

OFFICIAL LEGAL NOTICE OF CLASS CERTIFICATION

RE: *Munday, et al. v. Beaufort County*

*This Notice was authorized by the U.S. District Court – District of South Carolina
This is not a solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued. Please read this Notice carefully.*

ATTENTION: IF YOU ARE A FEMALE AND WERE STRIP-SEARCHED UPON ADMISSION TO BEAUFORT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER IN BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, BETWEEN FEBRUARY 27, 2015 AND MAY 5, 2020, YOU MAY BE A MEMBER OF A CERTIFIED CLASS.

A class action lawsuit against Beaufort County is pending in the U.S. District Court – District of South Carolina, Beaufort Division (the “Court”). The case is called *Cheryl A. Munday and Margaret Devine, on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated v. Beaufort County*, Case No. 9:20-cv-02144-DCN.

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAWSUIT

- 1. What is the lawsuit about?** Plaintiffs in this class action allege that between February 27, 2015, and May 5, 2020, the Beaufort County Detention Center unconstitutionally strip-searched all female pre-classification detainees, but not all similarly situated males. A pre-classification detainee is an inmate who has been arrested and placed or housed at the detention center prior to going to a bond hearing. Plaintiffs seek damages in the form of monetary compensation for each female class member that was strip-searched during that time period.
- 2. What is a Class action and who is involved?** In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called “Class Representatives” sue on behalf of other people who have similar claims. The people together are called a “Class” or “Class Members.” The persons who sued – and all of the Class Members like them – are called the Plaintiffs. The entity they sued (in this case Beaufort County) is called the Defendant. One Court (here, the U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina) resolves the issues for all Class Members, except those who choose to opt out of the Class.
- 3. Why is this Notice being sent?** This Notice is to inform you that the Court decided that this lawsuit should proceed as a Class action since there is a group of females with similar claims against Beaufort County.
- 4. Who is in the Class?** The Class consists of all female pre-classification detainees in the custody of Beaufort County Detention Center who, upon their admission to the detention center, were strip-searched. Records from the detention center show that you may be a member of the Class.
- 5. Why did you get this Notice?** You were identified as a potential Class Member according to records maintained by Beaufort County Detention Center. You will remain a Class

Member unless you submit a Request to Opt Out (explained below). If you remain in the Class, you will be bound by any future order, judgment or settlement in this matter.

YOUR OPTIONS

6. **What are my options as a Class member?** You may stay in the Class or opt out of it. If you stay in the Class, you do not have to do anything. If you wish to opt out of the Class, you must submit a Request to Opt Out (explained below).
7. **What happens if I choose to stay in the Class?** If you stay in the class, you will be permitted to share in any potential recovery that may occur in this lawsuit. You will also reserve the right to object to any proposed settlement and participate in future proceedings, if allowed by the Court. However, by staying in the Class, you give up any rights to sue the Defendants separately about the same legal claims in this lawsuit. You will also be legally bound by all of the orders and judgment entered by the Court in this lawsuit, even if there is no recovery.
8. **How do I stay in the Class?** If you wish to stay in the Class, you do not have to do anything. However, you should contact us to provide your current contact information so we can keep you updated.

Please contact us to confirm that we have your current contact information including mailing address and telephone number. You can do so by dialing 1-866-742-4955. You may also provide your current contact information by sending an email to BCDC@rg2claims.com.

9. **What happens if I opt out of the Class?** If you opt out of the Class (by following the procedure explained below), you will give up the right to participate in any recovery or settlement that may occur. But you will keep any rights you may currently have to sue Defendants for the legal claims at issue in this lawsuit. You also will not be bound by the orders and judgments entered by the Court in this lawsuit.
10. **How to I opt out of the Class?** *If you do not want to remain a Class Member, you must submit a written “Request to Opt Out” to RG/2 Claims by regular mail or email. Mail submissions must be postmarked by September 11, 2023, and sent to P.O. Box 59479, Philadelphia, PA 19102-9479. Email submissions must be received by September 11, 2023 and sent to BCDC@rg2claims.com.*

Your Request to Opt Out must include:

- Your name, address, email address and telephone number;
- A statement confirming that you want to opt out of the Class;
- The case name and number as follows: *Cheryl A. Munday and Margaret Devine, on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated v. Beaufort County, Case No. 9:20-cv-02144-DCN.*

OTHER INFORMATION

11. Who represents you as a Class Member?

The Court has appointed the following lawyers to represent you and other Class Members as Class Counsel:

Samuel C. Bauer, Esq. & Robert S. Metro, Esq.
Bauer & Metro, P.C.
38A New Orleans Rd, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
(843) 842-5297 www.BauerandMetro.com

-and-

Samuel R. Clawson, Jr., Esq., Christy Fargnoli, Esq. & Bert G. Utsey, III, Esq.
Clawson Fargnoli Utsey LLC
2 Amherst St., Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 970-2700 www.cfulaw.com

12. Should you hire your own lawyer? You do not need to hire your own lawyer since Class Counsel is working for you. However, you may hire your own lawyer at your own expense. If you hire a lawyer to speak for you in Court, your lawyer must file a Notice of Appearance.

13. Where do I get more information? Additional information, including select pleadings and other records from this lawsuit, are available at: www.beaufortcountystripsearch.com. You can also obtain copies of court records related to this lawsuit at: <http://www.scd.uscourts.gov/Records/record.asp>.

14. Who should I contact if I have questions about this Notice or the lawsuit? You should contact the class administrator *RG/2 Claims* at **1-866-742-4955**. Do not contact the Court or Beaufort County Detention Center about this lawsuit or Notice.

Dated: July 13, 2023

**By Order of the Hon. Molly H. Cherry, MJ
United States District Court
District of South Carolina**