* notes that Florida courts have also applied the six factors described by the First District in *Nelson*, which similarly favor preliminary approval of the Settlement at hand.<sup>3</sup> 985 So. 2d at 570. The Eleventh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>(1) the likelihood of success at trial; (2) the range of possible recovery; (3) the point over or below the range of possible recovery at which a settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable; (4) the complexity, expense, and duration of the litigation; (5) the substance and amount of opposition to the settlement; and (6) the stage of the proceedings at which the settlement was achieved. *Griffith*, 307 So. 3d at 791 (citing *Nelson*, 985 So. 2d at 570).

Circuit has also identified factors used by Florida Courts to evaluate settlements, which again favor the settlement here. *Leverso v. Southtrust Bank*, 18 F.3d 1527, 1530 n. 6 (11th Cir. 1994).

Indeed, there was no fraud or collusion in the settlement, which rather was entered into after two arms-length negotiations and with the assistance of an experienced and well-respected mediator, this litigation is complex and expensive, Plaintiff elicited extensive data demonstrating the contours of the Settlement Class and Defendant's practices and procedures, and the likelihood of success is uncertain. The Settlement Fund made available to the class here is more than reasonable, given the complexity of the litigation and the significant risks and barriers that loomed in the absence of settlement including, but not limited to, a motion for class certification, Defendant's assertion of various legal challenges, a motion for summary judgment, trial as well as appellate review following a final judgment. Plaintiff and his counsel believe that the Settlement is an excellent and reasonable result for the Class in light of factors stated above, and anticipate that members of the Settlement Class will be satisfied with the result as well. In reality, the reaction of the Settlement Class can only be evaluated in considering Final Approval of the Settlement.

For all these reasons, Plaintiff respectfully submits that there are no obvious deficiencies to the Settlement precluding Preliminary Approval and that this Motion should be granted.

For the convenience of the Court, the Parties submit the following proposed schedule, which is also reflected in the Proposed Preliminary Approval Order submitted for the Court's consideration:

# PROPOSED SCHEDULE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Deadline for Completion of	Oct. 5, 2022	30 days prior to Final Approval
Notice		Hearing
Deadline for filing Motion for		
Final Approval of the		15 days before the Final Approval
Settlement and Class	Oct. 20, 2022	Hearing
Counsel's Fee Application		
and expenses, and for Service		
Awards		
		20 days before the Final Approval
Deadline for opting-out of the	Oct. 15, 2022	Hearing
Settlement and for submission		
of Objections	0 00 000	15 1 1 2 1 7 1 1
5 411 0 5	Oct. 20, 2022	15 days before the Final Approval
Deadline for Responses to		Hearing
Objections	27 4 2022	
	Nov. 4, 2022	
Final Approval Hearing		Nov. 4, 2022
	10.2022	F:0 1 0 1 F: 1
Last day Class Claimants may	Nov. 19, 2022	Fifteen days after the Final
submit a Claim Form		Approval Hearing

# **CONCLUSION**

Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court grant final approval of the proposed Settlement, and enter an order of preliminary approval including, in substantially the same form, the content of the proposed order attached as *Exhibit 5* to the Settlement Agreement.

Dated: July 27, 2022

# Respectfully submitted,

# **SHAMIS & GENTILE, P.A.**

/s/ Andrew Shamis Andrew J. Shamis, Esq. Florida Bar No. 101754 ashamis@shamisgentile.com /s/ Garrett Berg Garrett O. Berg, Esq. Florida Bar No. 1000427 gberg@shamisgentile.com 14 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 705 Miami, Florida 33132 Telephone: 305-479-2299

# EDELSBERG LAW, P.A.

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Direct: (305) 975-3320

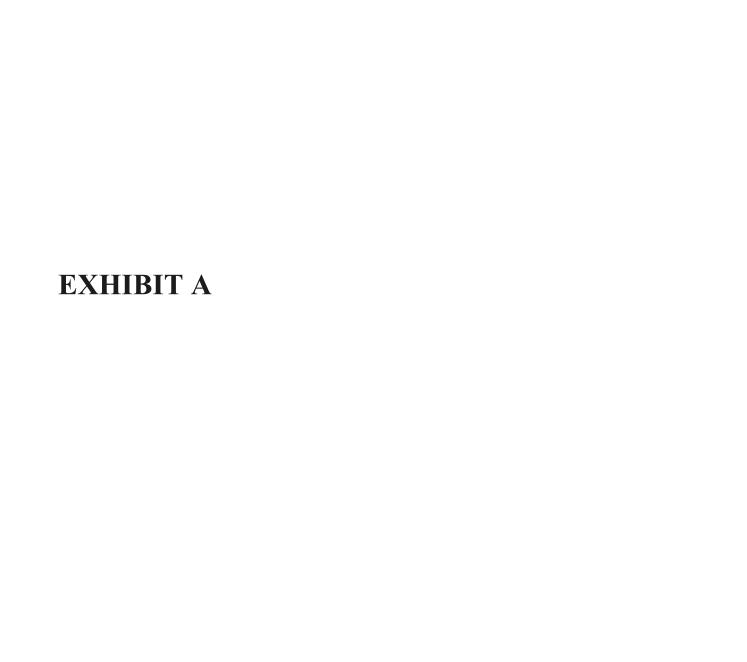
Fax: (786) 623-0915

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 27th day of July 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court which will send notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Garrett Berg
Garrett Berg, Esq.



# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2021-020996-CA-01

LUIS ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

CLASS ACTION

 $\mathbf{v}_{\cdot \cdot}$ 

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

SUNSHINE LIFE & HEALTH ADVISORS LLC,

Defendant.

Plaintiff,

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE** 

This Settlement Agreement and Release is entered into between and among the following parties, by and through their respective counsel: Luis Alejandro Alvarez ("Plaintiff" or "Class Representative"), on behalf of himself and the Settlement Class, and Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC ("Defendant"). Plaintiff and Defendant will sometimes be referred to together as the "Parties," or, individually, as a "Party."

WHEREAS, Plaintiff filed a Class Action Complaint (the "Action") on behalf of himself and a putative class in the lawsuit styled *Alvarez v. Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC*, in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, which asserts claims under the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.059.

WHEREAS, Plaintiff alleges that he and members of the class received marketing text messages from Defendant without prior express written consent, which allegedly harmed them and the class (the "Allegations");

WHEREAS, Plaintiff alleges that, as a result of the Allegations, he and other similarly situated individuals are entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief, statutory damages, attorneys' fees, and costs;

WHEREAS, with the assistance of mediator Steven Jaffe, Esq., the Parties and their counsel engaged in an intensive arm's-length mediation in an attempt to resolve the Action with a view toward achieving substantial benefits for the Settlement Class as a whole, while avoiding the cost, delay, and uncertainty of further litigation, trial, and appellate practice;

WHEREAS, the Parties' counsel and Defendant's representatives ultimately reached an agreement in principle to resolve the Action;

WHEREAS, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiff will request that the Court certify the Settlement Class and appoint him as Class Representatives and his lawyers—Scott A. Edelsberg

of Edelsberg Law, P.A.; Christopher Gold of Edelsberg Law PA; Andrew J. Shamis & Gentile P.A; and Garrett O. Berg of Shamis & Gentile, PA — as Class Counsel in this case;

WHEREAS, based on their investigation and discovery in the Action and the experience of Class Counsel, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have concluded that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate to, and in the best interest of, the Settlement Class;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and as the representative of the Settlement Class, and Defendant desire to resolve the dispute between them;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and as the representative of the Settlement Class, and Defendant will execute this Agreement solely to compromise and settle protracted, complicated, and expensive litigation; and

WHEREAS, Defendant denies any and all liability or wrongdoing to the Class Representative and to the Settlement Class. Nonetheless, Defendant has concluded that further litigation would be protracted and expensive, has taken into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in this Action, and has determined that it is desirable that the Action and the Allegations be fully, completely, and finally settled in the manner and on the terms set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for the mutual covenants and promises contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties and their counsel agree that the Action shall be settled, compromised, and/or dismissed on the merits and with prejudice on the terms and conditions in this Agreement, and without costs (except as provided herein), subject to Court approval of this Agreement after a hearing and on finding that it is a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement.

# I. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

In addition to the terms defined above and at other places in this Agreement, the following defined terms have the meaning set forth below:

- A. "Administrator" means Angeion Group which, subject to Court approval, shall be responsible for administrative tasks, which may include, without limitation: (a) arranging for distribution of the Class Notice and Claim Form to Settlement Class Members; (b) making any electronic mailings to Settlement Class Members required under this Agreement; (c) forwarding written inquiries from Settlement Class Members to Class Counsel or their designee; (d) establishing the Settlement Website; (e) receiving and processing Settlement Claims Forms and distributing payments to Settlement Class Members; and (f) otherwise assisting with implementing and administrating this Agreement, subject in all cases to approval by Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant. Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant may, by agreement, substitute a different entity as Administrator, subject to approval by the Court if the Court has previously approved the Settlement preliminarily or finally. In the absence of agreement, either Class Counsel or Defendant may move the Court to substitute a different entity as Administrator on a showing of good cause.
- B. "Agreement" means this Settlement Agreement and Release and all attachments and exhibits hereto.
- C. "Attorneys' Fees and Expenses" means the total recovery that may be awarded to Class Counsel to compensate them (and all other attorneys for Plaintiff or the Settlement Class) for all attorneys' fees, costs, and adequately supported expenses of any kind (including, but not limited to, mediation fees, travel, filing fees, court reporter, and videographer expenses, expert fees and costs, and document review and production costs) incurred by Plaintiff or Class Counsel in connection with the Action.
- D. "Claim" means a written request for a Claim Settlement Payment submitted by a Settlement Class Member to the Administrator.

- E. "Claim Deadline" means the last date by which a Claim submitted to the Administrator by a Settlement Class Member for a Claim Settlement Payment must be postmarked, which shall occur no later than fifteen (15) days after the Final Approval Hearing. All Claims postmarked on or before the Claim Deadline shall be timely, and all Claims postmarked after the Claim Deadline shall be untimely and barred from entitlement to any Claim Settlement Payment.
- F. "Claim Form" means the form attached as **Exhibit 1** to this Agreement and/or as ultimately approved by the Court.
- G. "Claim Settlement Check" means the check containing the Claim Settlement Payment for each Settlement Class Member who submits a valid and timely Claim.
- H. "Claim Settlement Payment" means the payment to be made to Settlement Class Members who submit properly completed and timely Claim Forms to the Administrator, and who qualify for such relief under this Agreement.
- I. "Class Counsel" means: (a) Scott A. Edelsberg, Edelsberg Law, P.A., 20900 N.E. 30th Avenue #417, Aventura, FL 33180; (b) Andrew J. Shamis, Shamis & Gentile, P.A., 14 NE 1st Ave, Suite 705, Miami, FL 33132; (c) Garrett O. Berg, Shamis & Gentile, P.A., 14 NE 1st Ave, Suite 705, Miami, FL 33132; and (d) Christopher Gold, Edelsberg Law, P.A., 20900 N.E. 30th Avenue #417, Aventura, FL 33180
- J. "Class Notice" means the program of notice described in this Agreement to be provided to Settlement Class Members, which will notify Settlement Class Members about the details of the Settlement.
- K. "Class Notice Date" means the last date on which Class Notice can be disseminated, which shall be set by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order as approximately thirty (30) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

- L. "Class Period" means the time period from July 1, 2021, through the date of final approval.
- M. "Confidential Information" means proprietary or commercially sensitive information or personal information subject to state and federal privacy laws that the Parties agree to protect in this Agreement from disclosure and dissemination to the public or any third-party or entity other than the Administrator.
- N. "Counsel for Sunshine Life" or "Counsel for Defendant" means: Robert H. Fernandez, RHF Law Firm, 2600 S. Douglas Road, Suite 305, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.
- O. "Court" means the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida.
- P. "Days" means calendar days, except that, when computing any period of time under this Agreement, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. Further, when computing any period of time under this Agreement, the last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.
  - Q. "Effective Date" means the day which the Court enters the Final Approval Order.
- R. "Final Approval Hearing" means a hearing set by the Court for the purpose of: (i) determining the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of this Agreement and associated settlement in accordance with class action procedures and requirements; and (ii) entering the Final Approval Order.
- S. "Final" or "Finally Approved" or "Final Approval" of this Agreement means the later of the date that (i) the time has run for any appeals from the Final Approval Order or (ii) any

such appeals have been dismissed or resolved in favor of approving, or affirming the approval of, this Agreement. If no objection has been filed, and therefore nobody has standing to file an appeal, the Final Approval Order becomes the day which the Court enters the Final Approval Order.

- T. "Final Approval Order" means the order and judgment to be entered by the Court, substantially in the form, and without material change to, the order attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**, approving this Agreement as fair, adequate, and reasonable and in the best interests of the Settlement Class as a whole in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and making such other findings and determinations as the Court deems necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, including granting Final Approval to the Settlement and ruling on Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and expenses and the Service Award for the Class Representative. If the Court enters separate orders addressing the matters constituting the matters set forth in this paragraph, then the Final Approval Order includes all such orders.
- U. "Long-Form Notice" means the notice that is made available on the Settlement Website and upon request from the Administrator, in substantially the form attached as **Exhibit 3** to this Agreement.
- V. "Notice" means the postcard and e-mail individual notice that will be mailed and e-mailed by the Administrator to Settlement Class Members, in substantially the form attached as <a href="Exhibit 4">Exhibit 4</a> to this Agreement.
- W. "Notice and Administrative Costs" means the reasonable costs and expenses authorized by the Court and approved by Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant of disseminating the Class Notice in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order, and all reasonable and authorized costs and expenses incurred by the Administrator in administering the Settlement, including, but not limited to, costs and expenses associated with determining mail

and/or e-mail addresses for Settlement Class Members, assisting Settlement Class Members, processing claims, escrowing funds, and issuing and mailing Settlement Payments.

- X. "Objection Deadline" means the date identified in the Preliminary Approval Order and Class Notice by which a Settlement Class Member must serve written objections, if any, to the Settlement to be able to object to the Settlement. The Objection Deadline shall be no later than twenty (20) days before the Final Approval Hearing.
- Y. "Opt-Out Deadline" means the date identified in the Preliminary Approval Order and Class Notice by which a Request for Exclusion must be submitted in writing to Class Counsel (or the Administrator) for a Settlement Class Member to be excluded from the Settlement Class. The Opt-Out Deadline shall be no later than twenty (20) days before the Final Approval Hearing.
- Z. "Preliminary Approval Order" means an order to be entered by the Court certifying the Settlement Class and granting preliminary approval to the Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**, without material change.
- AA. "Released Claims" means any and all claims, actions, causes of action, rights, suits, defenses, debts, sums of money, payments, obligations, promises, damages, penalties, attorneys' fees, costs, liens, judgments, and demands of any kind whatsoever that each member of the Settlement Class may have or may have had in the past, whether in arbitration, administrative, or judicial proceedings, whether as individual claims or as claims asserted on a class basis, whether past or present, mature or not yet mature, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, whether based on federal, state, or local law, statute, ordinance, regulations, contract, common law, or any other source, that were or could have been asserted in the Complaint, the Action, or that relate to or arise from the Allegations, including, but not limited to, any and all claims under the FTSA or any related state or federal analogue.

- BB. "Released Parties" means Defendant and each of Defendant's affiliates, agents, employees, subsidiaries, predecessors, successors, parents, co-venturers, divisions, joint ventures and assigns, as well as each of those entities' or persons' past or present owners, investors, directors, officers, employees, partners, managers, members, principals, agents, including but not limited to underwriters, insurers, co-insurers, re-insurers, indemnitors, shareholders, attorneys, accountants or auditors, banks or investment banks, associates, personal or legal representatives, consultants, vendors, contractors, volunteers, performers, co-marketers, licensors, concessionaires, franchisors, and assigns.
- CC. "Request for Exclusion" means a written request from a Settlement Class Member that seeks to exclude the Settlement Class Member from the Settlement Class.
  - DD. "Service Award" means any approved payments to the Class Representative.
  - EE. "Settlement" means the settlement set forth in this Agreement.
- FF. "Settlement Class" means all members of the class of persons in this Action that will be certified by the Court for settlement purposes as follows:

All persons who (1) received a text message (2) by or on behalf of Defendant (3) between July 1, 2021, and the date of final approval (4) regarding Defendant's goods and/or services.

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

- GG. "Settlement Class Claimant" means any Settlement Class Member who submits a Claim in accordance with this Agreement.
- HH. "Settlement Class Data" means data relating to approximately 4,260 persons who, according to Defendant's records, may be Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Class Data shall be treated as Confidential Information.
  - II. "Settlement Class Member(s)" means any member of the Settlement Class.
- JJ. "Settlement Class Payment List" means the list of all Settlement Class Members who filed a Claim; whether the Claim was rejected or accepted, and, if rejected, the reason it was rejected; the address to which the Claim Settlement Check shall be sent; and the total amount of Claim Settlement Payments to be made.
- KK. "Settlement Fund" means the total maximum amount that Defendant has agreed to make available, as described in Section II B.1., to cover the Claim Settlement Payments, all Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, all Notice and Administration Costs, and any Service Award in settlement in full of this Action.
- LL. "Settlement Website" means the website prepared by the Administrator in connection with the process of providing Class Notice to Settlement Class Members.

# II. <u>SETTLEMENT TERMS</u>

#### A. Certification of Settlement Class and Conditional Nature of Agreement

For settlement purposes only, Defendant conditionally agrees and consents to certification of the Settlement Class. Defendant's conditional agreement is contingent on (i) the Parties' execution of this Agreement, (ii) the Court's entry of the Final Approval Order, and (iii) the Final Approval Order becoming Final. Except as provided below, if this Agreement, for any reason, does not receive Final Approval, if the Final Approval Order does not become Final, or if the

Agreement is otherwise terminated, it shall be null and void, it shall be of no force or effect whatsoever, it shall not be referred to or used for any purpose whatsoever, and the negotiation, terms, and entry of the Agreement shall remain inadmissible under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Florida Rules of Evidence, and any applicable state law or rule of civil procedure or evidence.

Defendant denies all claims, liability, damages, losses, penalties, interest, fees, restitution, and all other forms of relief that were or could have been sought in the Action, as well as all class action allegations asserted in the Action. Defendant has agreed to resolve this Action through this Agreement, but if this Agreement is deemed void or Final Approval does not occur, Defendant does not waive, but rather expressly reserve, all rights to challenge all such claims and allegations in the Action on all procedural, evidentiary, and factual grounds, including, without limitation, the ability to challenge on any grounds whether any class can be certified and to assert any and all defenses or privileges. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel agree that Defendant retains and reserves all of these rights and agree not to take a position to the contrary.

#### B. Settlement Class Relief

# 1. Claim Settlement Payments to Settlement Class

In consideration for the Releases set forth in this Agreement, Defendant shall provide the following relief:

A. Defendant shall make available up to \$2,556,000 in cash (the "Settlement Fund") for payment of claims submitted by Class Members.

Settlement Class Members must submit a timely, valid, and verified Claim Form, by the Claim Deadline in the manner required by this Agreement, to receive a Claim Settlement Payment from the Settlement Fund.

Each Settlement Class Member who submits a timely, valid, correct and verified Claim Form by the Claim Deadline in the manner required by this Agreement, making all the required affirmations and representations, shall be sent a Claim Settlement Check by the Administrator in the amount of \$300.

Within sixty (60) days after the Effective Date of receiving a timely, valid, correct, and verified Claim Form, the Administrator shall send, by first-class mail, a Claim Settlement Check to each Settlement Class Member who submits a timely, valid, correct, and verified Claim Form. Checks will be valid for one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date on the check.

Except as provided in this Section and any Service Award that the Court awards to Plaintiff,

Defendant shall have no obligation to make any other or further payments to Plaintiff or to any

Settlement Class Member.

# 2. Compliance with the FTSA

Defendant will agree to adopt policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the FTSA, including obtaining express written consent from recipients of text messages as required by the FTSA.

### D. Settlement Approval

Concurrent with submission of this Agreement for the Court's consideration, Class Counsel shall submit to the Court a motion for preliminary approval of this Agreement. The motion shall seek entry of a Preliminary Approval Order, which shall be in a form agreed upon by Class Counsel and Defendant.

#### E. Service Award and Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

#### 1. Service Award

Class Counsel will request, and Defendant will not oppose, a Service Award not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) for Plaintiff, to be paid by Defendant from the

Settlement Fund. If the Court awards the Service Award, Defendant will deliver to Class Counsel a check made payable to Plaintiff within five (5) days of the Court's Order granting Final Approval.

# 2. Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

Class Counsel will request, and Defendant will not oppose, an award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses of approximately 20% of the capped cash amount of \$2,556,000, but not to exceed \$511,200 to be paid by Defendant from the Settlement Fund. Class Counsel shall be responsible for allocating and shall allocate among Class Counsel any Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, and Defendant shall have no responsibility, role, or liability in connection with such allocation. Attorneys' Fees and Expenses shall be paid to Class Counsel in 18 equal monthly payments, starting from 5 days after the final approval order.

#### III. CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION

# A. Administrator

The Parties have agreed on Angeion Group as the Administrator. The Administrator shall administer the Settlement in a cost-effective and timely manner. Without limiting any of its other obligations as stated herein, the Administrator shall be responsible for, among other things and if and as necessary, for the implementation and effectuation of Class Notice, processing Claim Forms, receiving and maintaining on behalf of the Court any correspondence regarding requests for exclusion and/or objections to the Settlement, administering Claim Settlement Payments, and providing all other related support, reporting, and administration as further stated in this Agreement. The Parties may direct the Administrator to assist with various additional administrative tasks in implementing the Settlement as the Parties agree is appropriate.

The Parties will coordinate with the Administrator to provide and mail/email Notice to the Settlement Class, as provided in this Agreement. The Administrator shall administer the Settlement in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and shall treat any and all documents, communications, and other information and materials received in connection with the administration of the Settlement as Confidential Information except as provided for in this Agreement or by court order.

All Notice and Administrative Costs shall be paid by Defendant from the Settlement Fund. The estimated total Notice and Administrative cost, as calculated by Angeion Group at the time of this Agreement, is \$38,716.00. In any event, the Notice and Administration costs shall not exceed \$50,000.00 paid by Defendant. Defendant shall not be obligated to compute, estimate, or pay any taxes on behalf of Plaintiff, any Settlement Class Member, Class Counsel, or the Administrator. The Administrator will invoice Defendant directly for start-up and initial Class Notice costs at any time after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order and will bill Defendant monthly for incurred fees and expenses thereafter. The Administrator will complete and provide to Defendant any W9 forms necessary for Defendant to pay for the Notice and Administrative Costs.

### B. Notice

### 1. Notice to the Settlement Class

Class Counsel and Defendant shall insert the correct dates and deadlines in the Notice before the Notice Program commences, based upon those dates and deadlines set by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order. Any Notices provided under or as part of the Notice Program shall not bear or include the Defendant's logo or trademarks or the return address of Defendant, or otherwise be styled to appear to originate from Defendant. At Defendant's request, ownership of the Settlement Website URL shall be transferred to Defendant within ten (10) days of the date on which operation of the Settlement Website ceases, which shall be three months following distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Settlement Class Claimants, or such other date as Class Counsel and Defendant may agree upon in writing.

#### 2. Settlement Class Data

Within fifteen (15) days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant—if it has not already done so—will provide to the Administrator the Settlement Class Data in electronic format. Using the Settlement Class Data, the Administrator will determine the email associated with each of the telephone numbers of the Settlement Class Members.

#### 3. Notice

The Administrator shall use Notice for Settlement Class Members for which Defendant maintains mail and e-mail addresses. For those Settlement Class Member, the Administrator, by the Class Notice Date, shall send one copy of the Notice by U.S. Mail, and two by e-mail.

# 4. Long-Form Notice

E-Mail Notice will contain the address for the Settlement Website, www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com. On the website, Settlement Class Members will find important documents and court filings, including the Long-Form Notice, which will contain more detail than the email Notice. The Long Form Notice will be sent to all Settlement Class Members who contact the Administrator by telephone or email and request a copy.

#### 5. Settlement Website

By the Class Notice Date, the Administrator shall establish and maintain the Settlement Website, which, among other things: (i) enables Settlement Class Members to access and download the Claim Form, (ii) provides contact information for Class Counsel, and (iii) provides access to relevant documents concerning the Action. Such documents shall include this Agreement and Class Notice; the Long-Form Notice, the Preliminary Approval Order; the Amended Complaint; and, when filed, the Final Approval Order. The Class Notice shall include the address

(URL) of www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com for the Settlement Website. The Administrator shall maintain the Settlement Website until at least sixty (60) days following the Claim Deadline.

#### 6. IVR

By the Class Notice Date, the Administrator shall establish and maintain a toll-free number that maintains an IVR (or similar) system to answer questions about the Settlement. The Administrator shall maintain the IVR (or similar) system until at least sixty (60) days following the Claim Deadline.

# C. Claim Filing, Review, and Approval Process

#### 1. Claim Form

To submit a Claim, Settlement Class Members must correctly provide the information and documentation required by the Claim Form. The Claim Form shall require any Settlement Class Member who submits a Claim to provide the following documentation and information: (a) Settlement Class Claimant's name, current address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if any); (b) Settlement Class Claimant's telephone number that received a text message from Defendant; and (c) an affirmation that the Settlement Class Claimant received at least one text message from Defendant within the Class Period.

# 2. Claim Filing Process

Settlement Class Members shall be permitted to make a Claim for a Claim Settlement Payment by submitting a claim on the Settlement Website on a date no later than the Claim Deadline. Any Settlement Class Member who does not submit an accurate and fully completed Claim Form by the Claim Deadline shall be deemed to have waived any Claim and any such Claim will be rejected. Only one Claim Form may be submitted per cellular telephone number that was sent a text message by Defendant, regardless of how many text messages were received by the Settlement Class Member.

#### 3. Invalid Claims

Any Settlement Class Member who fails to submit a timely, accurate, and fully completed and correct, valid Claim Form shall not be entitled to receive a Settlement Claim Payment, but shall otherwise be bound by all of the terms in this Agreement, including the terms of the Final Approval Order and the Releases in this Agreement, and shall be permanently barred and enjoined from bringing any action, claim, or other proceeding of any kind against any Released Parties concerning any Released Claims.

#### 4. Claim Review Process

The Administrator shall confirm that each Claim Form submitted is in the form required; that each Claim Form includes the required affirmations, information, and documentation; that each Claim Form was submitted in a timely fashion; and that the Settlement Class Claimant is a member of the Settlement Class. Any Settlement Class Claimant's failure to provide any of the required affirmations or information shall result in the Claim being deemed invalid, and Defendant shall not have any further obligation to process or make any Claim Settlement Payment on such invalid Claim. The Administrator shall not receive any incentive for denying claims.

# D. Opt-Out Rights

# 1. Opt-Out Requirements

A Settlement Class Member who wishes to opt-out of the Settlement Class must do so in writing. To opt-out, a Settlement Class Member must complete and send to Class Counsel (or the Administrator), at the address listed in the Class Notice, a Request for Exclusion that is postmarked no later than the Opt-Out Deadline, as specified in the Class Notice (or as the Court otherwise requires). The Request for Exclusion must: (a) identify the case name; (b) identify the name,

address, and telephone number of the Settlement Class Member; (c) identify the cellular telephone number at which the person received a text message from Defendant; (d) be personally signed by the Settlement Class Member requesting exclusion; and (e) contain a statement that indicates a desire to be excluded from the Settlement Class in the Action, such as: "I hereby request that I be excluded from the proposed Settlement Class."

Any Settlement Class Member who does not opt-out of the Settlement in the manner described herein shall be deemed to be part of the Settlement Class, and shall be bound by all subsequent proceedings, orders, and judgments, including the Final Approval Order.

A Settlement Class Member who desires to opt-out must take timely affirmative written action in accordance with this Section, even if the Settlement Class Member desiring to opt-out (a) files or has filed a separate action against any of the Released Parties, or (b) is, or becomes, a putative class member in any other class action filed against any of the Released Parties.

# 2. Opt-Outs Not Bound

Any Settlement Class Member who properly opts out of the Settlement Class shall not: (a) be bound by any orders or judgments relating to the Settlement; (b) be entitled to relief under, or be affected by, this Agreement; (c) gain any rights by virtue of this Agreement; or (d) be entitled to object to any aspect of the Settlement.

#### 3. List of Requests for Exclusion

At least ten (10) days before the Final Approval Hearing, the Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant with a list of all timely Requests for Exclusion along with copies of such Requests for Exclusion.

# 4. All Settlement Class Members Bound By Settlement

Except for those Settlement Class Members who timely and properly file a Request for Exclusion, all other Settlement Class Members will be deemed to be Settlement Class Members for all purposes under the Agreement, and upon the Effective Date, will be bound by its terms.

# E. Objections

Any Settlement Class Member who does not opt-out of the Settlement may object to the Settlement. To object, the Settlement Class Member must comply with the procedures and deadlines in this Agreement.

#### 1. Process

Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to object to the Settlement must do so in writing on or before the Objection Deadline, as specified in the Class Notice and Preliminary Approval Order. The written objection must be filed with the Court and mailed (with the requisite postmark) to Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant, no later than the Objection Deadline.

# 2. Requirements

The requirements to assert a valid written objection shall be set forth in the Class Notice.

To be valid, the written objection must include:

- a. the name of the Action;
- b. the objector's full name, address, and telephone number;
- c. an explanation of the basis on which the objector claims to be a Settlement Class Member;
- d. all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to the objector or his counsel;

- e. the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date that the objector files the objection, the caption of each case in which the objector has made such an objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling on the objector's prior such objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case;
- f. the identity of all counsel who represent the objector, including any former or current counsel who may be entitled to compensation for any reason related to the objection to the Settlement or fee application;
- g. a copy of any orders related to or ruling on counsel's or the counsel's law firm's prior objections made by individuals or organizations represented by that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the preceding 5 years;
- h. any and all agreements that relate to the objection or the process of objecting—whether written or oral—between objector or objector's counsel and any other person or entity;
- i. the identity of all counsel (if any) representing the objector who will appear at the Final Approval Hearing;
- j. a statement confirming whether the objector intends to personally appear and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing;
- k. a list of all persons who will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection; and
- 1. the objector's signature (an attorney's signature is not sufficient).

Any Settlement Class Member who fails to object to the Settlement in the manner described in the Class Notice and consistent with this Section shall be deemed to have waived any such

objection, shall not be permitted to object to any terms or approval of the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing, and shall be foreclosed from seeking any review of the Settlement or the terms of this Agreement by appeal or other means.

#### 3. Appearance

Subject to approval by the Court, any Settlement Class Member who files and serves a written objection in accordance with this Section may appear, in person or by counsel, at the Final Approval Hearing held by the Court, to show cause why the Settlement should not be approved as fair, adequate, and reasonable, but only if the objecting Settlement Class Member: (a) files with the Court a notice of intention to appear at the Final Approval Hearing by the Objection Deadline ("Notice of Intention to Appear"); and (b) serves the Notice of Intention to Appear on Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant by the Objection Deadline.

The Notice of Intention to Appear must include: (a) the case name and number; (b) the Settlement Class Member's name, address, telephone number, and signature, and, if represented by counsel, their contact information; (c) the telephone number where he or she received a text message from Defendant; and (d) copies of any papers, exhibits, or other evidence that the objecting Settlement Class Member will present to the Court in connection with the Final Approval Hearing.

Any Settlement Class Member who does not file a Notice of Intention to Appear in accordance with the deadlines and other specifications set forth in the Class Notice and this Agreement shall not be entitled to appear at the Final Approval Hearing and raise any objections.

# 4. Discovery From Settlement Class Members Who Object To The Settlement

The Parties shall have the right to take discovery from any person who claims to be a Settlement Class Member who objects to the Settlement without further leave of court. If the person who objects to the Settlement is represented by counsel, the Parties shall also have the right to take discovery from the Settlement Class Member's counsel without further leave of court.

# F. Funding & Distribution of The Settlement Fund and Claim Settlement Payment

#### 1. Settlement Fund

As described herein, the Settlement Fund shall be used to provide the exclusive recovery and relief for the Class, any Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, any Service Award, and all Notice and Administrative Costs. The Settlement Fund shall be the sole and exclusive monetary contribution or consideration paid or provided by Defendant under this Settlement Agreement and Defendant shall not, under any circumstances, be obligated to pay any other additional amounts beyond the amount set forth in the definition of Settlement Fund. Any part of the Settlement Fund that is not used to provide relief for the Settlement Class, Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, any Service Award, and any Notice and Administrative Costs shall remain with Defendant.

# 2. Funding

From the Settlement Fund, Defendant, within ten (10) days after the Effective Date, shall fund all amounts required by the Administrator for distribution of any Claim Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members who submit timely and valid Claim Forms.

#### 3. Distribution

The Administrator shall pay any Claim Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members who submit timely and valid Claim Forms within sixty (60) days after the Effective Date.

# G. Non-Approval of Agreement

This Agreement is conditioned on Final Approval without material modification by the Court. If the Agreement is not so approved, the Parties shall have the right to withdraw from the Agreement and return to the status quo ante as if no settlement or this Agreement had been negotiated or entered into. Moreover, the Parties shall be deemed to have preserved all of their rights or defenses, and shall not be deemed to have waived any substantive, evidentiary, procedural, or other rights of any kind that they may have as to each other or any member of the Settlement Class. If the Agreement is approved without material modification by the Court, but is later reversed or vacated on appeal, each of the Parties shall have a right to withdraw from the Agreement and return to the status quo ante, for all litigation purposes, as if no Agreement had been negotiated or entered into, and shall not be deemed to have waived any substantive, evidentiary, procedural, or rights of any kind that they may have as to each other or any member of the Settlement Class.

### H. Termination of Agreement

Either Party shall have the right in his or its sole discretion to terminate this Agreement, declare it null and void, and have no further obligations under this Agreement if any of the following conditions occurs: (1) the Court, within one-hundred eighty (180) days after the motion for preliminary approval is filed, fails or declines to grant Preliminary Approval in accordance with the terms of the Preliminary Approval Order; (2) the Court, within three-hundred sixty (360) days after granting Preliminary Approval in accordance with the terms of the Preliminary Approval Order, fails or declines to grant Final Approval in accordance with the terms of the Final Approval Order; (3) an appellate court vacates or reverses the Final Approval Order; (4) the Effective Date does not occur for any reason; or (5) any condition described in this Agreement, including any Exhibits, as a basis for termination or cancellation occurs.

#### I. Retention of Records

The Administrator shall retain all records relating to payment of claims under this Agreement for a period of five (5) years from the Effective Date. Those records shall be maintained in accordance with this Agreement as Confidential Information.

# IV. EXCLUSIVE REMEDY/DISMISSAL OF CLAIMS/JURISDICTION

# C. Exclusive Remedy; Permanent Injunction

Upon issuance of the Final Approval Order: (i) the Agreement shall be the exclusive remedy for any and all Settlement Class Members, except those who have properly requested exclusion (opted out) in accordance with the terms and provisions hereof; (ii) the Released Parties shall not be subject to liability or expense for any of the Released Claims to any Settlement Class Member(s); (iii) Settlement Class Members who have not opted out shall be permanently barred and enjoined from asserting any Released Claims in any action or from filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating in (as class members or otherwise) any action based on or relating to any of the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto; and (iv) Settlement Class Members who have not opted out shall be permanently barred and precluded from organizing Settlement Class Members, or soliciting the participation of Settlement Class Members, for purposes of pursuing any action (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or seeking class certification in a pending action) based on or relating to any of the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto.

#### D. Dismissal of Claims

The Parties agree that upon the Effective Date, the Action shall be dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Final Approval Order and judgment shall be entered.

# E. Continuing Jurisdiction of Court

The Court shall retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over this Action, the Parties, and this Agreement with respect to the performance of its terms and conditions (and disputes

arising out of or relating to this Agreement), the proper provision of all benefits, and the implementation and enforcement of its terms, conditions, and obligations.

#### V. RELEASES

Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Released Parties shall be released and forever discharged by the Class Representative, the Settlement Class, and each Settlement Class Member from all Released Claims. The Settlement Class and each Settlement Class Member covenant and agree that they shall not hereafter seek to establish liability against any of the Released Parties based, in whole or in part, on any of the Released Claims. The Class Representatives, the Settlement Class, and each Settlement Class Member expressly waive and relinquish any and all rights which they may have under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or any similar statute of the United States. Section 1542 reads as follows:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

The Class Representatives, the Settlement Class, and each Settlement Class Member may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those which they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims, but the Class Representative, the Settlement Class, and each Settlement Class Member, upon the Effective Date, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Approval Order, shall have, nevertheless, fully, finally, and forever waived, settled, and released any and all Released Claims, regardless of such subsequent discovery of additional or different facts.

Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Released Parties shall be released and forever discharged by the Plaintiff for any and all claims that he may have against any of the Released Parties.

Upon issuance of the Final Approval Order, the Plaintiff, and all Settlement Class Members shall be permanently barred and enjoined from: (a) asserting any Released Claims in any action or proceeding or from filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating in (as class members or otherwise) any action or proceeding based on any of the Released Claims; and (b) organizing Settlement Class Members, or soliciting the participation of Settlement Class Members, for purposes of pursuing any action or proceeding (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or seeking class certification in a pending or future action or proceeding) based on any of the Released Claims. Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude any action to enforce the terms of the Agreement.

This Agreement and the Releases herein do not affect the rights of Settlement Class Members who timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.

#### VI. COVENANTS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND WARRANTIES

Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members covenant and agree: (a) not to assert any of the Released Claims in any action or proceeding and not to file, commence, prosecute, intervene in, or participate in (as class members or otherwise) any action or proceeding based on any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Parties; (b) not to organize or solicit the participation of Settlement Class Members in a separate class for purposes of pursuing any action or proceeding (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or seeking class certification in a pending or future action or proceeding) based on or relating to any of the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto against the Released Parties; and (c) that the

foregoing covenants and this Agreement shall be a complete defense to any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Parties.

Plaintiff represents and warrants that: (a) they are the sole and exclusive owner of their own Released Claims; (b) that they have not assigned or otherwise transferred any interest in any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Parties; (c) that they will not assign or otherwise transfer any interest in any of the Released Claims; and (d) that they have no surviving claim or cause of action against any of the Released Parties that is not being released by this Agreement.

Class Counsel represent and warrant that: (a) they know of no other persons with claims against Defendant who are not included in the Settlement Class and whose claims will not be released upon the Effective Date of this Agreement; (b) they will keep confidential and not publicly disclose, disseminate, or use any of the information in the Settlement Class Data; and (c) they will not advertise for or solicit individuals to bring any additional lawsuits or claims against Released Parties.

#### VII. <u>MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS</u>

#### C. Receipt of Advice of Counsel

Each Party acknowledges, agrees, and specifically warrants that he, she, or it has fully read this Agreement and the Release, received independent legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering into this Agreement and the Release and the legal effects of this Agreement and the Release, and fully understands the effect of this Agreement and the Release.

#### D. Cooperation to Facilitate this Settlement

The Parties agree that they shall work together in good faith to facilitate this Agreement, as well as undertake any required steps to effectuate the purposes and intent of this Agreement.

#### E. Representation by Counsel

The Parties represent and warrant that they have been represented by, and have consulted with, the counsel of their choice regarding the provisions, obligations, rights, risks, and legal effects of this Agreement and have been given the opportunity to review independently this Agreement with such legal counsel and agree to the particular language of the provisions herein.

#### F. No Admission of Liability

Nothing in this Agreement, or the Parties' willingness to enter into this Agreement, shall be construed as an admission by any person or entity, of any liability or wrongdoing of any Party, or of the truth of any allegations made by the Class Representative, on behalf of himself or the Settlement Class, against Defendant. Defendant expressly denies and disclaim any liability or wrongdoing. The existence, contents, and terms of Agreement, and any negotiations, statements, or proceedings in connection therewith, shall not be admissible as evidence for any purpose in any proceeding, except solely for purposes of enforcement of the Agreement's terms; however, this Agreement may be used by either Party and pleaded as a full and complete defense to any action, suit, or other proceeding that has been or may be instituted, prosecuted, or attempted with respect to any of the Released Claims, and may be filed, offered, and received into evidence, and otherwise used for such defense.

#### G. Contractual Agreement

The Parties understand and agree that all terms of this Agreement are contractual and are not a mere recital, and each signatory warrants that he or she is competent and possesses the full and complete authority to execute and covenant to this Agreement on behalf of the Party that he or she represents.

#### H. Change of Time Periods

The time periods and/or dates described in this Agreement with respect to the giving of notices and hearings are subject to approval and change by the Court or by written agreement of Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant, without notice to Settlement Class Members. The Parties reserve the right, by agreement and subject to Court approval, to grant any reasonable extension of time that might be needed to carry out any of the provisions of this Agreement.

#### I. Integration

This Agreement constitutes a single, integrated written contract expressing the entire agreement of the Parties relative to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement supersedes all prior representations, agreements, understandings, both written and oral, among the Parties, or any of them, with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. No covenants, agreements, representations, or warranties of any kind whatsoever have been made by any Party hereto, except as provided for herein, and no Party is relying on any prior oral or written representations, agreements, understandings, or undertakings with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

#### J. Drafting

The Parties agree that no single Party shall be deemed to have drafted this Agreement, or any portion thereof, for purpose of the invocation of the doctrine of *contra proferentem*. This Agreement is a collaborative effort of the Parties and their respective attorneys.

#### K. Costs

Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear its own legal and other costs incurred in connection with the Released Claims, including the preparation and performance of this Agreement.

#### L. <u>Modification or Amendment</u>

This Agreement may not be modified or amended, nor may any of its provisions be waived, except by a writing signed by the Parties who executed this Agreement or their successors-in-interest.

#### M. No Waiver

The failure of a Party hereto to insist upon strict performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such Party's rights or remedies or a waiver by such Party of any default by another Party in the performance or compliance of any of the terms of this Agreement. In addition, the waiver by one Party of any breach of this Agreement by another Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breach of this Agreement.

#### N. Severability

Should any part, term, or provision of this Agreement be declared or determined by any court or tribunal to be illegal or invalid, the Parties agree that the Court may modify such provision to the extent necessary to make it valid, legal, and enforceable. In any event, such provision shall be separable and shall not limit or affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of any other provision hereunder; provided, however, that the terms of this Section shall not apply should any court or tribunal find any part, term, or provision of the release to be illegal or invalid in any manner.

#### O. No Violation of Law or Agreement

The execution, delivery, and performance of this Agreement by the Parties hereto does not and will not, conflict with, violate, result in a breach of, or cause a default under, (a) any applicable provision of any federal, state, or local law or regulation, (b) any provision of any order, arbitration award, judgment, or decree, or (c) any provision of any agreement or instrument applicable to the Parties.

#### P. Successors

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, successors, and assigns of the Parties hereto.

#### Q. Choice of Law

All terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Florida, without reference to its conflict of law provisions. The adequacy of the settlement, any determination regarding Class Counsel's fees and expenses, and any Service Award shall be governed by Florida law.

#### R. Fair and Reasonable

The Parties and their counsel believe that this Agreement is a fair and reasonable compromise of the disputed claims, it is in the best interests of the Parties, and have arrived at this Agreement as a result of extensive arms-length negotiations.

#### S. Headings

All headings contained herein are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a substantive part of this Agreement. In the event of a dispute concerning the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the headings shall be disregarded.

#### T. Exhibits

The Exhibits to this Agreement are expressly incorporated and made part of the terms and conditions set forth herein.

#### U. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts, and each of them, shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties to this Agreement shall exchange among themselves original signed counterparts.

#### V. Facsimile and Electronic Mail

Transmission of a signed Agreement by facsimile or electronic mail shall constitute receipt of an original signed Agreement by mail.

#### W. Warranty of Signature

Each signer of this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she is authorized to execute this Agreement in his or her official capacity on behalf of the Party to this Agreement for which he or she is signing and that this Agreement is binding on the principal represented by that signatory.

#### X. No Assignment

Each Party represents and warrants that such Party has not assigned or otherwise transferred (via subrogation or otherwise) any right, title, or interest in or to any claims, causes of action, or demands which were or could have been, or ever could be asserted against any Party and that are released in this Agreement, or which were, could have been, or ever could be asserted against any Party. Any Party that breaches the representations and warranties set forth in this Section shall indemnify and hold harmless each other Party, its parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and their respective owners, agents, attorneys, successors, heirs, assigns, administrators, officers, directors, employees, and all other persons acting in concert with them from any and every claim or demand of every kind or character arising out of a breach by any such breaching Party of its representations and warranties in this Section.

#### Y. Non-Monetary Relief

Defendant will agree to keep in place policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the FTSA's express written consent requirements.

#### Z. Confidentiality; Communications to Media and Public

The Parties agree that the terms of this Settlement shall remain confidential and not be

disclosed by any Party until the Agreement is filed in connection with the Preliminary Approval

Application.

The Parties also agree that before the entry of Final Approval of the Settlement, they shall

not publish a press release or a release on the Internet concerning the Settlement without the prior

written review and approval of Defendant. The Parties further agree that before the entry of Final

Approval of the Settlement, if any print or electronic media outlet contacts any Party or its counsel

seeking information or a statement regarding the Settlement, in the absence of a response agreed

on by all Parties, no information will be provided in response to such inquiries.

For the avoidance of any doubt, nothing in this Agreement prevents the Parties from

making any disclosures required to effectuate this Agreement or from making any disclosures

required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly executed by

themselves or by their duly authorized representatives:

Dated: 07 / 14 / 2022

By:

Dated: 07 / 13 / 2022

By:

Sarrett Berg
Counsel for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class

33

Dated:	07/14/2022	By:	Name: Mercedas Cabrera  Title: Managing Partner
Dated:	07/14/22	By:	Counsel for Defendant

### **▼**HELLOSIGN

TITLE

Revised Settlement Agreement for Luis Alejandro Alvarez v....

**FILE NAME** 

content

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#### **Document History**

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SIGNED	<b>07 / 14 / 2022</b> 15:37:08 UTC	Signed by Luis Alejandro Alvarez (alexalvarez3402@gmail.com) IP: 73.179.183.151
$\odot$	07 / 14 / 2022	The document has been completed.
COMPLETED	15:37:08 UTC	

EXHIBIT 1		

# Sunshine Life & Health Advisors Settlement CLAIM FORM

#### Case No. 2021-020996-CA-01

Return this Claim Form to: Claim Administrator, PO Box xxxx, Portland, OR xxxxx-xxxx. Questions, visit www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com or call 1-xxx-xxxx.

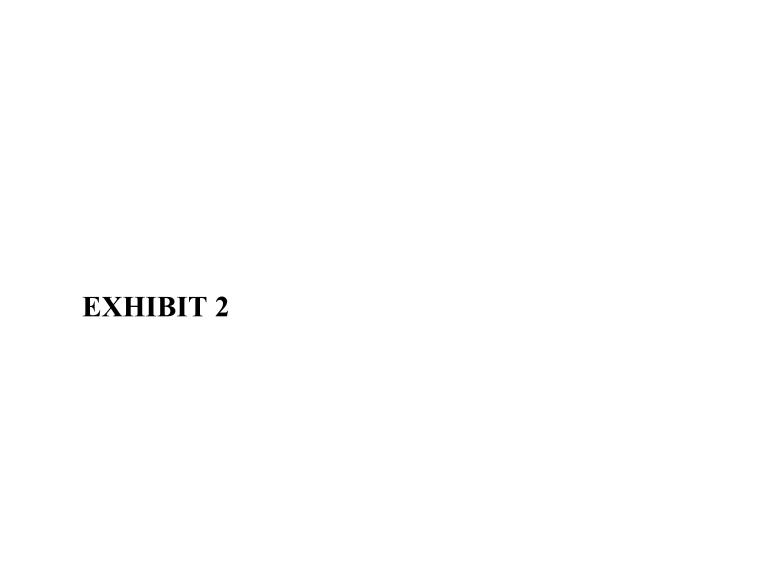
DEADLINE: THIS CLAIM FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOVEMBER 19, 2022, BE FULLY COMPLETED, BE SIGNED, AND MEET ALL CONDITIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

#### YOU MUST SUBMIT THIS CLAIM FORM TO RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT.

Please note that this Claim Form may be researched and verified by the Claim Administrator.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION					
YOUR CONTACT	INFURMATION				
Name: (First) (Middle)	(Last)				
Current Address:					
(City) (State)	(ZIP Code)				
Telephone Number on the Date you Received a Text Message: ()					
Current Phone Number: ()	or □ check if same as above information is required.)				
Claim ID:					
Settlement Class M	lember Verification				
By submitting this claim form, I attest that I received at least one text message from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors, LLC. I further attest that I am the current subscriber of the cellular telephone mentioned above, and that the information provided herein is true and correct.					
********					
Additional information regarding the Settlement can be found at visit www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com					
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					

If you have questions, you may call the Claim Administrator at 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx.



## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2021-020996-CA-01

LUIS ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

**CLASS ACTION** 

Plaintiff,

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

SUNSHINE LIFE & HEALTH ADVISORS LLC,

Defendant.		

# [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL TO CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND FINAL JUDGMENT

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022, the Court granted preliminary approval to the proposed class action settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release between Plaintiff Luis Alejandro Alvarez, on behalf of himself and all members of the Settlement Class, and Defendant Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC ("Defendant") (collectively, the "Parties"). The Court also provisionally certified the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, approved the procedure for giving Class Notice to the members of the Settlement Class, and set a Final Approval Hearing to take place on November 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

On November 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m, the Court held a duly noticed Final Approval Hearing to consider: (1) whether the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate; (2) whether a judgment should be entered dismissing the Plaintiff's Complaint on the merits and with prejudice in favor of Defendant and against all persons or entities who are Settlement Class Members herein who have not requested exclusion from the Settlement Class;

and (3) whether and in what amount to award counsel for the Settlement Class as Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and whether and in what amount to award Service Award to Plaintiff.

#### NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

#### I. JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

- 1. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties and the Settlement Class Members, venue is proper, and the Court has subject matter jurisdiction to approve the Agreement, including all exhibits thereto, and to enter this Final Approval Order. Without in any way affecting the finality of this Final Approval Order, this Court hereby retains jurisdiction as to all matters relating to administration, consummation, enforcement, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order, and for any other necessary purpose.
- 2. The Settlement Agreement was negotiated at arm's length by experienced counsel who were fully informed of the facts and circumstances of this litigation (the "Action") and of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions. The Settlement Agreement was reached after the Parties had engaged in a mediation and extensive settlement discussions and after the exchange of information, including information about the size and scope of the Settlement Class. Counsel for the Parties were therefore well positioned to evaluate the benefits of the Settlement Agreement, taking into account the expense, risk, and uncertainty of protracted litigation.
- 3. The Court finds that the prerequisites for a class action under Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220 have been satisfied for settlement purposes for each Settlement Class Member in that: (a) the number of Settlement Class Members 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 he seeks to represent; (d) Plaintiff has and will continue to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement

Class for purposes of entering into the Settlement Agreement; (e) the questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting any individual Settlement Class Member; (f) the Settlement Class is ascertainable; and (g) a class action is superior to the other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

#### II. CERTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLASS

4. Pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, this Court hereby finally certifies the Settlement Class, as identified in the Settlement Agreement: "All persons who (1) were sent a text message (2) by or on behalf of Defendant (3) between July 1, 2021 and the date of final approval (4) regarding Defendant's goods and/or services." The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

#### III. APPOINTMENT OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND CLASS COUNSEL

- 5. The Court finally appoints Scott A. Edelsberg of Edelsberg Law, P.A.; Christopher Gold of Edelsberg Law, P.A.; Andrew J. Shamis & Gentile P.A; Garrett O. Berg of Shamis & Gentile, P.A.; as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.
  - 6. The Court finally designates Plaintiff as the Class Representative.

#### IV. NOTICE AND CLAIMS PROCESS

7. The Court makes the following findings on notice to the Settlement Class:

- (a) The Court finds that the distribution of the Class Notice, as provided for in the Settlement Agreement, (i) constituted the best practicable notice under the circumstances to Settlement Class Members, (ii) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of, among other things, the pendency of the Action, the nature and terms of the proposed Settlement, their right to object or to exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement, and their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, (iii) was reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to be provided with notice, and (iv) complied fully with the requirements of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, the United States Constitution, the Rules of this Court, and any other applicable law.
- (b) The Court finds that the Class Notice and methodology set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, and this Final Approval Order (i) constitute the most effective and practicable notice of the Final Approval Order, the relief available to Settlement Class Members pursuant to the Final Approval Order, and applicable time periods; (ii) constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice for all other purposes to all Settlement Class Members; and (iii) comply fully with the requirements of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, the United States Constitution, the Rules of this Court, and any other applicable laws.

#### V. FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

8. The Settlement Agreement is finally approved in all respects as fair, reasonable and adequate. The terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement, including all Exhibits thereto, have been entered into in good faith and are hereby fully and finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to, and in the best interests of, each of the Parties and the Settlement Class Members.

#### VI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

- 9. The Parties are hereby directed to implement the Settlement Agreement according to its terms and provisions. The Administrator is directed to provide Claim Settlement Payments to those Settlement Class Members who submit valid, timely, and complete Claims.
- 10. The Court hereby approves Class Counsel's request for attorney fees, costs, and expenses, and awards Class Counsel \$511,200 as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, inclusive of the award of reasonable costs incurred in this Action. The Court finds that the requested fees are reasonable under the percentage of the fund for the reasons set forth herein. The award of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel shall be paid from the Settlement Fund within the time period and manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 11. The Court hereby awards Class Counsel for their time incurred and expenses advanced. The Court has concluded that: (a) Class Counsel achieved a favorable result for the Class by obtaining Defendant's agreement to make significant funds available to Settlement Class Members, subject to submission of valid claims by eligible Settlement Class Members; (b) Class Counsel devoted substantial effort to pre- and post-filing investigation, legal analysis, and litigation; (c) Class Counsel prosecuted the Settlement Class's claims on a contingent fee basis, investing significant time and accumulating costs with no guarantee that they would receive compensation for their services or recover their expenses; (d) Class Counsel employed their knowledge of and experience with class action litigation in achieving a valuable settlement for the Settlement Class, in spite of Defendant's possible legal defenses and its experienced and capable counsel; (3) Class Counsel have standard contingent fee agreements with Plaintiff, who has reviewed the Settlement Agreement and been informed of Class Counsel's fee request and have approved; and (f) the Notice informed Settlement Class Members of the amount and nature of

Class Counsel's fee and cost request under the Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel filed and posted their Petition in time for Settlement Class Members to make a meaningful decision whether to object to the Class Counsel's fee request, and \_\_\_\_\_ Settlement Class Member(s) objected.

12. The Court awards Service Award in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff payable pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

#### VII. RELEASE OF CLAIMS

- 13. Upon entry of this Final Approval Order, all members of the Class who did not validly and timely submit Requests for Exclusion in the manner provided in the Agreement shall, by operation of this Final Approval Order, have fully, finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged Defendant and the Released Parties from the Released Claims as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 14. Furthermore, all members of the Class who did not validly and timely submit Requests for Exclusion in the manner provided in the Agreement 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, either individually or as a class, any action or proceeding in any court, agency, arbitration, tribunal or jurisdiction, asserting any claims released pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, or seeking an award of fees and costs of any kind or nature whatsoever and pursuant to any authority or theory whatsoever, relating to or arising from the Action or that could have been brought in the Action and/or as a result of or in addition to those provided by the Settlement Agreement.
- 15. The terms of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order, including all Exhibits thereto, shall be forever binding on, and shall have *res judicata* and preclusive effect

in, all pending and future lawsuits maintained by Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, as well as their heirs, executors and administrators, successors, and assigns.

- 16. The Releases, which are set forth in the Settlement Agreement and which are also set forth below, are expressly incorporated herein in all respects and are effective as of the date of this Final Approval Order; and the Released Parties (as that term is defined below and in the Settlement Agreement) are forever released, relinquished, and discharged by the Releasing Persons (as that term is defined below and in the Settlement Agreement) from all Released Claims (as that term is defined below and in the Settlement Agreement).
- (a) The Settlement Agreement and Releases do not affect the rights of Settlement Class Members who timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Agreement.
- (b) The administration and consummation of the Settlement as embodied in the Settlement Agreement shall be under the authority of the Court. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to protect, preserve, and implement the Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, enforcement of the Releases. The Court expressly retains jurisdiction in order to enter such further orders as may be necessary or appropriate in administering and implementing the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement.
- (c) The Settlement Agreement shall be the exclusive remedy for any and all Settlement Class Members, except those who have properly requested exclusion (opted out), and the Released Parties shall not be subject to liability or expense for any of the Released Claims to any Settlement Class Member(s).
- (d) The Releases shall not preclude any action to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement, including participation in any of the processes detailed therein. The

Releases set forth herein and in the Settlement Agreement are not intended to include the release of any rights or duties of the Settling Parties arising out of the Settlement Agreement, including the express warranties and covenants contained therein.

17. Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members who did not timely exclude themselves from the Settlement Class are, from this day forward, hereby permanently barred and enjoined from directly or indirectly: (i) asserting any Released Claims in any action or proceeding; (ii) filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating in (as class members or otherwise), any lawsuit based on or relating to any the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto; or (iii) organizing any Settlement Class Members into a separate class for purposes of pursuing as a purported class action any lawsuit (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or seeking class certification in a pending action) based on or relating to any of the Released Claims.

#### VIII. NO ADMISSION OF LIABILITY

- 18. Neither the Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms and provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor any of the documents or statements referred to therein, nor this Final Approval Order, nor any of its terms and provisions, shall be:
- (a) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of, or construed as or deemed to be evidence of, any presumption, concession, or admission by Defendant of the truth of the facts alleged by any person, the validity of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any other litigation or judicial or administrative proceeding, the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any litigation, or of any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing by Defendant or any Released Party;

- (b) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission of any fault or violation of any law by Defendant or any Released Party; or
- (c) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding.

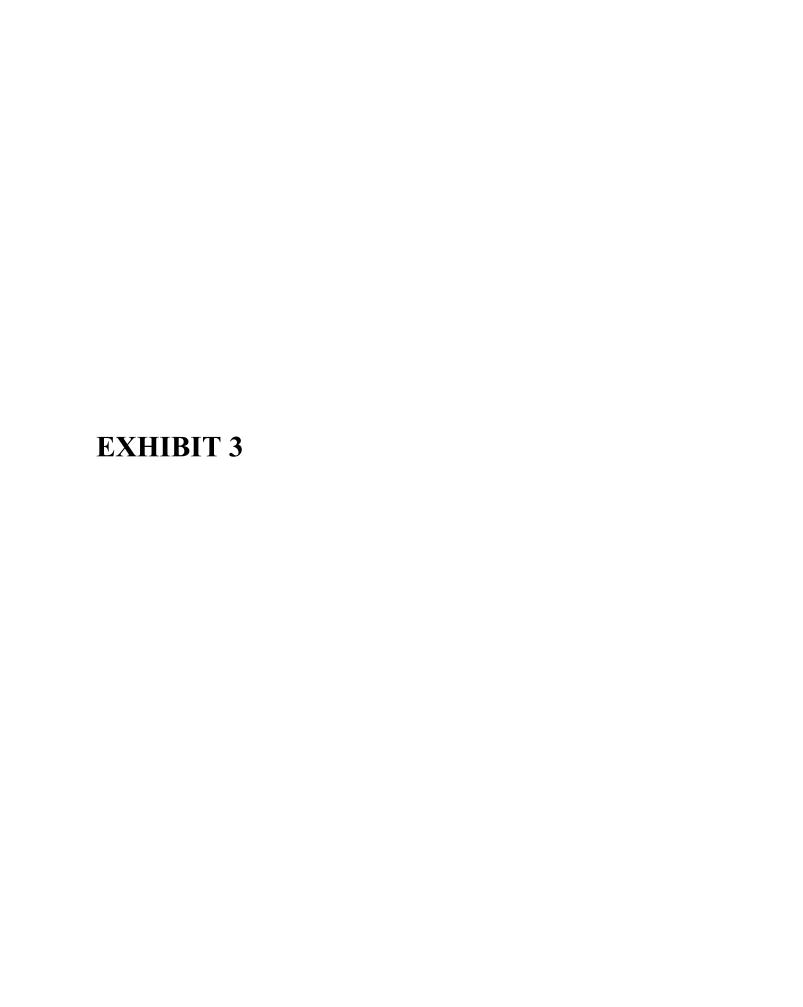
#### IX. OTHER PROVISIONS

- 19. This Final Approval Order and the Settlement Agreement (including the Exhibits thereto) may be filed in any action against or by any Released Party (as that term is defined herein and the Settlement Agreement) to support a defense of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.
- 20. Without further order of the Court, the Settling Parties may agree to reasonably necessary extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Settlement Agreement.
- 21. In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, this Final Approval Order shall automatically be rendered null and void and shall be vacated and, in such event, all orders entered and released delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void. In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, the Settlement Agreement shall become null and void and be of no further force and effect, neither the Settlement Agreement nor the Court's Orders, including this Order, shall be used or referred to for any purpose whatsoever, and the Parties shall retain, without prejudice, any and all objections, arguments, and defenses with respect to class certification, including the right to argue that no class should be certified for any purpose, and with respect to any claims or allegations in this Action.

22. This Action, including all individual claims and class claims presented herein, is hereby dismissed on the merits and with prejudice against Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, without fees or costs to any party except as otherwise provided herein. Finding that there is no just reason for delay, the Court orders that this Final Approval Order shall constitute a final judgment.

, 2022.	day of	<b>DONE</b> and <b>ORDERED</b> at Miami, Florida, this
GF	OURT HIDGE	CIRCUIT CO

Copies furnished to: Counsel of Record



### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

### If You Received a Text Message from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors, You May Be Entitled to a Payment from a Class Action Settlement

A court authorized this Notice. You are not being sued. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- A Settlement<sup>1</sup> has been reached in a class action lawsuit about whether Sunshine Life & Health Advisors, LLC ("Sunshine Life & Health Advisors") sent text messages to cellular telephone numbers without prior express written consent of the recipients as defined by the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.059 ("FTSA"). Sunshine Life & Health Advisors denies the allegations and any wrongdoing. The Court has not decided who is right.
- The Settlement offers payments to Settlement Class Members who file valid Claims.
- Your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act. Read this Notice carefully.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT			
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	If you are a member of the Settlement Class, you must submit a completed Claim Form to receive a payment. If the Court approves the Settlement and it becomes final and effective, and you remain in the Settlement Class, you will receive your payment by check.		
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	You may request to be excluded from the Settlement and, if you do, you will receive no benefits from the Settlement.		
OBJECT	Write to the Court if you do not like the Settlement.		
GO TO A HEARING	Ask to speak in court about the fairness of the Settlement.		
DO NOTHING	You will not receive a payment if you fail to timely submit a completed Claim Form, and you will give up your right to bring your own lawsuit against Sunshine Life and Health about the Claims in this case.		

- These rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this Notice.
- The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If it does, and after any appeals are resolved, benefits will be distributed to those who submit qualifying Claim Forms. Please be patient.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms herein have the same meanings as those defined in the Settlement Agreement, a copy of which may be found online at the Settlement Website.

### WHAT THIS NOTICE CONTAINS

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#### **BASIC INFORMATION**

#### 1. Why is there a Notice?

A court authorized this Notice because you have a right to know about a proposed Settlement of a class action lawsuit known as *Alvarez v. Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC*, in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, and about all of your options before the Court decides whether to give Final Approval to the Settlement. This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, and your legal rights.

A Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit In And For Miami-Dade County, Florida is overseeing this case. The person who sued, Luis Alvarez, is called the "Plaintiff." Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC is called the "Defendant" or "Sunshine Life & Health Advisors."

#### 2. What is this litigation about?

The lawsuit alleges that Sunshine Life & Health Advisors sent text messages to Plaintiff's wireless telephone number without prior express written consent in violation of the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.059, and seeks actual and statutory damages under the FTSA on behalf of the named Plaintiff and a class of all individuals in the United States.

Sunshine Life & Health Advisors denies each and every allegation of wrongdoing, liability, and damages that were or could have been asserted in the litigation and that the claims in the litigation would be appropriate for class treatment if the litigation were to proceed through trial.

The Plaintiff's Complaint, Settlement Agreement, and other case-related documents are posted on the Settlement Website, www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com. The Settlement resolves the lawsuit. The Court has not decided who is right.

#### 3. What is the FTSA?

The Florida Telephone Solicitation Act (commonly referred to as the "FTSA") is a Florida law that restricts telephone solicitations and the use of automated telephone equipment without prior express consent.

#### 4. Why is this a class action?

In a class action, one person called the "Class Representative" (in this case, Plaintiff) sue on behalf of themselves and other people with similar claims.

All of the people who have claims similar to the Plaintiff's are Settlement Class Members, except for those who exclude themselves from the class, among others.

#### 5. Why is there a settlement?

The Court has not found in favor of either Plaintiff or Sunshine Life & Health Advisors. Instead, both sides have agreed to a settlement. By agreeing to the Settlement, the parties avoid the costs and uncertainty of a trial, and if the Settlement is approved by the Court, Settlement Class Claimants will

receive the benefits described in this Notice. Sunshine Life & Health Advisors denies all legal claims in this case. Plaintiff and his lawyers think the proposed Settlement is best for everyone who is affected.

#### WHO IS PART OF THE SETTLEMENT?

#### 6. Who is included in the Settlement?

The Settlement includes all persons who received a text message on their cell phone from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors. Specifically, the Settlement Class is defined as:

All persons who (1) were sent a text message (2) by or on behalf of Defendant (3) between July 1, 2021 and the date of final approval (4) regarding Defendant's goods and/or services.

Persons meeting this definition are referred to collectively as the "Settlement Class" and, individually, as "Settlement Class Members."

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendants, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendants, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendants; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

#### 7. What if I am not sure whether I am included in the Settlement?

If you are not sure whether you are in the Settlement Class or have any other questions about the Settlement, visit the Settlement Website at www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com or call the toll-free number, 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx. You also may send questions to the Settlement Administrator at Sunshine Life FTSA Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box XXXX, XXXXX, XXXXXX.

#### THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

#### 8. What does the Settlement provide?

To fully settle and release claims of the Settlement Class Members, Sunshine Life & Health Advisors has agreed to make payments to the Settlement Class Members and pay for notice and administration costs of the Settlement, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by counsel for the Settlement Class, and service award for Plaintiff (the "Settlement Fund"). Each Settlement Class Member who submits a timely, valid, correct and verified Claim Form by the Claim Deadline in the manner required by this Agreement, making all the required affirmations and representations, shall be sent a Claim Settlement Check by the Administrator in the amount of \$300.00. Class Claimants will be sent their Claim Settlement Payments to the address they submitted on their Claim Form within 60 days following the Effective Date.

#### 9. How do I file a Claim?

If you qualify for a payment, you must complete and submit a valid Claim Form. You may download a Claim Form at the Settlement Website, www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com, or request a Claim

QUESTIONS? CALL 1-xxx-xxxx OR VISIT www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com

Form by calling the Settlement Administrator at the toll-free number below. To be valid, a Claim Form must be completed fully and accurately and submitted timely.

You must submit a Claim Form by U.S. mail or through the Settlement Website, and it must be postmarked by November 19, 2022.

Please read the Claim Form carefully and provide all the information required. Only one Claim Form may be submitted per Settlement Class Member.

#### 10. When will I receive my check?

Payments in the form of a check to Settlement Class Members will be made only after the Court grants Final Approval to the Settlement and after any appeals are resolved (*see* "Final Approval Hearing" below). If there are appeals, resolving them can take time. Please be patient.

#### EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

If you do not want benefits from the Settlement, and you want to keep the right to sue or continue to sue Sunshine Life & Health Advisors on your own about the legal issues in this case, then you must take steps to get out of the Settlement. This is called excluding yourself—or it is sometimes referred to as "opting out" of the Settlement Class.

#### 11. How do I get out of the Settlement?

To exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must send a timely letter by mail to:

Sunshine Life & Health Advisors Settlement Administrator P.O. Box XXXX

XXXX, XX XXXX

Your request to be excluded from the Settlement must be personally signed by you under penalty of perjury and contain a statement that indicates your desire to be "excluded from the Settlement Class" and that, absent of excluding yourself or "opting out," you are "otherwise a member of the Settlement Class."

Your exclusion request must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2022. You cannot ask to be excluded on the phone, by email, or at the Settlement Website.

You may opt out of the Settlement Class only for yourself.

#### 12. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue Sunshine Life & Health Advisors for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up the right to sue Sunshine Life & Health Advisors for the claims that the Settlement resolves. You must exclude yourself from this Settlement Class in order to pursue your own lawsuit.

#### 13. What am I giving up to stay in the Settlement Class?

Unless you opt out of the Settlement, you cannot sue or be part of any other lawsuit against Sunshine Life & Health Advisors about the issues in this case, including any existing litigation, arbitration, or proceeding. Unless you exclude yourself, all of the decisions and judgments by the Court will bind you.

The Settlement Agreement is available at www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com. The Settlement Agreement provides more detail regarding the Releases and describes the Released Claims with specific descriptions in necessary, accurate legal terminology, so read it carefully. You can talk to the law firms representing the Settlement Class listed in Question 15 at no charge to you, or you can, at your own expense, talk to your own lawyer if you have any questions about the Released Claims or what they mean.

#### 14. If I exclude myself, can I still get a payment?

No. You will not get a payment from the Settlement Fund if you exclude yourself from the Settlement.

#### THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

#### 15. Do I have a lawyer in the case?

The Court has appointed the following lawyers as "Class Counsel" to represent all members of the Settlement Class.

Scott Edelsberg, Esq. Christopher Gold, Esq. Edelsberg Law, PA 20900 NE 30th Ave, #417 Aventura, FL 33180

Andrew J. Shamis, Esq. Garrett O. Berg, Esq. Shamis & Gentile, P.A. 14 NE 1st Avenue, Suite 705 Miami, FL 33132

You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by another lawyer, you may hire one to appear in Court for you at your own expense.

#### 16. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel intend to request up to 20% of the Settlement Fund for attorneys' fees which will include reimbursement of reasonable, actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the litigation. The fees and expenses awarded by the Court will be paid out of the Settlement Fund. The Court will decide the amount of fees and expenses to award.

Class Counsel will also request that Service Award of \$5,000.00 for Plaintiff be paid from the Settlement Fund for their service as Class Representative on behalf of the whole Settlement Class.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

QUESTIONS? CALL 1-xxx-xxxx OR VISIT www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com

#### 17. How do I tell the Court if I do not like the Settlement?

If you are a Settlement Class Member (and do not exclude yourself from the Settlement Class), you can object to any part of the Settlement. To object, you must timely submit a letter that includes the following:

- 1) A heading that includes the case name and case number— *Alvarez v. Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC* Case No. 2021-020996-CA-01;
- 2) Your name, address, telephone number, the cell phone number at which you received text messages from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors and if represented by counsel, the name, bar number, address, and telephone number of your counsel;
- 3) A signed statement stating, under penalty of perjury, that you received one or more text message from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors and are a member of the Settlement Class;
- 4) A statement of all your objections to the Settlement including your legal and factual basis for each objection;
- 5) A statement of whether you intend to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either with or without counsel, and if with counsel, the name of your counsel who will attend;
- 6) The number of times in which your counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date that you file the objection, the caption of each case in which counsel or the firm has made such objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon counsel's or the firm's prior objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case;
- 7) A list of all persons who will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection; and
- 8) Any and all agreements that relate to the objection or the process of objecting—whether written or verbal—between you or your counsel and any other person or entity.

If you wish to object, you must file your objection with the Court (using the Court's electronic filing system or in any manner in which the Court accepts filings) and mail your objection to each of the following three (3) addresses, and your objection <u>must</u> be postmarked by **October 15, 2022.** 

Clerk of the Court	Class Counsel	Defendants' Counsel
Eleventh Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Florida 175 NW 1st Ave, Miami, FL 33128	Scott Edelsberg, Esq. Edelsberg Law, PA 20900 NE 30th Ave Suite 417 Aventura, FL 33180	Robert Fernandez RHF Law Firm 2600 S. Douglas Road, Suite 305 Coral Gables, FL 33134

#### 18. What is the difference between objecting and asking to be excluded?

Objecting is telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. You can object to the Settlement only if you do not exclude yourself. Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Settlement. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object to the Settlement because it no longer affects you.

#### THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

QUESTIONS? CALL 1-xxx-xxxx OR VISIT www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement and any requests for fees and expenses ("Final Approval Hearing").

#### 19. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court has scheduled a Final Approval Hearing on November 4, 2022, at 10:00 AM EST in Miami-Dade County, Florida via virtual hearing. The hearing may be moved to a different date or time without additional notice, so it is a good idea to check www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com for updates. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will also consider the requests by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and expenses and for Service Award to the Class Representative. If there are objections, the Court will consider them at that time. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. It is unknown how long these decisions will take.

#### 20. Do I have to attend the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have. But, you are welcome to attend the hearing at your own expense. If you send an objection, you do not have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you submitted your written objection on time to the proper addresses and it complies with all the other requirements set forth above, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend the hearing, but it is not necessary.

#### 21. May I speak at the hearing?

You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Final Approval Hearing. To do so, your timely filed objection must include a statement of whether you intend to appear at the Final Approval Hearing (see Question 17 above).

You cannot speak at the hearing if you exclude yourself from the Settlement.

#### IF YOU DO NOTHING

#### 22. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you are a Settlement Class member and do nothing, meaning you do not file a timely Claim, you will not get benefits from the Settlement. Further, unless you exclude yourself, you will be bound by the judgment entered by the Court.

#### **GETTING MORE INFORMATION**

#### 23. How do I get more information?

This Notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. You are urged to review more details in the Settlement Agreement. For a complete, definitive statement of the Settlement terms, refer to the Settlement Agreement at www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com. You also may write with questions to the Settlement Administrator at Sunshine Life & Health Advisors Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box XXXX, XXXXX, XXXXXXX or call the toll-free number, 1-xxx-xxxx-xxxx.

### **EXHIBIT 4**

#### If You Received a Text Message from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors You May Be Entitled to a Payment from a Class Action Settlement

Si desea recibir esta notificación en español, llámenos o visite nuestra página web. A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit alleging that Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC ("Sunshine Life & Health Advisors") sent text messages to wireless telephone numbers without prior express written consent of the recipients as defined by the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.059. Sunshine Life & Health Advisors denies the allegations and any wrongdoing. The Court has not decided who is right.

Who's Included? The Settlement includes all persons who received a text message on their cell phone from Sunshine Life & Health Advisors. Specifically, the class is defined as "All persons who (1) were sent a text message (2) by or on behalf of Defendant (3) between July 1, 2021, and the date of final approval (4) regarding Defendant's goods and/or services." You received this notice because records show that you may be a Settlement Class Member.

What Are the Settlement Terms? Sunshine Life & Health Advisors has agreed to pay class members who submit a valid Claim Form and to pay for notice and administration costs of the Settlement, attorneys' fees and expenses incurred by counsel for the Settlement Class, and service awards for the named Plaintiff. Each Settlement Class Member who submits a timely, valid, correct and verified Claim Form by the Claim Deadline in the manner required by this Agreement, making all the required affirmations and representations, shall be sent a Claim Settlement Check by the Administrator in the amount of \$300.00. Settlement Class Claimants will be sent their Claim Settlement Payments to the address they submitted on their Claim Form within 60-days following the Effective Date. One claim is allowed per Settlement Class Member per cellular telephone number that was sent a text message.

How Do I Submit a Claim Form? To get a payment, you must submit a Claim Form by the deadline stated below. You may download a Claim Form at the Settlement Website, www.sunshinelifeFTSAsettlement.com, or request a Claim Form by calling the Settlement Administrator at the toll-free number below. To be valid, a Claim Form must be completed fully and accurately, signed under penalty of perjury, and submitted timely. You may submit a Claim Form by U.S. mail or file a Claim Form online. If you send in a Claim Form by U.S. mail, it must be postmarked by November 19, 2022. Claim Forms submitted online must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 19, 2022.



### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2021-020996-CA-01

LUIS ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

**CLASS ACTION** 

Plaintiff,

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

SUNSHINE LIFE & HEALTH ADVISORS LLC,

L	etendant.	
		/

## [PROPOSED] ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND CERTIFYING THE SETTLEMENT CLASS

Plaintiff, Luis Alejandro Alvarez, and Defendant Sunshine Life & Health Advisors LLC have agreed to settle this Action pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in an executed Settlement Agreement and Release. The Parties reached the Settlement through arm's-length negotiations with the help of experienced mediator, Steven Jaffe. Under the Settlement, subject to the terms and conditions therein and subject to Court approval, Plaintiff and the proposed Settlement Class will fully, finally, and forever resolve, discharge, and release their claims.

The Settlement has been filed with the Court, and Plaintiff and Class Counsel have filed an Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Settlement. Upon considering the Motion, the Settlement and all exhibits thereto, the record in these proceedings, the representations and recommendations of counsel, and the requirements of law, the Court finds that: (1) this Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the Parties to this Action; (2) the proposed Settlement Class meets the requirements of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and should be certified for settlement purposes only; (3) the persons and entities identified below should be appointed Class

Representative and Class Counsel; (4) the Settlement is the result of informed, good-faith, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and their capable and experienced counsel, and is not the result of collusion; (5) the Settlement is within the range of reasonableness and should be preliminarily approved; (6) the proposed Notice program and proposed forms of Notice satisfy Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and constitutional due process requirements, and are reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise the Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, class certification, the terms of the Settlement, Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses ("Fee Application") and request for Service Award for Plaintiff, and their rights to opt-out of the Settlement Class or object to the Settlement, Class Counsel's Fee Application, and/or the request for Service Award for Plaintiff; (7) good cause exists to schedule and conduct a Final Approval Hearing, to assist the Court in determining whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and enter the Final Approval Order, and whether to grant Class Counsel's Fee Application and request for Service Awards for Plaintiff; and (8) the other related matters pertinent to the Preliminary Approval of the Settlement should also be approved.

#### Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

- 1. As used in this Preliminary Approval Order, unless otherwise noted, capitalized terms shall have the definitions and meanings accorded to them in the Settlement.
- 2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Parties to this proceeding pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and Fla. Stat. § 26.012(2).
  - 3. Venue is proper in this Court.

#### Provisional Class Certification and Appointment of Class Representative and Class Counsel

4. It is well established that "[a] class may be certified solely for purposes of settlement [if] a settlement is reached before a litigated determination of the class certification

issue." *Borcea v. Carnival Corp.*, 238 F.R.D. 664, 671 (S.D. Fla. 2006) (internal quotation marks omitted). In deciding whether to provisionally certify a settlement class, a court must consider the same factors that it would consider in connection with a proposed litigation class – *i.e.*, all Rule 23(a) factors and at least one subsection of Rule 23(b) must be satisfied – except that the Court need not consider the manageability of a potential trial, since the settlement, if approved, would obviate the need for a trial. *Id.*; *Amchem Products, Inc. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 620 (1997).

5. The Court finds, for settlement purposes, that the Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 factors are present and that certification of the proposed Settlement Class is appropriate under Rule 1.220. The Court therefore provisionally certifies the following Settlement Class.

# All persons who (1) were sent a text message (2) by or on behalf of Defendant (3) between July 1, 2021 and the date of final approval (4) regarding Defendant's goods and/or services.

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiff's Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

- 6. Specifically, the Court finds, for settlement purposes and conditioned on final certification of the proposed class and on the entry of the Final Approval Order, that the Settlement Class satisfies the following factors of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220:
- (a) <u>Numerosity</u>: In the Action, approximately 4,260 individuals are members of the proposed Settlement Class. The proposed Settlement Class is thus so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.

- (b) <u>Commonality</u>: "[C]ommonality requires the plaintiff to demonstrate that the class members 'have suffered the same injury," and the plaintiff's common contention "must be of such a nature that it is capable of classwide resolution which means that determination of its truth or falsity will resolve an issue that is central to the validity of each one of the claims in one stroke. *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 131 S. Ct. 2541, 2551 (2011) (citation omitted). Here, the commonality requirement is satisfied. Multiple questions of law and fact centering on Defendant's class-wide practices are common to the Plaintiff and the Settlement Class, are alleged to have injured all members of the Settlement Class in the same way, and would generate common answers central to the viability of the claims were this case to proceed to trial.
- because they concern the same alleged Defendant's practices, arise from the same legal theories, and allege the same types of harm and entitlement to relief. Rule 23(a)(3) is therefore satisfied. See Kornberg v. Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc., 741 F.2d 1332, 1337 (11th Cir. 1984) (typicality satisfied where claims "arise from the same event or pattern or practice and are based on the same legal theory"); Murray v. Auslander, 244 F.3d 807, 811 (11th Cir. 2001) (named plaintiffs are typical of the class where they "possess the same interest and suffer the same injury as the class members").
- (d) Adequacy: Adequacy under Rule 1.220 relates to: (1) whether the proposed class representative has interests antagonistic to the class; and (2) whether the proposed class counsel has the competence to undertake the litigation at issue. *See Fabricant v. Sears Roebuck*, 202 F.R.D. 310, 314 (S.D. Fla. 2001). Here, adequacy is satisfied because there are no conflicts of interest between the Plaintiff and the Settlement Class, and Plaintiff has retained competent counsel to represent them and the Settlement Class. Class Counsel

regularly engage in consumer class litigation, complex litigation, and other litigation similar to this Action, and have dedicated substantial resources to the prosecution of the Action. Moreover, the Plaintiff and Class Counsel have vigorously and competently represented the Settlement Class in the Action. *See Lyons v. Georgia-Pacific Corp. Salaried Employees Rel. Plan*, 221 F.3d 1235, 1253 (11th Cir. 2000).

- (e) Predominance and Superiority: Rule 1.220 is satisfied because the common legal and alleged factual issues here predominate over individualized issues, and resolution of the common issues for the members of the Settlement Class in a single, coordinated proceeding is superior to thousands of individual lawsuits addressing the same legal and factual issues. With respect to predominance, Rule 23(b)(3) requires that "[c]ommon issues of fact and law . . . ha[ve] a direct impact on every class member's effort to establish liability that is more substantial than the impact of individualized issues in resolving the claim or claims of each class member." Sacred Heart Health Sys., Inc. v. Humana Military Healthcare Servs., Inc., 601 F.3d 1159, 1170 (11th Cir. 2010) (internal quotation marks omitted). Here, common questions present a significant aspect of the case and can be resolved for all members of the Settlement Class in a single adjudication. In a liability determination, those common issues would predominate over any issues that are unique to individual members of the Settlement Class. Moreover, each member of the Settlement Class has claims that arise from the same or similar alleged Defendant's practices as well as the same legal theories.
  - 7. The Court appoints Plaintiff Luis Alejandro Alvarez, as the Class Representative.
- 8. The Court appoints the following attorneys and firms as Class Counsel: Scott A. Edelsberg of Edelsberg Law, P.A.; Christopher Gold of Edelsberg Law, P.A.; Andrew J. Shamis of Shamis & Gentile, P.A.; and Garrett O. Berg of Shamis & Gentile, P.A.

9. The Court recognizes that Defendant reserves all of their defenses and objections against and rights to oppose any request for class certification in the event that the proposed Settlement does not become Final for any reason. Defendant also reserves its defenses to the merits of the claims asserted in the event the Settlement does not become Final for any reason.

#### Preliminary Approval of the Settlement

- 10. At the preliminary approval stage, the Court's task is to evaluate whether the Settlement is within the "range of reasonableness." 4 Newberg on Class Actions § 11.26. "Preliminary approval is appropriate where the proposed settlement is the result of the parties' good faith negotiations, there are no obvious deficiencies and the settlement falls within the range of reason." Smith v. Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co., 2010 WL 2401149, at \*2 (S.D. Fla. Jun. 15, 2010). Settlement negotiations that involve arm's length, informed bargaining with the aid of experienced counsel support a preliminary finding of fairness. See Manual for Complex Litigation, Third, § 30.42 (West 1995) ("A presumption of fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness may attach to a class settlement reached in arm's-length negotiations between experienced, capable counsel after meaningful discovery.") (internal quotation marks omitted).
- 11. The Court preliminarily approves the Settlement, together with all exhibits thereto, as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court finds that the Settlement was reached in the absence of collusion, is the product of informed, good-faith, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and their capable and experienced counsel. The Court further finds that the Settlement, including the exhibits thereto, is within the range of reasonableness and possible judicial approval, such that: (a) a presumption of fairness is appropriate for the purposes of preliminary settlement approval; and (b) it is appropriate to effectuate notice to the Settlement Class, as set forth below and in the Settlement, and schedule a Final Approval Hearing to assist

the Court in determining whether to grant Final Approval to the Settlement and enter a Final Approval Order.

#### Approval of Class Notice and the Claims Process

- 12. The Court approves the form and content of the Class notices, substantially in the forms attached to the Settlement, as well as the Claim Form attached thereto. The Court further finds that the Class Notice program described in the Settlement is the best practicable under the circumstances. The Class Notice program is reasonably calculated under the circumstances to inform the Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, certification of a Settlement Class, the terms of the Settlement, Class Counsel's attorney's fees application and the request for Service Award for Plaintiff, and their rights to opt-out of the Settlement Class or object to the Settlement. The Class notices and Class Notice program constitute sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice. The Class notices and Class Notice program satisfy all applicable requirements of law, including, but not limited to, Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and the Constitutional requirement of Due Process.
  - 13. Angeion Group shall serve as the Administrator.
- 14. The Administrator shall implement the Class Notice program, as set forth below and in the Settlement, using the Class notices substantially in the forms attached to the Settlement and approved by this Preliminary Approval Order. Notice shall be provided to the members of the Settlement Class pursuant to the Class Notice program, as specified in the Settlement and approved by this Preliminary Approval Order. The Class Notice program shall include, to the extent necessary, mail and e-mail Notice, and the Long-Form Notice, as set forth in the Settlement and below.

Notice

19. The Administrator shall administer Notice as set forth in the Settlement. The Notice shall be completed no later than 30 days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

#### Settlement Website

- 24. The Administrator shall establish a Settlement Website as a means for Settlement Class members to obtain notice of, and information about, the Settlement. The Settlement Website shall be established as soon as practicable following Preliminary Approval, but no later than before commencement of the Class Notice program. The Settlement Website shall include to the Settlement, the Long-Form Notice, the Preliminary Approval Order, and other such documents as Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant agrees to include. These documents shall remain on the Settlement Website until at least 60 days following the Claim Deadline.
- 25. The Administrator is directed to perform all substantive responsibilities with respect to effectuating the Class Notice program, as set forth in the Settlement.

#### Final Approval Hearing, Opt-Outs, and Objections

- 26. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on November 4, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. to determine whether to grant Final Approval to the Settlement and to enter a Final Approval Order, and whether Class Counsel's Fee Application and request for Service Awards for the Class Representative should be granted.
- 27. Any person within the Settlement Class who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class may exercise their right to opt-out of the Settlement Class by following the opt-out procedures set forth in the Settlement and in the Notices at any time during the Opt-Out Period. To be valid and timely, opt-out requests must be received by all those listed in the Long-Form Notice on or before the last day of the Opt-out Period, which is 20 days before the Final Approval Hearing ("Opt-Out Deadline"), and mailed to the addresses indicated in the Long Form Notice.

- Application, or the request for Service Awards for Plaintiff. Any such objections must be mailed to the Clerk of the Court, Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel, at the addresses indicated in the Long-Form Notice. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must be postmarked no later than 20 days before the Final Approval Hearing, as set forth in the Notice. To be valid, an objection must include the following information:
  - a. the name of the Action;
  - b. the objector's full name, address, and telephone number;
  - c. an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Settlement Class Member;
  - d. all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to the objector or his counsel;
  - e. the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date that the objector files the objection, the caption of each case in which the objector has made such an objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon the objector's prior such objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case;
  - f. the identity of all counsel who represent the objector, including any former or current counsel who may be entitled to compensation for any reason related to the objection to the Settlement or Fee Application;
  - g. a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon counsel's or the counsel's law firm's prior objections made by individuals or organizations represented by that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case in which the objector's counsel

- and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the preceding five years;
- h. any and all agreements that relate to the objection or the process of objecting—whether written or oral—between objector or objector's counsel and any other person or entity;
- i. the identity of all counsel (if any) representing the objector who will appear at the Final Approval Hearing;
- i. a statement confirming whether the objector intends to personally appear and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing;
- k. a list of all persons who will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection; and
- 1. the objector's signature (an attorney's signature is not sufficient).

#### Further Papers in Support of Settlement and Attorney's Fee Application

- 29. Plaintiff and Class Counsel shall file their Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, Fee Application and request for Service Awards for Plaintiff, no later than October 20, 2022, which is 15 days before the Final Approval Hearing.
- 30. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall file their responses to timely filed objections to the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Fee Application and/or request Service Awards for Plaintiffs no later than October 20, 2022, which is 15 days before the Final Approval Hearing.

#### Effect of Failure to Approve Settlement

31. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court, or for any reason the Parties fail to obtain a Final Approval Order as contemplated in the Settlement, or the Settlement is terminated pursuant to its terms for any reason, then the following shall apply:

- (a) All orders and findings entered in connection with the Settlement shall become null and void and have no further force and effect, shall not be used or referred to for any purpose whatsoever, and shall not be admissible or discoverable in any other proceeding;
- (b) Nothing in this Preliminary Approval Order is, or may be construed as, any admission or concession by or against Defendant or Plaintiff on any point of fact or law; and
- (c) Neither the Settlement terms nor any publicly disseminated information regarding the Settlement, including, without limitation, the Class Notice, court filings, orders and public statements, may be used as evidence. In addition, neither the fact of, nor any documents relating to, either Party's withdrawal from the Settlement, any failure of the Court to approve the Settlement and/or any objections or interventions may be used as evidence.

#### Stay/Bar of Other Proceedings

- 32. All proceedings in the Action are stayed until further order of the Court, except as may be necessary to implement the terms of the Settlement. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, Plaintiff, all persons in the Settlement Class, and persons purporting to act on their behalf are enjoined from commencing or prosecuting (either directly, representatively or in any other capacity) against any of the Released Parties any action or proceeding in any court, arbitration forum or tribunal asserting any of the Released Claims.
- 37. Based on the foregoing, the Court sets the following schedule for the Final Approval Hearing and the actions which must take place before and after it:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Deadline for Completion of	Oct. 5, 2022	30 days prior to Final Approval
Notice		Hearing
Deadline for filing Motion for	Oct. 20, 2022	
Final Approval of the		15 days before the Final Approval
Settlement and Class		Hearing
Counsel's Fee Application		

and expenses, and for Service		
Awards		
Deadline for opting-out of the	Oct. 15, 2022	20 days before the Final Approval
Settlement and for submission		Hearing
of Objections		
Deadline for Responses to	Oct. 20, 2022	15 days before the Final Approval
Objections		Hearing
	Nov. 4, 2022	
Final Approval Hearing		November 4, 2022 10:00 AM
Last day Class Claimants may	Nov. 19, 2022	Fifteen days after the Final
submit a Claim Form		Approval Hearing
		_

<b>DONE</b> and <b>ORDERED</b> at Miami, Florida, this day of	, 2022.
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Copies furnished to: Counsel of Record