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

CASE NO: <u>2025-005897-CA-01</u>

SECTION: CA22

JUDGE: Beatrice Butchko Sanchez

#### **Carole Dickson**

Plaintiff(s)

VS.

## **LeafFilter North LLC**

Defendant(s)

/

### AGREED ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL AND FINAL JUDGMENT

On May 22, 2025, the Court granted preliminary approval to the proposed class action settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release between Plaintiff Carole Dickson, on behalf of herself and all members of the Settlement Class, and Defendant LeafFilter North, 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. Notice was provided to the Settlement Class and the deadline for the Settlement Class to either object or exclude themselves from the terms of the Settlement has now passed, and no objections or exclusions have been received.

The Court has considered: (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 a Service Award

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to Plaintiff.

The Court has been advised that Settlement Class Members received direct Notice and notice via the Settlement Website. Additionally, no Settlement Class Member appeared at the hearing, and there have been no objections to the settlement.

## 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 an arms-length 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 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 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 she seeks to represent; (d) Plaintiff has and will

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continue to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class; (e) the questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting any individual Settlement Class Members; (f) the Settlement Class is ascertainable; and (g) a class adjudication 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 in the United States who (i) visited the website https://www.allstarpros.com between June 21, 2023 and October 31, 2023, (ii) submitted a phone number on the website https://www.allstarpros.com, (iii) did not submit a request to receive information relating to gutters, and (iv) received a telephone call from Defendant." 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 Michael Eisenband of Eisenband Law, P.A. and Manuel S. Hiraldo of Hiraldo, P.A. as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.
  - 6. The Court finally designates Plaintiff Carole Dickson 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 and the Preliminary Approval Order (i) constitute the most effective and practicable notice available in light of the facts and circumstances; (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, to be paid from

the Settlement Cap within the time period and manner set forth in the Settlement.

- 10. The Court hereby approves Class Counsel's request for attorney fees, costs, and expenses, and awards Class Counsel \$302,250 as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. The award of Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs shall be paid from the Settlement Cap within the time period and manner set forth in the Settlement.
- 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 timely and 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; (e) Class Counsel have a standard contingent fee agreement with Plaintiff, who has reviewed the Settlement Agreement and was informed of Class Counsel's fee request and has 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, 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 <u>0</u> Settlement Class Member(s) objected.
- 12. The Court awards a Service Award in the amount of \$7,500.00 to Plaintiff payable from the Settlement Cap within the time period and manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

#### VII. RELEASE OF CLAIMS

13. Upon entry of this Final Approval Order, all Settlement Class Members 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. 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 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 or future action) based on or relating to any of the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto.
- 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 the 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 Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members from all Released Claims (as that term is defined 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

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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. The Releases set forth herein and in the Settlement Agreement are not intended to include the release of any rights or duties of the 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, 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 or the facts and circumstances relating thereto.

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## 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 (including the propriety of class certification in an adversarial context) 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. All undistributed funds—that is, funds not used to pay the Claim Settlement Payments, Notice and Administrative Costs, Service Award, and Attorneys' Fees and Expenses—and uncashed checks will remain with Defendant.
- 20. 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 in the Settlement Agreement) to support a defense of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith

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settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or

similar defense or counterclaim.

21. 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.

22. 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

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.

23. 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.

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida on this <u>16<sup>th</sup> day of October</u>,

<u>2025</u>.

2025-005897-CA-01 10-16-2025 9:18 AM

Hon. Beatrice Butchko Sanchez

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

**Electronically Signed** 

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Final Order as to All Parties UCR #: <u>CA010</u> (Disposed by Judge)

THE COURT DISMISSES THIS CASE AGAINST ANY PARTY NOT LISTED IN THIS FINAL ORDER OR PREVIOUS ORDER(S). THIS CASE IS CLOSED AS TO ALL PARTIES.

## **Electronically Served:**

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