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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

05/04/2026

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: A. Morales Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

CATHERINE GUTIERREZ, individually,
and on behalf of other members of the
general public similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHILDREN’S LAW CENTER OF
CALIFORNIA, a California corporation; and
DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

CATHERINE GUTIERREZ, individually,
and on behalf of other aggrieved employees
pursuant to the California Private Attorneys
General Act;

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHILDREN’S LAW CENTER OF
CALIFORNIA, a California corporation; 1
through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 22STCV01134
[*Related Case No. 22AHCV00017*]

Honorable Samantha P. Jessner
Department 7

CLASS ACTION

**[REVISED ~~PROPOSED~~] ORDER
GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: April 22, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Department: 7

Complaint Filed: January 11, 2022
PAGA Filed: January 11, 2022
Trial Date: None Set

1 This matter has come before the Honorable Samantha P. Jessner in Department 7 of the
2 Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Los Angeles, on April 22, 2026, at
3 10:00 a.m. for Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.
4 Lawyers *for* Justice, PC appears as counsel for Plaintiff Catherine Stephanie Limon (formerly,
5 Catherine Gutierrez) ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated and
6 aggrieved employees and O'Hagan Meyer LLP appear as counsel for Defendant Children's Law
7 Center of California ("Defendant").

8 The Court, having carefully considered the papers, argument of counsel, and all matters
9 presented to the Court, and good cause appearing, hereby GRANTS Plaintiff's Motion for
10 Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

11 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

12 1. The Court preliminarily approves the Class Action and PAGA Settlement
13 Agreement, attached as "**EXHIBIT 1**" to the Declaration of Brian J. St. John in Support of
14 Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, filed on January 23, 2026,
15 and the Amendment No. 1 to Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement, attached as
16 "**EXHIBIT 2**" to the Declaration of Selena Matavosian in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for
17 Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, filed on April 21, 2026 (together,
18 the "Settlement," "Agreement," or "Settlement Agreement"). This is based on the Court's
19 determination that the Settlement falls within the range of possible approval as fair, adequate, and
20 reasonable.

21 2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement,
22 and all capitalized terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in
23 the Settlement Agreement.

24 3. It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the Settlement is fair, adequate
25 and reasonable. It appears to the Court that extensive investigation and research have been
26 conducted such that counsel for the parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their and
27 each other's respective positions. It further appears to the Court that the Settlement, at this time,
28 will avoid substantial additional costs by all parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would

1 be presented by the further prosecution of the cases. It further appears that the Settlement has been
2 reached as the result of intensive, serious and non-collusive, arms-length negotiations, and was
3 entered into in good faith.

4 4. The Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement, including the allocations for the
5 Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative
6 Service Payment, PAGA Penalties, Administration Expenses Payment, and payments to the
7 Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees provided thereby, appear to be within the
8 range of reasonableness of a settlement that could ultimately be given final approval by this Court.
9 Indeed, the Court has reviewed the monetary recovery that is being granted as part of the
10 Settlement and preliminarily finds that the monetary settlement awards made available to the Class
11 Members and Aggrieved Employees are fair, adequate, and reasonable when balanced against the
12 probable outcome of further litigation relating to certification, liability, and damages issues.

13 5. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the proposed Class meets
14 the requirements for certification under section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in
15 that: (a) the Class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is
16 impracticable; (b) common questions of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined
17 community of interest amongst the members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the
18 litigation; (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d) Plaintiff
19 will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is
20 superior to other available methods for the efficient adjudication of the controversy; and (f) Class
21 Counsel is qualified to act as counsel for Plaintiff individually and as the Class Representative.

22 6. The Court conditionally certifies, for settlement purposes only, the Class, defined
23 as follows:

24 All hourly paid or non-exempt employees who performed work in California for
25 Defendant at any time from January 11, 2018 through the date the Court grants
preliminary approval of the settlement.

26 7. The Court provisionally appoints Arby Aiwazian, Joanna Ghosh, Brian St. John,
27 and Erica Stepanian of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC as Class Counsel.

28 8. The Court provisionally appoints Plaintiff Catherine Stephanie Limon (formerly,

Catherine Gutierrez) as the Class Representative.

9. The Court provisionally appoints ILYM Group, Inc. (“ILYM Group”) to handle the administration of the Settlement (“Administrator”).

10. Within fourteen (14) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval, Defendant shall provide the Administrator with the following information about each Class Member: full name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods worked by each Class member and Aggrieved Employee during the Class Period and the PAGA Period for each Class Member and PAGA Member (collectively referred to as the “Class Data”) in conformity with the Settlement Agreement.

11. The Court approves, both as to form and content, the revised Notice of Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval (“Class Notice”) attached hereto as **“EXHIBIT 1.”** The revised Class Notice shall be provided to Class Members in the manner set forth in the Settlement. The Court finds that the revised Class Notice appears to fully and accurately inform the Class Members of all material elements of the Settlement, of Class Members’ right to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a Request for Exclusion, of Class Members’ and Aggrieved Employees’ right to challenge the Workweek(s) and/or the Pay Period(s) credited to each of them, and of each Participating Class Member’s right and opportunity to object to the Class Settlement. The Court further finds that distribution of the revised Class Notice substantially in the manner and form set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order, and that all other dates set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order, meet the requirements of due process and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court further orders the Administrator to mail the revised Class Notice to all Class Members no later than fourteen (14) days after receiving the Class Data from Defendant, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

12. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the proposed procedure, set forth in the Settlement Agreement, for seeking exclusion from the Class Settlement. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) from the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion no later than the sixty (60) days after the Administrator

1 mails the revised Class Notice (“Response Deadline”) (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for
2 Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). Any Class Member who submits a Request for
3 Exclusion from the Class Settlement will not be a Participating Class Member and will not have
4 any right to object, appeal, or comment on the Class Settlement. Class Members who submit a
5 timely and valid Request for Exclusion by the Response Deadline will not be bound by the terms
6 of this Agreement, any Court order approving the terms of the Class Settlement, and the Final
7 Approval Order and Judgment entered thereon. Aggrieved Employees will be bound by the
8 PAGA Settlement, irrespective of whether they exercise their option to opt out of the Class
9 Settlement.

10 13. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on 08/31/2026,
11 2026 at 10:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ in Department 7 of the Superior Court of California for the County of
12 Los Angeles, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, to determine all
13 necessary matters concerning the Settlement, including: whether the proposed settlement of the
14 actions on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable
15 and should be finally approved by the Court; whether a judgment, as provided in the Settlement,
16 should be entered herein; whether the plan of allocation contained in the Settlement should be
17 approved as fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; and
18 determine whether to finally approve the requests for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class
19 Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, and Administration
20 Expenses Payment.

21 14. Class Counsel shall file a Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement and for
22 Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative
23 Service Payment, and Administration Expenses Payment, along with the appropriate declarations
24 and supporting evidence, including the Administrator’s declaration, by 16 court days prior,
25 ~~2026, to be heard at~~ the Final Approval Hearing.

26 15. Only Class Members who do not request exclusion from the Class Settlement
27 (“Participating Class Members”) may object to the Class Settlement by submitting an Objection
28 to the Administrator prior to the Response Deadline or by presenting their objection orally at the

1 Final Approval Hearing, regardless of whether they submitted a written Objection. The Objection
2 must be signed by the Participating Class Member and contain all information required by this
3 Settlement Agreement. A Participating Class Member who does not object prior to or at the Final
4 Approval Hearing will be deemed to have waived any objections and will be foreclosed from
5 making any objections (whether at the Final Approval Hearing, by appeal or otherwise) to the
6 Settlement.

7 16. The Settlement is not a concession or admission and shall not be used against
8 Defendant as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of any fault or omission by
9 Defendant. Nor shall it or this Order constitute any finding, decision, or determination of fault,
10 wrongdoing, or misconduct by Defendant. Whether or not the Settlement is finally approved,
11 neither the Settlement, nor any document, statement, proceeding or conduct related to the
12 Settlement, nor any reports or accounts thereof, shall in any event be construed as, offered or
13 admitted into evidence as, received as or deemed to be in evidence for any purpose adverse to the
14 Defendant, including, but not limited to, evidence of a presumption, concession, indication or
15 admission by Defendant of any liability, fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, or damage, or
16 to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with
17 state, federal, local or other applicable law, except for legal proceedings concerning the
18 implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of the Settlement.

19 17. In the event the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms
20 of the Settlement Agreement, or the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, cancelled
21 or fails to become effective for any reason, this Order shall be rendered null and void, shall be
22 vacated, and the Parties shall revert back to their respective positions as of before entering into the
23 Settlement Agreement.

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1 18. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the Final Approval
2 Hearing and any dates provided for in the Settlement Agreement without further notice to the Class
3 Members, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected
4 with the Settlement.

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

6
7 Dated: 05/04/2026

By:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Jessner".

Samantha Jessner / Judge

The Honorable Samantha P. Jessner
Judge of the Superior Court