

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

ALLYSON WARD, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DARREN K. INDYKE and RICHARD D.
KAHN,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:24-cv-01204-AS

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL PURSUANT TO FED.
R. CIV. P. 23(e)(1) AND PERMITTING NOTICE TO THE CLASS**

WHEREAS, an action pending before this Court is styled *Allyson Ward v. Darren K. Indyke, et al.*, No. 24-CV-1204-AS (S.D.N.Y.) (the “Litigation”);

WHEREAS, Lead Plaintiff having made a motion pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement of this Litigation, in accordance with a Settlement Agreement, dated February 19, 2026, which, together with the Exhibits annexed thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed Settlement of the Litigation between the Parties and for dismissal of the Litigation with prejudice upon, and subject to, the terms and conditions set forth therein; and the Court having read and considered: (1) the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, and the papers filed and arguments made in connection therewith, and (2) the Settlement Agreement and the exhibits annexed thereto;

WHEREAS, the Settlement will resolve the claims of all females who were sexually assaulted, abused, or trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein during the time from January 1, 1995 to August 10, 2019, whether they were minors or adults at the time of their assault, abuse, or trafficking, who have not previously executed a settlement agreement that included a release of claims against the Epstein Estate and/or Defendants, and also includes the Named Plaintiffs who, in this Litigation, did not voluntarily dismiss their claims in this Litigation.

WHEREAS, the Parties having consented to the entry of this Order; and WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined, all terms used herein have the same meanings as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Court has reviewed the Settlement Agreement and does hereby preliminarily approve the Settlement Agreement and the Settlement set forth therein as fair, reasonable, and adequate, subject to further consideration at the Settlement Hearing (as defined in ¶ 5 below).

2. The Court preliminarily finds that the proposed Settlement should be approved as it: (i) is the result of good faith, extensive arm's-length and non-collusive negotiations; (ii) falls within a range of reasonableness warranting final approval; (iii) has no obvious deficiencies; and (iv) warrants notice of the proposed Settlement to Class Members and further consideration of the Settlement at the Settlement Hearing described below.

3. Pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for purposes of this Settlement only, the Litigation is hereby preliminarily certified as a class action on behalf of all females who were sexually assaulted, abused, or trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein during the time from January 1, 1995 to August 10, 2019, whether they were minors or adults at the time of their assault, abuse, or trafficking, who have not previously executed a settlement agreement that included a release of claims against the Epstein Estate and Defendants, and also includes the Named Plaintiffs who, in this Litigation, did not voluntarily dismiss their claims.

4. For the purposes of this Settlement only, Lead Plaintiff Allyson Ward is preliminarily certified as the Class Representative and Counsel Boies Schiller Flexner LLP is preliminarily certified as Class Counsel.

5. A hearing shall be held before this Court on [September 16, 2026](#), at [2 :00 p. .m.](#) (the "Settlement Hearing"), at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to: (a) determine whether the proposed Settlement of the Litigation on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Class and should be approved by the Court; (b) determine whether a Judgment as provided in ¶ 1.15 of the Settlement Agreement should be entered; (c) determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation as described in the Settlement Agreement and Notice (as defined below) should be

approved; (d) determine the amount of attorneys' fees, costs, charges, and expenses that should be awarded to Class Counsel; (e) hear any objections by Class Members to the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, or the award of attorneys' fees and expenses to Class Counsel; and (f) consider such other matters the Court deems appropriate. The Court may adjourn or change the date and time of the Settlement Hearing without further notice to the Class.

6. The Court approves the form, substance, and requirements of the Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action ("Notice"), substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A-1.

7. The Court approves the form of the Summary Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action ("Summary Notice"), substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A-2.

8. Simone Lelchuk, Resolution Services LLC (the "Fund Administrator") is hereby appointed to supervise and administer the notice procedure as well as the processing of Questionnaires and Releases as more fully set forth below.

9. No later than ten (10) calendar days after entry of this Order, or [March 13, 2026](#) (the "Notice Date"), JND Legal Administration (or a similar class action administration company that the Fund Administrator selects) shall cause a copy of the Notice and the Questionnaire to be mailed by First-Class Mail or electronic mail to all Class Members who can be identified with reasonable effort, and to be posted on the case-designated website. For all Notices returned as undeliverable, the Fund Administrator shall use her best efforts to locate updated addresses.

10. No later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after entry of this Order, or [March 28, 2026](#), JND Legal Administration (or a similar class action administration company that the Fund Administrator selects) shall cause the Summary Notice to be published once

in *USA Today* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

11. At least forty-five (45) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing, or [August 2](#), 2026, Class Counsel shall serve on Defendants' Counsel and file with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, of such mailing and publishing.

12. The Court finds that the form and content of the notice program described herein and the methods set forth herein for notifying the Class of the Settlement and its terms and conditions, the Fee and Expense Application, and the Plan of Allocation meet the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Due Process, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all Persons entitled thereto.

13. All fees, costs, and expenses incurred in identifying and notifying Class Members shall be paid from the Qualified Settlement Account established by the Settlement Agreement.

14. All Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Litigation concerning the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the releases provided for therein) whether favorable or unfavorable to the Class, regardless of whether such Persons seek or obtain by any means (including, without limitation, by submitting a Questionnaire and Release, or any similar document) any distribution from the Net Settlement Amount.

15. In order to receive funds from the Settlement, Class Members (or Class Counsel, on their behalf) must submit a Questionnaire and Release. Unless the Court orders otherwise, all Questionnaires and Releases must be submitted electronically no later than sixty (60) calendar days from the Notice Date, or [May 12](#), 2026. If deemed eligible by the Fund Administrator, such Eligible Class Member will receive an amount as determined by the Fund Administrator based on documentary and non-documentary support for the alleged abuse or

trafficking; the circumstances, severity, type, and extent of the alleged abuse or trafficking; the nature and duration of the relationship with Epstein; the impact, harm, and consequences of the alleged conduct on an Eligible Class Member; time spent assisting the preparation or prosecution of the Litigation; participation in civil litigation; and any other factors the Fund Administrator deems relevant. Any Class Member who does not submit a Questionnaire and Release or a signed letter, notifying Fund Administrator of exclusion as provided in ¶ 3.3 of the Settlement Agreement, within the time provided shall in all other respects be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement and by any final judgment entered by the Court.

16. Any Class Member may enter an appearance in the Litigation, at his, her, or their own expense, individually or through counsel of his, her, or their own choice. If any Class Member does not enter an appearance, they will be represented by Class Counsel.

17. Any Person falling within the definition of the Class may, upon request, be excluded or “opt-out” from the Settlement Class. Any such Person must submit to the Fund Administrator a signed letter notifying the Fund Administrator by First-Class Mail. To be valid, the request for exclusion must be mailed to the Fund Administrator and postmarked no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the Notice Date, or [April 12, 2026](#). A request for exclusion must be a signed letter and state: (a) the name, address, and telephone number of the Person requesting exclusion; and (b) that the Person wishes to be excluded from the Class in this Litigation. All Persons who submit valid and timely requests for exclusion in the manner set forth in this paragraph shall have no rights under the Settlement Agreement, shall not share in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, and shall not be bound by the Settlement Agreement or the Final Judgment.

18. Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving any signed letters notifying the Fund

Administrator of exclusion, the Fund Administrator shall deliver a copy of each such letter to Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel. The Fund Administrator shall also provide any written revocation of exclusions within seven (7) calendar days of receipt.

19. Any Class Member may appear at the Settlement Hearing and object if she has any reason why the proposed Settlement of the Litigation should not be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, why a judgment should not be entered thereon, why the Plan of Allocation should not be approved, or why attorneys' fees, together with costs, charges, and expenses should not be awarded; provided that any such Class Member (or any other Person) files objections and copies of any papers and briefs with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and mails copies thereof by first-class mail to Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, Andrew Villacastin, 55 Hudson Yards, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10001; Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP, Daniel Ruzumna, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036; Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, Marc Weinstein, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004, no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Settlement Hearing, or [August 26, 2026](#). Any Class Member who does not make his, her, or its objection in the manner provided shall be deemed to have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness, reasonableness or adequacy of the proposed Settlement as incorporated in the Settlement Agreement, to the Plan of Allocation as described in the Settlement Agreement and Notice, or to the award of fees, costs, charges, and expenses to Class Counsel, or to Settlement Class Representative, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Attendance at the Settlement Hearing is not necessary. However, Persons wishing to be heard orally in opposition to the approval of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the application for an award of fees, costs, charges, and expenses are required to indicate in their written objection their intention to appear at the hearing

and to include in their written objections the identity of any witnesses they may call to testify and copies of any exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the Settlement Hearing. Class Members do not need to appear at the Settlement Hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval of the Settlement.

20. Any objections, filings, and other submissions by an objecting Class Member must: (i) state the name, address and telephone number of the Person objecting and must be signed by the objector; (ii) contain a statement of the Class Members' objection or objections, and the specific reasons for each objection, including any legal and evidentiary support the Class Member wishes to bring to the Court's attention and whether the objections applies only to the objector, a specific subset of the Class, or to the entire Class; and (iii) include documents sufficient to prove membership in the Class.

21. Any Class Member who does not object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees, costs, charges, and expenses in the manner prescribed herein and in the Notice shall be deemed to have waived such objection, and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness, adequacy, or reasonableness of the proposed Settlement, this Order and the Judgment to be entered approving the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the application by Class Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees together with costs, charges, and expenses.

22. All funds held in the Qualified Settlement Account shall be deemed and considered to be in *custodia legis* and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court until such time as such funds shall be distributed pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and/or further order(s) of the Court.

23. All papers in support of the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and any application by

Class Counsel for attorneys' fees, costs, charges, and expenses shall be filed and served no later than thirty-five (35) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing, or [August 12, 2026](#), any opposition papers thereto shall be filed and served no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing, or [August 26, 2026](#), and any reply papers shall be filed and served no later than seven (7) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing, or [September 9, 2026](#).

24. The Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility or liability for the Plan of Allocation or any application for attorneys' fees, costs, charges, or expenses submitted by Class Counsel, and such matters will be considered by the Court separately from the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.

25. At or after the Settlement Hearing, the Court shall determine whether the Plan of Allocation proposed by Class Counsel, and any application for attorneys' fees, costs, charges, and expenses, should be approved. The Court reserves the right to enter the Judgment finally approving the Settlement regardless of whether it has approved the Plan of Allocation or awarded attorneys' fees and/or costs, charges, and expenses.

26. All reasonable expenses incurred in identifying and notifying Class Members as well as administering the Qualified Settlement Account shall be paid as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. In the event the Court does not approve the Settlement, or the Settlement otherwise fails to become effective, neither Settlement Class Representative nor Class Counsel nor the Fund Administrator shall have any obligation to repay any amounts actually and properly incurred or disbursed pursuant to ¶ 4.9 of the Settlement Agreement.

27. This Order and the Settlement Agreement (including any of their respective terms or provisions), any of the negotiations, discussions, prior agreements, proceedings connected with

them, and any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the Settlement Agreement or the Settlement or this Order, may not be construed as an admission or concession by the Released Defendant Parties of the truth of any of the allegations in the Litigation, or of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind, and may not be offered or received in evidence (or otherwise used by any person in the Litigation, or in any other action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, or administrative, in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal) except in connection with any proceeding to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement or this Order. The Released Defendant Parties, Settlement Class Representative, Class Members, and each of their counsel may file the Settlement Agreement, and/or this Order, and/or the Judgment in any action that may be brought against them in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

28. All proceedings in the Litigation are stayed until further order of this Court, except as may be necessary to implement the Settlement or comply with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, neither the Settlement Class Representative nor any Class Member, either directly, representatively, or in any other capacity shall commence or prosecute any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Defendant Parties in any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal.

29. The Court reserves the right to alter the time or the date of the Settlement Hearing, or to hold the hearing via video or telephone without further notice to Class Members, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement. The Court may approve the Settlement, with such modifications as may be agreed to


by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the Class.

30. In the event this Settlement Agreement or the Settlement is terminated or the Effective Date otherwise fails to occur for any reason, the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Litigation as of December 22, 2025 and shall meet and confer regarding a new case schedule for the Litigation. In such event, the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in this Litigation or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be treated as vacated, nunc pro tunc.

31. Defendants shall, no later than ten (10) calendar days following the filing of the Settlement Agreement with the Court, serve upon the appropriate state and federal officials a notice of the proposed Settlement in compliance with the requirements of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1715. Defendants are responsible for the costs of the CAFA notice and administering the CAFA notice. At least fourteen (14) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing, Defendants shall file with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, regarding compliance with CAFA § 1715(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: [March 3, 2026](#)



THE HONORABLE ARUN SUBRAMANIAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE