

Michelle Perez

From: Sue Jennings <Sue.Jennings@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:04 AM
To: Michelle Perez
Cc: Opioids
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: NOTICE: KROGER OPIOID SETTLEMENT
Attachments: Kroger Subdivision Participation Form 10.30.24.pdf



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From: Opioids <opioids@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:05 PM
To: Opioids <opioids@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: NOTICE: KROGER OPIOID SETTLEMENT



TO LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEW OPIOID SETTLEMENT WITH KROGER.
SUBDIVISIONS MUST SUBMIT SIGNED DOCUMENTATION TO PARTICIPATE.
THE DEADLINE FOR PARTICIPATION IS DECEMBER 29, 2024.

This letter is part of the formal notice required by the Settlement.

If your subdivision is represented by an attorney with respect to opioid claims, please immediately contact them.

Please note that this settlement is a **NEW** opioid settlement; your subdivision may have previously submitted documents for the Distributors, Janssen/J&J, Endo, Teva, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and Mallinckrodt settlements.

To participate in the Kroger settlement, you will need to submit new documentation.

WHY IS YOUR SUBDIVISION RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

You are receiving this letter because Texas settled with Kroger, and your subdivision may participate in this Settlement. This notice is being sent directly to subdivisions who are not litigating against Kroger. If you are represented by an attorney with respect to opioid claims, please immediately contact them. Please note that there is no need for subdivisions to be represented by an attorney or to have filed a lawsuit to participate in the Settlement.

Your subdivision may have already signed on to other opioid settlements and adopted the Texas Term Sheet. **If so, do not disregard this notice. This is a new settlement with Kroger.** If you have already signed on to the Kroger Settlement, you may disregard this notice.

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENTS?

All required documentation must be executed and submitted to the email address: opioids@oag.texas.gov. Your subdivision will need to submit the **Subdivision Participation Form** for the Kroger settlement to opioids@oag.texas.gov. Please also be sure to include in the Form the identity and email address of the individual who is authorized to sign formal and binding documents on behalf of your subdivision.

SETTLEMENT OVERVIEW

The proposed Settlement requires Kroger to pay \$83 million (the "Settlement Amount") to Texas and its political subdivisions. Of the Settlement Amount, the vast majority is earmarked for use by Texas and its subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis. The Settlement also contains injunctive relief provisions governing the opioid marketing as well as the sale and dispensing practices at the heart of the opioid claims in the lawsuits.

The subdivisions within Texas are entitled to decide whether they wish to participate in the settlement. Any subdivision that does not participate cannot directly share in any of the settlement funds.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

This email is intended to provide a brief overview of the Settlement. Detailed information about the Settlement may be found at the website set up by Office of the Attorney General of Texas: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/globalopioidsettlement>.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE

Texas and the Litigating Political Subdivisions in Texas support of this settlement.

Subdivision participation is strongly encouraged, for the following reasons:

First, the amounts to be paid under the Settlement, while insufficient to abate the epidemic fully, will contribute to allowing Texas and its local governments to commence with meaningful change designed to curb opioid

addiction, overdose, and death, following on the Distributors and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen settlements from 2021, the Teva and Endo settlements from 2022, the Mallinckrodt bankruptcy settlement in 2023, and the Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens settlements from 2023;

Second, time is of the essence. The opioid epidemic continues to devastate communities around the country, and it is critical that the funds begin to flow to allow governments to address the epidemic in their communities ***as soon as possible***; and

Third, you know first-hand the effects of the opioid epidemic on your community. Funds from this settlement will be used to commence abatement of the crisis and provide relief to your citizens while litigation and settlement discussions proceed against numerous other defendants in the opioid industry.

HOW WILL SETTLEMENT FUNDS BE ALLOCATED IN TEXAS?

The Texas Term Sheet, which sets the allocation between subdivisions and the State, can be found on the Texas Attorney General's website. Any questions concerning the status or terms of the Texas Term Sheet and allocations in Texas can be directed to the Texas Attorney General's Office.

You may be contacted by the Texas Attorney General's Office with additional information regarding the allocation of settlement funds in Texas. Subdivisions with representation can expect information from their attorneys. We encourage you to review all materials and to follow up with any questions. The terms of these settlements are complex, and we want to be sure you have all the information you need to make your decision.

As with the other opioid settlements, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Texas Opioid Council will disburse funds to participating political subdivisions in Texas.

NEXT STEPS

This settlement requires that you take affirmative steps to 'opt in' to the settlement. If you do not act, you will not receive any settlement funds.

First, have your authorizing person(s) or body begin to review the materials on the website concerning the settlement agreement terms and the Texas Term Sheet. Develop a list of questions for your counsel or the Texas Attorney General's Office. Your subdivision will need to begin the process of deciding whether to participate in the proposed settlement, and subdivisions are encouraged to work through this process well before the **December 29, 2024**, deadline. Again, the Texas Attorney General's Office, your counsel, and other contacts within the state are available to discuss the specifics of the settlements within your state and we encourage you to discuss the terms and benefits of the settlements with them.

Second, should you decide to proceed with participating, your subdivision will need to submit your signed Subdivision Participation Form to opioids@oag.texas.gov.

NOTE: If your subdivision has not already done so, your subdivision will need to adopt the Texas Term Sheet and its intrastate allocation schedule. If your subdivision has previously signed on to the Distributors, J&J/Janssen, Endo, Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens settlements, you will have already adopted the Texas Term Sheet. There is no need to readopt the Texas Term Sheet. If you have NOT adopted the Texas Term Sheet, please contact opioids@oag.texas.gov.

We urge you to view the Texas Attorney General’s website at your earliest convenience. Information and documents regarding the settlement can be found on the settlement website at: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/globalopioidsettlement>

Questions regarding the opioid settlements can be directed to: opioids@oag.texas.gov.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. My subdivision already signed up for opioid settlements, is that good enough for these new settlements?

No, you will need to submit a new **Subdivision Participation Form** for the Kroger Settlement; opting into the other settlements does not sign you up for this one.

2. Does my subdivision need to pass a resolution to sign up for this settlement?

This depends on the specifics of what your county or city is required to do to release legal claims. If your city manager, for example, is authorized to generally enter into opioid settlements, you may not need a resolution. Consult your legal counsel for advice.

If your subdivision has already adopted the Texas Term Sheet to sign on to a previous opioid settlement, you do NOT need to adopt an additional resolution to readopt the Texas Term Sheet.

3. When will my subdivision receive funds from this settlement and/or the other settlements?

Funds for the Distributors, J&J/Janssen, Endo, Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens, and Mallinckrodt settlements have been paid to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Texas Opioid Council, and those funds continue to be distributed to participating subdivisions.

4. How much will my subdivision receive from the Kroger Settlement?

If you have questions about your subdivision’s individual allocation amount, please contact opioids@oag.texas.gov.

5. What are all the different Texas opioid settlements?

Here is a summary of all the opioid settlements between Texas and its political subdivisions and the various manufacturers, distributors, and retail pharmacies:

Date Announced	Company	Amount
February 2021	McKinsey	\$38.4 million
July 2021	AmerisourceBergan, Cardinal Health, and McKesson	\$1.271 billion
July 2021	Janssen	\$296.9 million
December 2021	Endo	\$63 million
February 2021	Teva	\$150 million plus \$75 million in product plus \$57 million from MFN
June 2021	Mallinckrodt	\$26.6 million
December 2022	Allergan	\$135.7 million

December 2022	Walmart	\$170 million
December 2022	CVS	\$300.3 million
December 2022	Walgreens	\$326.6 million
February 2024	Publicis	\$21.5 million
October 2024	Kroger	\$83 million
Total	13 companies	\$3.016 billion

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