

If You Were Admitted into the Rensselaer County Jail Between June 26, 1999 and July 1, 2002

You Could Get a Payment from a Class Action Settlement.

A settlement has been proposed in two class action lawsuits about the strip search policies of the Rensselaer County Jail ("RCJ"). The settlement will provide up to \$1,000 to each individual who was strip searched upon being admitted into the RCJ while charged with only a misdemeanor, violation, traffic infraction, parole violation, or probation violation, or who was held at the RCJ on Family Court or another civil matter.

The United States District Court for the Northern District of New York authorized this notice. The Court will have a hearing to decide whether to approve the settlement, so that the benefits may be paid.

Who's Included?

You are a Class Member and could get benefits if you were admitted into the RCJ from June 26, 1999, through and including July 1, 2002, and you were charged with only a misdemeanor, violation, traffic infraction, violation of probation or parole, or had a civil commitment, and you were strip searched upon entry into the RCJ.

What's This About?

The lawsuit claimed that Defendant Rensselaer County and its officers followed an unlawful policy and practice of strip searching all persons who were admitted into the RCJ during the Class period. Defendants deny they did anything wrong. The Court did not decide which side was right. But both sides agreed to the settlement to ensure a resolution and to provide benefits to Class Members.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

Defendants agreed to create a fund of up to \$2,700,000 to pay claims to Class Members, costs of administration of the settlement, nominal incentive awards to the Class Representatives, and attorneys' fees and costs. The amount of your payment will depend upon the number of valid claims that are sent in, but in no event will exceed \$1,000 to each

Class Member who files a claim. You can only make one Claim, even if you were strip searched more than once.

How Do You Ask For A Payment?

A detailed notice and claim form package contains everything you need. Just call or visit the website below to get one. To qualify for a payment, you must send in a Claim Form. **Claim forms are due by June 29, 2004.**

What Are Your Other Options?

If you don't want the settlement benefits or don't want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by **June 29, 2004** or you won't be able to sue, or continue to sue, the Defendants about the legal claims in this case. If you exclude yourself, you can't get any benefits from this settlement. If you stay in the settlement, you may object to it by **June 29, 2004**. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The court will hold a hearing in these cases (*Bruce, et. al. v. County of Rensselaer et. al.* case no. 02-CV-0847, and *Kahler v. County of Rensselaer et. al.* case no. 03-CV-1324) on, **September 13, 2004**, to consider whether to approve the settlement and a request by the lawyers representing all Class Members (Elmer Robert Keach III, Esq. Albany, NY; Beranbaum Menken & Ben-Asher LLP, New York, NY; and The Mason Law Firm, P.C., Washington, DC) for attorneys' fees and costs. You may ask to appear at the hearing, but you don't have to. For more information, call toll free 1-800-839-1640, visit the website www.rcjsettlement.com, or write to RCJ Civil Rights Class Action Administrator, P.O. Box 1622, Faribault, MN 55021-1622.

This Notice is only a summary of a Court-approved Settlement Agreement. If you have any questions about the meaning of the terms of this Notice and the terms of the Court-approved Settlement Agreement, the terms of the Settlement Agreement control.

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