

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

RUSSELL H. DAWSON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

NAPHCARE, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

NO. 2:19-cv-01987-RSM

JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF  
NAPHCARE SETTLEMENT

NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:  
FEBRUARY 18, 2022

I. RELIEF REQUESTED

Pursuant to LCR 17(c) and Washington SPR 98.16W, all parties request that this Court approve the proposed settlement of all remaining claims against all remaining defendants, approve the allocation of the recovery for each minor beneficiary as set forth in the SGAL report, and approve the disbursement of the minors' funds into professionally managed trusts for each minor, which were previously created.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff and the remaining Defendants have reached a settlement, subject to Court approval. The Court previously appointed attorney Jennifer L. White as SGAL to investigate and report on the adequacy of the agreement on behalf of A.G., I.G., S.G., and D.G.

1 A proposed written settlement agreement, which details the terms of the proposed  
 2 settlement, is included as an exhibit to Ms. White's report. The proposed allocation of the  
 3 monetary payment between the individual beneficiaries, attorneys' fees, and reimbursement for  
 4 litigation expenses is also set forth in Ms. White's report. Further, Ms. White's report sets forth  
 5 recommendation that the minors' funds be disbursed into professionally managed trusts, which  
 6 have already been created.

### 7 III. ISSUES PRESENTED

- 9 1. Whether this Court should approve the proposed settlement agreement?
- 10 2. Whether this Court should approve the allocation of the monetary payment for each  
 11 minor into the previously established trusts, as set forth in the SGAL report?

### 12 IV. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

13 Report of SGAL Jennifer L. White, Dkt. 246 (filed under seal) and the exhibits thereto;  
 14 Declaration of J. Nathan Bingham, Dkt. 248 and the exhibits thereto; and the court file.

### 15 V. AUTHORITY

16 LCR 17(c) provides that "[i]n every case where the court is requested to approve a  
 17 settlement involving the claim of a minor or incompetent, an independent guardian ad litem, who  
 18 shall be an attorney-at-law, must be appointed by the court," to "investigate the adequacy of the  
 19 offered settlement and report thereon."  
 20

21 Washington state law has separate minor settlement requirements. *See, e.g.,* SPR  
 22 98.16W(a) ("[T]he court shall determine the adequacy of the proposed settlement on behalf of  
 23 [an unemancipated minor] and reject or approve it."); *Scott v. Pac. W. Mountain Resort*, 834  
 24 P.2d 6, 11 (1992) ("Under Washington law[,], parents may not settle or release a child's claim  
 25 without prior court approval."); *Tinket v. Kent Gypsum Supply, Inc.*, 977 P.2d 627, 628, n. 1  
 26

(1999) (“Court approval is necessary when settlements involve minors.”); *Kommavongsa v. Haskell*, 67 P.3d 1068, 1084 (2003) (Ireland, J., dissenting) (citing SPR 98.16W).

Courts typically treat the requirements of state law and LCR 17(c) as two distinct sets of requirements. *See, e.g., M.F. v. United States*, No. C13-1790JLR, 2015 WL 630946, at \*4 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 12, 2015). However, federal district courts regularly address the state and federal requirements at the same time. *See, e.g., Briscoe v. City of Seattle*, No. 2:18-cv-00262-TSZ, Dkt. 149 (W. D. Wash. April 27, 2021) (federal district court approved settlement in compliance with LCR 17 and SPR 98.16W); *M.W. v. Safeway, Inc.*, No. 2:18-CV-01404-BAT, 2019 WL 4511927, (W.D. Wash. Sept. 19, 2019) (federal district court approved settlement in compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 17 and SPR 98.16W).

The parties hereby request that the Court approve the proposed settlement under both state law and LCR 17, and also approve the allocation of the monetary payment to the minors and disbursement of the minors’ proceeds into the trusts, as set forth in Ms. White’s report.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of February, 2022.

KRUTCH LINDELL BINGHAM JONES,  
P.S.

WILLIAMS KASTNER

By: /s/ J. Nathan Bingham  
J. Nathan Bingham, WSBA #46325  
3316 Fuhrman Ave E, Suite 250  
Seattle, Washington 98102  
Telephone: (206) 682-1505  
Facsimile: (206) 467-1823  
Email: jnb@krutchlindell.com

By: /s/ Heidi Mandt  
Heidi Mandt, WSBA #26880  
1515 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97201-5449  
Telephone: (503) 228-7967  
Facsimile: (503) 222-7261  
Email: hmandt@williamskastner.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

*Attorneys for Defendants*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that on this date I caused to be served in the manner indicated a copy of the foregoing document upon the following persons:

Heidi Mandt  
 WILLIAMS KASTNER  
[hmandt@williamskastner.com](mailto:hmandt@williamskastner.com)  
[evarriano@williamskastner.com](mailto:evarriano@williamskastner.com)  
[lpavey@williamskastner.com](mailto:lpavey@williamskastner.com)

*Attorneys for Defendants NaphCare, Inc.,  
 Rebecca Villacorta, Henry Tambe, Nancy  
 Whitney, Billie Stockton, Brittany Martin,  
 Jessica Lothrop, Brooke Wallace, Sally  
 Mukwana, Joan Kosanke, Rita Whitman and  
 Virginia Richardson*

☐ Via First Class Mail, postage  
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☐ Via Facsimile  
☐ Via Messenger  
☒ Via E-Mail/E-Service

Signed in Seattle, Washington on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

Pia Kim

Pia Kim, Paralegal