

Notice of Settlement of Class Action Litigation Brought by Trustee Against Net Winners in TelexFree

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A Federal Court authorized this Notice.

- Under the laws of the United States, participants in a Ponzi and/or pyramid scheme who received more money from their involvement in the scheme than they invested, are typically required to return the excess, even if there was no fraudulent intent. Such participants are commonly called “Net Winners”.
- Stephen B. Darr, the Trustee in TelexFree, has brought two lawsuits against alleged Net Winners in TelexFree (the “Net Winner Litigation”). Net Winners are Participants in TelexFree who received more money from their involvement than they invested.
- The Bankruptcy Court approved two defendant class actions, one for all Net Winners located in the United States (A.P. No. 16-4006, the “Domestic Action”) and one for all Net Winners located outside of the United States (A.P. No. 16-4007, the “Foreign Action”). A defendant class action means that there is one Plaintiff (the Trustee) and many defendants.
- The Court appointed Frantz Balan as the Class Representative in the Domestic Action and Marco Puzzarini and Sandro Paulo Freitas as Class Representatives in the Foreign Action. The law firm of Milligan, Rona, Duran & King, LLC have been appointed Class Counsel in both actions.
- A settlement of the class components of the Net Winner Litigation has been reached. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached.
- **You are receiving this Notice because you are a defendant in either the Domestic or Foreign Action. In other words, the Trustee claims that you are a Net Winner. The Trustee is seeking to collect money from you.**
- Your legal rights will be affected whether you act or do not act. This Notice includes information on the settlement. Please read the entire Notice carefully.
- The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the settlement.
- **This Notice and additional information concerning the settlement are available at <https://trusteeclaim.telexfreeclaims.com>.**

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS CONCERNING APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT	
OBJECT BY FEBRUARY 20, 2025	If you object to the settlement and/or the requested attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, you must submit an objection explaining why you disagree with the settlement and/or the requested attorneys' fees and litigation expenses.
ATTEND THE HEARING ON MARCH 6, 2025	You may attend the hearing on approval of the settlement in person or by Zoom to speak to the Court about any aspect of the settlement and/or the requested attorneys' fees and litigation expenses.
DO NOTHING	You will have an opportunity to exercise any rights that are preserved under the Settlement Agreement but you will otherwise be bound by the terms of the settlement.

WHAT THIS NOTICE CONTAINS

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DEFINITIONS

“Credit Transfer” shall mean a transaction in which a Participant transfers credits from his/her User Account to another Participant’s User Account.

“Direct Transaction” shall mean a transaction in which a Participant: (a) paid Cash to TelexFree to satisfy an invoice; (b) paid Cash to TelexFree to purchase credits; or (c) received Cash from TelexFree for the redemption of credits.

“Lowest Rep ID” shall mean the lowest numbered Rep ID within a User Account Cluster.

“Net Winnings” shall mean the aggregate amount of Cash allegedly received by a Participant through Direct Transactions and Triangular Transactions in excess of the aggregation amount of Cash allegedly paid by that Participant in Direct Transactions and Triangular Transactions.

“Rep ID” shall mean the unique User Account identifier in the TelexFree database that auto-incremented as new User Accounts were created.

“Triangular Transaction” shall mean a transaction in which a recruiting Participant used his/her credits to purchase a membership plan for a recruited Participant, and the recruited Participant paid Cash to the recruiting Participant in an amount equal to the cost of the membership plan.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this Notice?

The Trustee’s records indicate that you may be a Net Winner from your participation in TelexFree.

A “Net Winner” is someone who received more cash from TelexFree or other participants than they paid in cash to TelexFree or other participants.

You have the right to know about the case and about your legal rights and options before the Court decides whether to approve the proposed settlement.

This Notice explains the litigation, the settlement, and your legal rights.

The litigation is before Chief Judge Elizabeth D. Katz of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts. The cases are called:

Stephen Darr, Trustee v. Franz Balan, Representative of a Class of Defendant Net Winners (A.P. No. 16-4006) and

Stephen Darr, Trustee v. Marco Puzzarini and Sandro Paulo Freitas, Representatives of a Class of Defendant Net Winners (A.P. No. 16-4007). The Trustee, who brought these suits, is called the Plaintiff. The Defendants are any TelexFree participants who are alleged to be Net Winners.

2. Who are the Defendants?

The Defendants are all alleged Net Winners of TelexFree. If you are receiving this Notice, the Trustee alleges that you are a Net Winner.

3. What is this lawsuit about?

The Trustee alleges that the people receiving this Notice are Net Winners in TelexFree. The Trustee has brought these suits to recover the excess cash that Net Winners made from their involvement in TelexFree, so that such money can be distributed evenly to Net Losers, being those participants who lost money through their involvement in TelexFree.

4. What is the status of the litigation?

In May 2024, the Bankruptcy Court held three days of trial on issues in contest in this litigation. Before the Court entered its rulings, the Trustee and the Class Representatives reached a settlement. The terms of the settlement are discussed below.

5. What is a class action?

This case is referred to as a “Defendant Class Action” because there is only one Plaintiff (the Trustee) and thousands of defendants who are being sued by the Trustee. This is different from a typical class action where there are many Plaintiffs suing a single Defendant for a common loss or injury.

THE SETTLEMENT CLASS

6. How do I know if I’m part of the Settlement Class?

If you are receiving this Notice, the Trustee has identified you as a Net Winner in the Net Winner Litigation.

7. What are the terms of the proposed settlement?

The Settlement Agreement resolves the class action components of the Net Winner Litigation. The terms of the settlement are set forth in the attached Settlement Agreement. A brief summary of the terms of the Settlement Agreement are provided below. Please refer to the Settlement Agreement for all relevant terms of the settlement.

1. The Trustee claimed that Net Winners should be responsible for 100% of money received in net Direct Transactions and 100% of money received in net Triangular Transactions. This is referred to as “Presumed Net Winnings”.
2. Among other defenses, the Class Representatives disputed the method by which alleged Net Winners were identified and how their Net Winnings were calculated. Class Representatives also pointed to an alleged inconsistency that purchase and sale of credits are ignored while the purchase and sale of membership accounts are included. As part of the settlement, the Trustee and the Class Representatives agreed that a Net Winner’s liability will not exceed the sum of: (a) 100% of net Direct Transactions; (b) 85% of net Triangular Transactions; and (c) 85% of net Credit Transfers. This is referred to as the “Maximum Liability”.
3. The Settlement Amount of the Maximum Liability (“Settlement Amount”) shall be equal to:
 - (i) 0% of Maximum Liability between \$0 and \$24,999;
 - (ii) 33% of Maximum Liability between \$25,000 and \$99,999;
 - (iii) 25% of Maximum Liability between \$100,000 and \$249,999; and
 - (iv) 20% of Maximum Liability greater than \$250,000.
4. If a Net Winner elects the Settlement Option, they shall be required to either: (a) pay the Settlement Amount, discounted by twenty percent (20%) if paid within 90 days of accessing the Electronic Portal; or (b) pay the full Settlement Amount in installments, with interest.

5. The Trustee shall establish an “Electronic Portal” where Participants can get access to the User Accounts attributed to them and the amount of Direct Transactions, Triangular Transactions, and Net Credit Transfers for such User Accounts. Net Winners can then elect to either settle the claim (the “Settlement Option”) or dispute their liability to the Trustee.
6. Class Representatives shall receive a \$15,000 credit against their Settlement Amount.
7. Alternatively, rather than settling, a Net Winner may contest their Maximum Liability. In such case, the Trustee shall be deemed to have established his *prima facie* case that:
 - (a) the name associated with the Lowest Rep ID identifies the owner of a User Account Cluster;
 - (b) the User Account Cluster correctly aggregates the User Accounts of the Net Winner; and
 - (c) the Direct Transactions, Triangular Transactions, and Credit Transfer shown on the Electronic Portal are accurate (the “Gross Net Winnings”).

If a Net Winner wants to contest the obligation to pay the Maximum Liability, they may challenge the following: (i) ownership of the User Account Cluster; (ii) ownership of any User Accounts within the User Account Cluster; (iii) whether any particular Triangular Transaction was for anything other than cash in the amount calculated; (iv) whether any particular Credit Transfer was for anything other than cash in the amount calculated. In that case, the amount that the Net Winner owes will be the total of the Gross Net Winnings, less the amount of any transactions successfully challenged by the Net Winner, but in no event will liability be more than the Maximum Liability.

If a Participant elects to contest the Maximum Liability, the Participant forfeits the right to exercise any of the discounts available in Sections 3, 4, and 6 above.

8. Class Counsel shall receive an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the TelexFree estates for accrued and unpaid fees and expenses, provided that no further amounts shall be paid by the TelexFree estate to any professionals retained by the Defendant Classes or their Class Representatives.

<p><u>8.</u> What are my rights in the Settlement Class?</p>

Take No Action: If you have no objection to the Settlement Agreement, you do not need to take any action at this time. The Settlement Agreement resolves the class wide issues in the Net Winner Litigation. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is approved, you will be given access to the Electronic Portal to review the Trustee’s calculation of your Net Winnings and you will have all of the rights provided to you under the Settlement Agreement, including the right to settle the Trustee’s case against you under the Settlement Option, explained above.

File an Objection: You can ask the Court to deny approval of the settlement by filing an objection.

You may object to the proposed settlement in writing. You may also appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through your own attorney. If you appear through your own attorney, you are responsible for paying that attorney.

All written objections must be made under penalty of perjury and the supporting papers must include:

- a) A heading that clearly identifies the case name and number (*Stephen Darr, Trustee v. Franz Balan, Representative of a Class of Defendant Net Winners (A.P. No. 16-4006) and Stephen Darr, Trustee v. Marco Puzzarini and Sandro Paulo Freitas, Representatives of a Class of Defendant Net Winners (A.P. No. 16-4007)*);
- b) The objector's name, address, telephone number, and the contact information for any attorney retained in connection with the objection or otherwise in connection with the Net Winner Litigation;
- c) A detailed statement of the specific factual and legal basis for the objection to the Settlement Agreement;
- d) A statement as to whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through counsel, and, if through counsel, identifying the counsel by name, address, and telephone number;
- e) A list of and copies of any exhibits which the objector may seek to use at the Final Approval Hearing;
- f) A list of any legal authority the objector may present at the Final Approval Hearing; and
- g) The objector's signature executed under penalty of perjury.

Objections must be filed with the Clerk's Office, United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts, United States Courthouse, 300 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105. on or before **February 20, 2025** with copies served upon: (i) counsel to the Trustee, Murphy & King, P.C., Attn: Andrew Lizotte, 28 State Street, 31st Floor, Boston, MA 02109, ALizotte@murphyking.com; and (ii) counsel to the Class Representatives, Milligan, Rona, Duran & King, LLC, Attn: Ilyas Rona, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109, telexfree@mrdklaw.com

THE SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

9. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on **March 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** to determine if the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved pursuant to FRCP 23(e) and FRBP 105 and 9019 ("Final Approval Hearing"). The Final Approval Hearing will be conducted in person at the United States Bankruptcy Court, United States Courthouse, Donahue Federal Building, 595 Main Street, Courtroom 3, Worcester, MA 01608-2076 and by Zoom.gov videoconference.

Parties in interest who wish to participate in the Final Approval Hearing through Zoom must, by March 3, 2025, email the Courtroom Clerk at stephen_reynolds@mab.uscourts.gov requesting remote participation, providing their name, the party they represent, and whether or not they will be an active participant in the hearing or only observing. Participation by video is only permitted by parties in interest. All other parties who wish to attend the hearing must attend in person. The hearing may be moved to a different date or time without additional notice, so it is a good idea to check the settlement website for information. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the settlements are fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there

are objections, the Court will consider them at that time. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the settlements. We do not know how long this decision will take.

10. Do I have to attend the hearing?

If you object to the settlement, you should attend the hearing or have an attorney attend on your behalf, at your own expense. You may attend the hearing by Zoom.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

11. Do I need to retain a lawyer in connection with Settlement Approval?

You have the right to retain your own lawyer, at your own expense, to assist you in deciding whether you want to take action or file an objection to the settlement. The Court has appointed the law firm of Milligan, Rona, Duran & King, LLC as Class Counsel for the Defendant Classes concerning the resolution of issues that affect all Defendant Classes, including the negotiation of the settlement. You do not have to pay Class Counsel for this work.

If the settlement is approved, you are also free to retain your own lawyer, at your own expense, as to your individual case regarding your Net Winnings, or you can retain Class Counsel, at your own expense, to represent you individually.

The contact information for Class Counsel is as follows:

Ilyas J. Rona, Esq.
Michael J Duran, Esq.
Milligan, Rona, Duran & King, LLC
28 State Street, Suite 802
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 395-9570
telexfree@mrkdclaw.com

12. How will Class Counsel be paid in connection with Settlement Approval?

Under the Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel will receive an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the TelexFree estates. Class Counsel will not be entitled to receive any additional monies from the TelexFree estates. You are not obligated to pay Class Counsel, unless you choose to retain them on an individual basis in connection with your individual Net Winnings.

If the settlement is approved, you are also free to retain your own lawyer, including Class Counsel, at your own expense, as to your individual Net Winnings.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

13. How do I get more information?

This Notice summarizes the proposed settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the settlement, please see the Settlement Agreement at <https://trusteeclaim.telexfreeclaims.com>.

You can also get more information by contacting Class Counsel at the address listed above, by accessing the Court docket in this case through the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/>, or by visiting the office of the Clerk of the Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts at: (i) United States Courthouse, 300 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105, (ii) John W. McCormack Post Office and Court House, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 1150, Boston, MA 02109-3945; or (iii) Donahue Federal Building, 595 Main Street, Room 311, Worcester, MA 01608-2076, Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS.

Dated: November 19, 2024

Andrew Lizotte

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