

PAUL SPRENGER AND JANE LANG
ATTORNEYS
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Dear Health Care Professional:

A group of television writers age 40 and above recently agreed to a settlement of 19 age discrimination class action lawsuits against television networks, studios and talent agencies. I am lead counsel for the settlement class of television writers.

In order to share in the monetary settlement, class members must submit claim forms no later than April 13, 2010. Claimants may, as part of the claim submission process, seek an award enhancement for any physical, emotional or psychological effects that the claimant believes were caused by age discrimination allegedly perpetrated by the defendants, provided the Claimant saw a medical doctor, social worker, psychiatrist, psychologist or other medical professional at any time between October 22, 1996 and January 22, 2010 for the condition. Claimants who seek such an award enhancement must provide information about the condition and treatment **and provide documentation in support of each condition**. Among the types of acceptable documentation are "a letter from your doctor, or other proof of the medical condition." All of this information must be provided by April 13, 2010.

Some settlement class members have told us that they are having trouble completing their forms because their health care professionals have been reluctant to provide supporting documentation. I am writing to address two possible concerns of health care professionals.

First, any information provided will be kept strictly confidential. The only persons with access to it will be the Garden City Group (which serves as the claims administrator in this case and which is a professional claims administration company that is used to keeping submitted information confidential) and Class Counsel (who as the lawyers for settlement class members have an ethical duty to keep information submitted by their clients confidential). Defendants, other class members, writers, and other persons will not be granted access to the information.

Second, although the claim form states that claimants may be asked to provide a HIPPA release so that the Garden City Group may obtain information from claimants' medical providers directly, that type of release will be unnecessary if health care professionals provide, at the request of their patients, the requested letter or other proof of the claimant's medical condition(s). The mention of the possibility of a HIPPA release is on the claim form only so that there is recourse if a claimant does not provide acceptable documentation about the nature of his/her claimed condition and its relationship to the claimed age discrimination, and Class Counsel wishes to follow-up in an effort to document the claim so that an award enhancement can be provided. We have no interest in probing claimants' medical condition beyond the basic information sought by the question.

If you have any questions about what is needed, please feel free to contact me, Paul Sprenger, at 202-518-2021 or psprenger@sprengerandlang.com.

Sincerely,



Paul Sprenger
Lead Counsel, TV Writers Cases