

CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WHITESIDE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Mary Bowser v. Halo Branded Solutions, Inc.
Case No: 2024LA18

If you are an individual whose personal information was potentially compromised in the Data Incident suffered by HALO Branded Solutions, Inc. in November 2023, a Class Action Settlement may affect your rights.

***An Illinois Circuit Court authorized this Notice. You are not being sued.
This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.***

A Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit concerning HALO Branded Solutions, Inc. (“HALO”) and a cyber-attack incident (the “Data Incident”) that occurred in November 2023. In the Data Incident, a third-party threat actor allegedly gained unauthorized access to HALO’s systems and viewed and exfiltrated sensitive files, which may have, but did not necessarily, include the personal identifiable information of certain HALO former and current employees.

The lawsuit is titled *Mary Bowser v. HALO Branded Solutions, Inc.*, Case No. 2024LA18 and is pending in the Circuit Court for the Fourteenth Judicial District of Whiteside County, Illinois. The lawsuit asserts claims related to the Data Incident. The Defendant in the lawsuit is HALO. Defendant denies it is or can be held liable for the claims made in the lawsuit. The Settlement does not establish who is correct, but rather is a compromise between the Parties to end the lawsuit.

Members of the Settlement Class are all individuals whose personal information was compromised in the Data Incident suffered by HALO in November 2023. The Settlement Class specifically excludes: (i) HALO’s officers and directors; (iii) the affiliates, legal representatives, attorneys, successors, heirs, and assigns of Defendant; (iv) all members of the judiciary to whom this case is assigned, as well as their immediate family members; and (v) all individuals who make a timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using the correct protocol for opting out.

Settlement Class Members are eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per person, in reimbursement for Out-of-Pocket Losses stemming from the Data Incident, for persons who file a Valid Claim, as further described below. The Settlement also provides up to five (5) hours at \$30 per hour of compensation for lost time reasonably expended as a result of the Data Incident. The Settlement also provides up to \$5,000 for proven monetary Extraordinary Expenses for Settlement Class Members who have incurred Extraordinary Expenses and who submit a Valid Claim. In addition, California Settlement Subclass Members are eligible for a separate, California statutory damages award in the amount of \$75. To redeem this benefit, California Settlement Subclass Members must submit a Claim Form and attest that they were a California resident at the time of the Data Incident. Settlement Class Members are eligible to receive two (2) years of identity-theft protection and credit monitoring services, which includes: (i) three bureau credit monitoring and alerts; (ii) identity restoration and recovery services; and (iii) \$1,000,000 identity theft insurance with no deductible. This is in addition to the credit monitoring services previously offered to individuals who were notified of the Data Incident.

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-855-979-7127** TOLL-FREE OR
VISIT WWW.HALODATASETTLEMENT.COM

Your legal rights are affected regardless of whether you act or do not act. Please read this Notice carefully.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	This is the only way you may receive benefits from this Settlement. The deadline to submit a Claim Form is June 26, 2025 .
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT	By asking to be excluded, you will not share in this Settlement. This is the only option that allows you to keep any rights to sue Defendant about the same legal claims in this lawsuit. The deadline to exclude from the Settlement is May 27, 2025 .
OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT	Write to the Court explaining why you do not agree with the Settlement. The deadline to object is May 27, 2025 . You may also elect to personally appear and orally state your objection at the Final Approval Hearing.
ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING	You may ask the Court for permission for you or your attorney to speak about your objection at the Final Approval Hearing. The Final Approval Hearing will be held on July 2, 2025
DO NOTHING	By doing nothing, you forfeit the opportunity to receive any compensation and you give up any rights to sue Defendant, and certain parties related to Defendant, about the claims that have been or could have been asserted based on the facts alleged in this lawsuit.

These rights and options—**and the deadlines to exercise them**—are explained in this Notice. For complete details, please see the Settlement Agreement, whose terms control, available at www.HaloDataSettlement.com

The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the Settlement. No Settlement benefits or payments will be provided unless the Court approves the Settlement, and it becomes Final.

BASIC INFORMATION

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What is this Notice and why should I read it?

The Court authorized this Notice to inform you about a proposed Settlement with Defendant. You have legal rights and options that you may act on before the Court decides whether to approve the proposed Settlement. You may be eligible to receive a cash payment, identity-theft protection and credit monitoring as part of the Settlement. This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, and your legal rights.

Judge James F. Heuerman of the Fourteenth Circuit Court for Whiteside County, Illinois is overseeing this class action. The case is called *Mary Bowser v. HALO Branded Solutions, Inc.*, Case No. 2024LA19.

Mary Bowser, Jennifer Tanaka, and Kei Chibazakura are the Representative Plaintiffs or Settlement Class Representatives. The company they sued, HALO, is the Defendant.

What is a class action lawsuit?

A class action is a lawsuit in which one or more plaintiffs—in this case, Mary Bowser, Jennifer Tanaka, and Kei Chibazakura—sue on behalf of a group of people who have similar claims. Together, this group is called a “Settlement Class” and consists of “Settlement Class Members.” In a class action, the court resolves the issues for all class members, except those who exclude themselves from the class. After the Parties reached an agreement to settle this case, the Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement and recognized it as a case that should be treated as a class action for settlement purposes.

THE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT AND THE SETTLEMENT

What is this lawsuit about?

The Plaintiffs claim that Defendant experienced a targeted cyber-attack that allowed access to Defendant’s computer systems and data, which resulted in the compromise of personal identifiable information belonging to current and former employees.

Defendant denies that it is or can be held liable for the claims made in the lawsuit. More information about the complaint in the lawsuit and Defendant’s responses can be found in the “Court Documents” section of the settlement website at www.HaloDataSettlement.com

Why is there a Settlement?

The Court has not decided whether the Plaintiffs or Defendant should win this case. Instead, both sides agreed to this Settlement. That way, they can avoid the uncertainty, risks, and expense of ongoing litigation, and Settlement Class Members will get compensation now rather than years later—if ever. The Representative Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs’ Counsel, attorneys for the Settlement Class Members, agree the Settlement is in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members. The Settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing by Defendant.

WHO’S INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

How do I know if I am in the Settlement Class?

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-855-979-7127** TOLL-FREE OR
VISIT WWW.HALODATASETTLEMENT.COM

You are part of the Settlement as a Settlement Class Member if your personal information was compromised in the Data Incident suffered by HALO in November 2023. Eligible Settlement Class Members will have been mailed notice of their eligibility and Settlement Class membership will be verified against that mailed list. If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can contact the Claims Administrator by calling toll-free at **1-855-979-7127** or by visiting the settlement website at www.HaloDataSettlement.com.

This Settlement Class does not include: (i) HALO's officers and directors; (ii) the affiliates, legal representatives, attorneys, successors, heirs, and assigns of Defendant; (iii) all members of the judiciary to whom this case is assigned, as well as their immediate family members; and (iv) all individuals who make a timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using the correct protocol for opting out.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

What does the Settlement provide?

This Settlement provides reimbursement for the following documented out-of-pocket losses and lost time, if not already reimbursed through any other source and caused by the Data Incident, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per Settlement Class Member: (i) unreimbursed documented bank fees; (ii) unreimbursed long distance phone charges; (iii) unreimbursed cell phone call charges (only if charged by the minute) and data charges (only if charged based on amount of data used); (iv) postage; (v) gasoline for local travel; (vi) fees for credit reports, credit monitoring, or other identity theft insurance product purchased between November 1, 2023 and the date of the close of the Claims Period. The Settlement also provides compensation for attested-to unreimbursed lost time spent reasonably responding to the Data Security Incident, at the rate of thirty dollars (\$30) per hour for up to five (5) hours. Members of the Settlement Class must attest on the Claim Form to the time spent. No documentation other than a verified description of their actions shall be required for members of the Settlement Class to receive compensation for attested time.

Additionally, HALO shall reimburse, as provided for below, each Settlement Class Member in the amount of his or her proven loss, but not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per claim (and only one claim per Settlement Class Member), for a monetary out-of-pocket loss that occurred as a result of the Data Incident if: (a) the loss is an actual, documented, and unreimbursed monetary loss; (b) the loss was fairly traceable to the Data Security Incident; (c) the loss occurred after November 1, 2023 and before the date of the close of the Claims Period; (d) the loss is not already covered by the "Compensation for Ordinary Losses" category; and (e) the claimant made reasonable efforts to avoid or seek reimbursement for the loss, including, but not limited to, exhaustion of all available credit monitoring insurance and identity theft insurance. The total of all amounts recovered under this paragraph shall not exceed \$5,000 per Settlement Class Member. Settlement Class Members with claims under this paragraph may also submit claims for benefits for documented out-of-pocket losses and lost time.

In addition to the above benefits, California Settlement Subclass Members are eligible for a separate, California statutory damages award. The amount awarded to California Settlement Subclass Members who submit a Valid Claim shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75). To redeem this \$75 benefit, California Settlement Subclass Members must submit a Claim Form and attest that they were a California resident at the time of the Data Incident about which they were notified by HALO.

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Settlement Class Members are eligible to receive two (2) years of identity-theft protection and credit monitoring services, which includes three bureau credit monitoring and alerts. This is in addition to the credit monitoring services previously offered to individuals who were notified of the Data Incident. Settlement Class Members must affirmatively request identity-theft protection services by indicating such request on the Claim Form, and codes will be sent either to an e-mail address provided by the Settlement Class Members or, if they do not have an e-mail address, mailed to the address provided on the Claim Form. Protection and monitoring provided shall include, at a minimum:

1. Credit monitoring at all three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.
2. Identity restoration and recovery services.
3. \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible.

Settlement Class Members can enroll for these identity protection and credit monitoring services whether or not they are eligible for a monetary recovery under this Settlement.

HOW TO GET BENEFITS

How do I make a Claim?

To qualify for a Settlement benefit, you must complete and submit a Claim Form. Settlement Class Members who want to submit a Claim must fill out and submit a Claim Form online at www.HaloDataSettlement.com or by USPS mail. Claim Forms are only available through the settlement website at www.HaloDataSettlement.com.

Claims will be subject to a verification process. You will need the Class Member ID provided on the front of your Short Notice to fill out a Claim Form. **All Claim Forms must be received online or postmarked on or before June 26, 2025.**

When will I get my payment?

The hearing to consider the fairness of the Settlement is scheduled for **July 2, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.** If the Court approves the Settlement, eligible Settlement Class Members whose Claims were approved by the Claims Administrator will be sent payment after all appeals and other reviews, if any, are completed. Please be patient. Eligible claims will be paid to Settlement Class Members electronically unless a Settlement Class Member chooses to receive payment by written check. All checks will expire and become void 120 days after they are issued.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes, the Court has appointed Gary M. Klinger of Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, PLLC, Terence R. Coates of Markovits, Stock, & DeMarco, LLC, and M. Anderson Berry of Clayco C. Arnold, APC. as “Class Counsel” to represent the Settlement Class.

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Should I get my own lawyer?

You don't need to hire your own lawyer because Class Counsel is working on your behalf. These lawyers and their firms are experienced in handling similar cases. You will not be charged for these lawyers. You can ask your own lawyer to appear in Court for you, at your own cost, if you want someone other than Class Counsel to represent you.

How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel has agreed to request, and HALO has agreed to pay, subject to Court approval, the amount of two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and costs and expenses. Class Counsel, in their sole discretion, shall allocate and distribute the amount of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses awarded by the Court among Class Counsel. The Defendant shall pay the Court-approved amount of attorney's fees, costs, expenses and service awards to Representative Plaintiffs to an account established by Class Counsel within 45 days after the entry of an order of Final Approval (the "Initial Payment Date"), regardless of any appeal that may be filed or taken by and Settlement Class Member or third party.

Class Counsel will also request Service Award Payments of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each of the Plaintiff Representatives. The Court will determine the proper amount of any attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses to award Class Counsel and the proper amount of any service award to the Plaintiff Representatives. The Court may award less than the amounts requested. Whether the Settlement will be finally approved does not depend on whether or how much the Court awards in attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses or service awards.

YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

What claims do I give up by participating in this Settlement?

If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will not be able to sue the Defendant or certain entities related to Defendant about the issues in this case, and you will be bound by all decisions made by the Court in this case, the Settlement, and its included release. The release releases:

Defendant and related persons and entities from any and all claims and causes of action pleaded or that could have been pleaded, known or unknown, reasonably related to the Data Security Incident as alleged in the Class Action Complaint filed in this action.

This is true regardless of whether you submit a Claim Form. You can read the Settlement Agreement at www.HaloDataSettlement.com. However, you may exclude yourself from the Settlement. If you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will not be bound by any of the terms of the Settlement.

What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing, you will receive no payment under the Settlement for any losses incurred as a result of the Data Incident. You will be in the Settlement Class, and if the Court approves the Settlement, you will also be bound by all orders and judgments of the Court, the Settlement, and its included Release. You will be deemed to have participated in the Settlement. Unless you exclude yourself, you won't be able to file a lawsuit or be part of any other lawsuit against

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Defendant or certain entities related to the Defendant for the claims or legal issues resolved in this Settlement.

What happens if I ask to be excluded?

If you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will receive no benefits or payment under the Settlement. However, you will not be in the Settlement Class and will not be legally bound by the Court's judgments related to the Settlement Class and Defendant in this class action.

How do I ask to be excluded?

You can ask to be excluded from the Settlement. To do so, you must send a letter or exclusion form stating: (1) the name of the proceeding, *Mary Bowser v. HALO Branded Solutions, Inc.*, Case No. 2024LA19. (2) your full name; (3) your current address; (4) your personal signature; and (5) the words "Request for Exclusion" or a comparable statement that the individual does not wish to participate in the Settlement at the top of the communication. You must mail your exclusion request, postmarked no later than **May 27, 2025**, to the following address:

Halo Data Settlement
c/o RG/2 Claims Administration
P.O. Box 59479
Philadelphia, PA 19102-9479

You cannot exclude yourself by phone or email. Each individual who wants to be excluded from the Settlement must submit his or her own exclusion request. No group opt-outs shall be permitted.

If I don't exclude myself, can I sue Defendant for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue Defendant for the claims being resolved by this Settlement even if you do nothing.

If I exclude myself, can I get anything from this Settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself, do not submit a Claim Form to ask for a payment.

How do I object to the Settlement?

If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you can object to the Settlement if you do not agree with any part of it. You can give reasons why you think the Court should deny approval of the Settlement by filing an objection. The objection may be in writing unless you personally appear and orally state your objection at the Final Approval Hearing. All written objections must include (i) the objector's full name, address, telephone number, and email address (if any); (ii) the case name and docket number, *Mary Bowser v. HALO Branded Solutions, Inc.*, Circuit Court for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Whiteside County, Illinois Case No. 2024LA18 (Lead), consolidated with Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Case No. 2024LA19; (iii) information identifying the objector as a Settlement Class Member, including proof that the objector is a member of the Settlement Class (e.g., copy of original notice of the Data Incident or a statement explaining why the objector believes he or she is a Settlement Class Member); (iv) a written statement of all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection the objector believes applicable; (v) the identity of all counsel representing the

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objector in connection with the objection; (vi) a statement whether the objector and/or his or her counsel will personally appear at the Final Approval Hearing; and (vii) the objector's signature or the signature of the objector's duly authorized attorney or other duly authorized representative.

To be timely, written notice of an objection in the appropriate form must be mailed, with a postmark date no later than May 27, 2025, to Class Counsel and to HALO's counsel as set forth below. For all objections mailed to Class Counsel and counsel for HALO, Class Counsel will file them with the Court with the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement:

Plaintiff's Counsel	Defense Counsel
Terence R. Coates Markovits, Stock, & DeMarco, LLC 119 E. Court Street, Suite 530 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	Kevin M. Hogan Polsinelli PC 150 N. Riverside Plaza, Suite 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60606

What's the difference between objecting and excluding myself from the Settlement?

Objecting simply means telling the Court that you don't like something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Settlement Class. Excluding yourself from the Settlement Class is telling the Court that you don't want to be part of the Settlement Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the case no longer affects you.

THE COURT'S FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

When and where will the Court hold a hearing on the fairness of the Settlement?

The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing on **July 2, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.** at the Whiteside County Courthouse, Courtroom B, 200 E. Knox Street, Morrison, IL. The purpose of the hearing is for the Court to determine whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. At the hearing, the Court will hear any objections and arguments concerning the fairness of the proposed Settlement, including those related to the amount requested by Plaintiffs' Counsel for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses and the Service Award Payments to the Settlement Class Representatives.

Note: The date and time of the Final Approval Hearing are subject to change by Court Order. Any changes will be posted at the settlement website, www.HaloDataSettlement.com, or through the Court's publicly available docket. You should check the settlement website to confirm the date and time have not been changed.

Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have, but you are welcome to attend the hearing at your own expense. If you send an objection, you don't have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as your written objection was filed or mailed on time and meets the other criteria described in the Settlement, the Court will consider it. You may also pay a lawyer to attend on your behalf at your own expense, but you don't have to.

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May I speak at the Hearing?

Yes. If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Final Approval Hearing concerning any part of the proposed Settlement.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

Where can I get additional information?

This Notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement, which is available at www.HaloDataSettlement.com.

YOU MAY CONTACT THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR ONLINE AT www.HaloDataSettlement.com BY CALLING TOLL-FREE AT, **1-855-979-7127** OR WRITING TO:

Halo Data Settlement
c/o RG/2 Claims Administration
P.O. Box 59479
Philadelphia, PA 19102-9479

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT, THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, OR THE DEFENDANT WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OR CLAIMS PROCESS.

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