

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

***Jackson, et al. v. Queens Borough Public Library, et al. Case No. 19-cv-6656-DG-ST
(E.D.N.Y.)***

A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

ATTENTION: If you meet the following description, then you may be a member of the proposed settlement class (“Class”) affected by the above lawsuit:

1. You have a mobility disability; and
2. You visit, have visited, intend to visit, or have been deterred from visiting the Hunters Point Library branch of the Queens Public Library (“HPL” or “Library”) because of its alleged inaccessibility.

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED
BY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS LAWSUIT.**

WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the proposed settlement agreement (“Settlement,” “Agreement,” or “Settlement Agreement”) of the pending class action lawsuit brought on behalf of all persons with mobility disabilities who visit, have visited, intend to visit, or have been deterred from visiting HPL because of its alleged inaccessibility.

The lawsuit, *Jackson, et al. v. Queens Borough Public Library, et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-6656-DG-ST (E.D.N.Y.), filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in 2019, was brought by Named Plaintiffs Tanya Jackson and Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (“Plaintiffs”), and alleges that Defendants Queens Borough Public Library, Board of Trustees of Queens Borough Public Library, and the City of New York (“Defendants”) discriminated against people with mobility disabilities in the design and construction of the Library.

Plaintiffs and Defendants have now reached an agreement to settle this lawsuit, but the Settlement must be approved by the Court before it can be finalized. The details of the Agreement are summarized below.

AM I PART OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS?

If you have a mobility disability and visit, have visited, intend to visit, or have been deterred from visiting HPL because of its alleged inaccessibility, you may be a member of the Class affected by this lawsuit and the proposed Settlement Agreement. If you are not sure if you are a member of the settlement class, you can contact Disability Rights Advocates, the lawyers representing the Named Plaintiffs, at info@dralegal.org for more information.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT DO?

The proposed Settlement Agreement requires Defendants to do the following:

- Make HPL's tiered landings adjacent to the north staircase accessible by installing a platform lift from the fifth tier to the fourth tier, and constructing a skybridge from the walkway to the children's area to the third tier;
- Make the children's area accessible by providing wheelchair spaces and companion seating on the first tier of seating, along with signage giving persons with mobility disabilities priority access to those seats;
- Make the rooftop area accessible by providing wheelchair spaces and companion seating on the first tier of seating, along with signage giving persons with mobility disabilities priority access to those seats;
- Make the fifth floor ramp accessible by modifying it so that it is less steep;
- Remediate approximately one hundred smaller accessibility barriers, including the lack of clear floor space or maneuvering space, and the presence of protrusions into the path of circulation in bathrooms and areas with tables and study carrels.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

1. Release of Claims

The Settlement Agreement resolves all claims for injunctive relief brought by Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and the Class based on the barriers identified in the Complaint. This means that if and when the Agreement is approved, Plaintiffs and all Class members will release (give up) the following claims:

All claims for injunctive relief that Defendants discriminated against persons with mobility disabilities, including by failing to design and construct an accessible facility and failing to provide reasonable modifications or accommodations for its barriers to accessibility, that arose or arise before the termination of Defendants' obligations under the Settlement Agreement (five years from the date the Settlement Agreement is finally approved by the Court).

This means that neither Plaintiffs nor Class members can bring another lawsuit to remediate HPL's physical access barriers. However, Plaintiffs and Class members will still be able to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement if Defendants do not comply with its terms.

2. Monetary Relief

The Settlement Agreement does not provide any money to Plaintiffs or Class members. The Settlement Agreement does not release Plaintiffs' or Class members' individual claims, if any, to monetary damages due to the Library's inaccessibility.

3. Attorneys' Fees

Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys employed by Disability Rights Advocates ("DRA"). The Settlement Agreement provides for the payment of \$170,000 to DRA in attorneys' fees and costs incurred during the course of this lawsuit, and Plaintiffs' ability to seek reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the monitoring of the implementation of the Settlement Agreement.

WHEN WILL THE COURT DECIDE TO APPROVE OR REJECT THE SETTLEMENT?

The Court has already preliminary approved the proposed Settlement Agreement. There is a hearing before the Honorable Magistrate Judge Steven Tiscione on October 9, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. to decide whether to finally approve the proposed Agreement. This date is subject to change without further notice. Please contact DRA at info@dralegal.org for updated information on the hearing. If you wish to receive electronic notice of any changes to the schedule, please file a notice of appearance with the Court and include a valid e-mail address at which you can receive notice.

WHAT IF I WANT TO OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

If you disagree with the settlement, you can ask the Court to reject the proposed Settlement Agreement by filing an objection. You cannot ask the Court to modify the terms of the Agreement. If the Court rejects the proposed Agreement, the actions summarized in this notice will not occur and the lawsuit will continue. If that is what you want, you MUST file an objection. To file an objection, you must send a written objection to the federal court at the address below postmarked by September 9, 2025. If your written objection is not postmarked by September 9, 2025, the Court will not consider it.

Hon. Steven Tiscione
United States District Court for the New York Eastern District
Courtroom 910
100 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, NY 11722

With copies sent to:

Madeleine J. Reichman, Esq.
Disability Rights Advocates
655 Third Avenue, Suite 2619
New York, NY 10017

Stephen Kitzinger, Esq.
New York City Law Department
100 Church Street
Room 2-126
New York, NY 10007

You are not required to attend the final approval hearing if you file an objection to the proposed Agreement. However, if you wish to be heard at the final approval hearing, your written objection must include a statement declaring your intention to participate in the hearing. You may appear on your own or through an attorney. If you appear through an attorney, you are responsible for paying that attorney.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY SUBMIT AN OBJECTION AS DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WAIVED YOUR OBJECTION AND WILL LOSE THE ABILITY TO MAKE ANY OBJECTION TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

WILL I BE BOUND BY THE SETTLEMENT?

If given final approval, the Settlement Agreement will bind all Class members. This will bar any person who is a Class member from seeking different or additional relief regarding all claims resolved by the Agreement that have arisen or arise before the termination of Defendants' obligations under the Settlement Agreement.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

This notice summarizes the proposed Settlement Agreement. You can review the actual Settlement Agreement and its precise terms and conditions by:

1. Visiting <https://dralegal.org/case/jackson-v-queens-borough-public-library/>;
2. Contacting Plaintiffs' counsel at the following:

Disability Rights Advocates
Attn.: Madeleine J. Reichman, Esq.
655 Third Avenue, Suite 2619
New York, NY 10017
mreichman@dralegal.org
Telephone: (212) 644-8644
3. Accessing the Court docket in this case through the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at <https://pacer.login.uscourts.gov/> at (Case No. 19-cv-6656-DG-ST).
4. Visiting the office of the Clerk of Court for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, 100 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays. Please do not telephone the Court or the Court Clerk's office to inquire about the Settlement Agreement.

This Notice is also available in Spanish. To obtain copies of this Notice in alternative accessible formats, please contact Plaintiffs' Counsel listed above.

Este aviso también está disponible en español. Para obtener copias de este aviso en formatos alternativos accesibles, comuníquese con los abogados del caso enumerados anteriormente.