

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO PAYMENT AS PART OF A SETTLEMENT

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO PAYMENT BECAUSE YOU WERE NOT TIMELY RELEASED AFTER YOU COMPLETED YOUR CUSTODIAL FELONY SENTENCE AT THE SMITH COUNTY JAIL BETWEEN JULY 11, 2021 AND DECEMBER 31, 2024

THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT IN *HUGHES V. SMITH COUNTY*, NO. 6:23-CV-344-JDK (E.D. TEX.) ENTITLES YOU TO AT LEAST **\$666.44** PER DAY OF COMPENSIBLE DETENTION

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

A court authorized this Notice. This Notice is not a solicitation. This Notice is not a lawsuit, and you are not being sued, but this Notice describes a lawsuit that is being considered for settlement. However, your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act.

- A settlement has been proposed in a class action lawsuit that challenged Smith County's detention of people at the Smith County Jail for more than two days after the completion of their custodial felony sentence.
- The County's records indicate that between **July 11, 2021, and December 31, 2024**, you were detained at the Smith County Jail for more than two days after the completion of your custodial felony sentence.
- The proposed settlement will provide you with monetary compensation. The settlement terms are described in detail below.
- **The Court has already granted preliminary approval of the class settlement. This Notice provides you with options and instructions as to how you may respond to the Notice.**



www.smithcountysettlement.com

Para leer este aviso en español,
escanee el código QR de arriba.

Your Legal Rights and Options in this Settlement	
Submit a Claim Form by November 2, 2026	The only way to receive compensation from this settlement is to submit a simple claim form (you can do this online or by mail). A check will be mailed to you after you submit the claim form.
Object by January 31, 2026	Write to the Court to explain why you don't like the settlement.
Go to a Hearing	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the settlement.
Opt Out by January 31, 2026	Write to the Court to ask that you not be included in the settlement.
Do Nothing	You receive no payment. You waive your right to object to or opt out of the settlement.
YOUR ESTIMATED PAYMENT UNDER THIS SETTLEMENT: You will receive a minimum of \$666.44 for each day of Compensable Detention. To receive your payment, you must submit the claim form below by November 2, 2026 .	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE?

The purpose of this Notice is to let you know that the Court has granted preliminary approval of the settlement of a class action lawsuit pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Case No. 6:23-cv-344-JDK, entitled *Hughes v. Smith County*, and that you are entitled to payment as part of the settlement.

This Notice is also meant to inform you that you can object to or opt out of the settlement.

A hearing addressing the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of the settlement will be held on **February 5, 2026** to determine whether the settlement should receive final approval.

2. WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?

The lawsuit alleges that, between July 11, 2021, and December 31, 2024, Smith County detained individuals at the Smith County Jail for an unreasonable amount of time after the completion of their custodial felony sentence. The lawsuit alleges

that the Smith County violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Named Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are individuals who allege that they are part of a Class of persons who were detained for an unreasonable amount of time after completing their custodial felony sentences.

3. WHAT IS THE SMITH COUNTY'S POSITION ON THE CLAIMS?

Smith County denies liability and all the allegations in the case.

4. WHY DO THE PLAINTIFFS SEEK SETTLEMENT APPROVAL?

Named Plaintiffs and their attorneys seek approval of the settlement because they believe the proposed class settlement with Smith County is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the members of the Class. Further, they believe that the settlement will provide substantial compensation to each Class Member.

5. WHY DID I GET THIS NOTICE?

You received this Notice because between July 11, 2021 and December 31, 2024, you were not released within a reasonable time after the completion of your custodial felony sentence.

6. WHO ARE THE ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING THE PARTIES?

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7. WHAT IS THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

The following is a summary of the proposed settlement. The complete terms of the proposed settlement are stated in the Class Action Settlement Agreement between Plaintiffs and Smith County, which is on file at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, located at 211 W. Ferguson Street, Tyler, TX 75702, and available at smithcountysettlement.com.

Under the Settlement Agreement, Smith County has agreed to pay an aggregate amount of \$1,500,000.00 as the “Settlement Fund” to settle all of the claims asserted in this lawsuit. The Settlement Fund will be used for payment of the following: (a) individual settlement payments to Class Members with valid claims; (b) notice and administration costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator; (c) incentive award to the Named Plaintiffs; and (d) attorney’s fees, costs, and expenses.

Individual Settlement Payments

\$1,000,000.00 of the Settlement Fund will be allocated to pay Class Members. You are a Class Member!

Class Members who submit timely and valid claims will receive a minimum of \$666.44 per day of Compensable Detention.

Class Counsel Attorney’s Fees and Costs, Class Representative Incentive Payment, and Administration Costs

Subject to Court approval, \$500,000.00 of the Settlement Fund will be allocated to settlement administration costs, Plaintiff’s incentive award, and attorney’s fees, litigation costs, and expenses.

- \$50,000.00 will be allocated to pay the cost of administering the settlement to the Settlement Administrator.

- \$15,000.00 will be allocated to pay Plaintiffs Ladarion Hughes, Angela Alonzo, and Demarcus Lively, as Class Representatives, for their service to the Class as Named Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000 each.
- The remainder of the \$500,000.00 sum will be allocated to pay Class Counsel's attorney's fees, costs, and expenses.

The motion for final approval of the settlement, which will include Class Counsel's application for an award of attorney's fees, costs, and expenses, will be filed with the Court by February 5, 2026, and may be viewed in the court file or online at smithcountysettlement.com.

8. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS/RIGHTS?

A. Submit a claim form by November 2, 2026, and receive a settlement check (Claim Form is attached to this Notice and available on the settlement website: smithcountysettlement.com)

In order to receive money from this settlement, you must **submit a claim form by November 2, 2026**.

You can submit the claim form online or by sending the completed claim form to the Settlement Administrator using the prepaid envelope included in this Notice package.

B. Object to the settlement

You may ask the Court to deny approval of the settlement in whole or in part by filing an objection to the proposed settlement or any part of it. You cannot ask the Court to order a different settlement; the Court can only approve or reject the settlement the parties have agreed to. If the Court denies approval, no settlement payments will be distributed, and the lawsuit will continue.

Any objection to the proposed settlement must be in writing. If you file a timely written objection, you may, but are not required to, 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 hiring and paying for that attorney.

All written objections and supporting papers must be **filed or postmarked on or before January 31, 2026**. They must be submitted to the Court either by mailing them to the Clerk, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, 211 W. Ferguson Street, Tyler, TX 75702, or by filing them in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Any objection **must** state all of the reasons for your objection. In addition, any objection **must** include the following: (a) case name and number of this lawsuit (*Hughes v. Smith County*, No. 6:23-cv-344-JDK); (b) your first and last name, address, phone number, and last four digits of your social security number for verification purposes; and (c) your signature, or your attorney's signature if you have one. While the Court may, in its discretion, permit objections to be filed up until the date of the Final Approval Hearing, you will only be assured that your objection will be considered if you submit it to the Court by **January 31, 2026**.

The attorneys for the Class and for Smith County will be allowed to file with the Court a written response to any submitted objections.

C. Opt-out or exclude yourself from the settlement

If you do not wish to participate in the settlement and wish to retain your right to bring your own claims within the scope of the lawsuit as an individual, you must send a request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator, set forth below. The request for exclusion must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator and **post-marked on or before January 31, 2026**.

The request for exclusion from the settlement **must** include the following: (a) case name and number of this lawsuit (*Hughes v. Smith County*, No. 6:23-cv-344-JDK); (b) your first and last name, address, phone number, and last four digits of your social security number for verification purposes; (c) your signature, or your attorney's signature if you have one; and (d) a statement that you wish to exclude yourself from the settlement of the case or words to that effect.

No form is provided for an exclusion request. Any Class Member who requests an exclusion will not be entitled to any portion of the settlement and will not be providing a release of claims to Smith County. If you exclude yourself from the settlement, you will not have any right to object, appeal, or comment on the settlement. Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely exclusion request shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement Agreement and any judgment entered in the lawsuit if the settlement is approved by the Court.

D. Do Nothing

If you do nothing, your rights will be affected. You will be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and you will be agreeing to a release of the claims that are contained in the Settlement Agreement. However, because you did not file a claim, you will not be entitled to any money from the settlement.

9. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

The Final Approval Hearing on the fairness and adequacy of the proposed settlement, the plan of distribution, the incentive award to the Plaintiff, and Class Counsel's request for attorney's fees, costs, and expenses, and other issues will be held on **February 5, 2026 at 10:00 am** in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, 211 W. Ferguson Street, Tyler, TX 75702

You may attend the Final Approval Hearing and be heard even if you do not submit an objection to the settlement. The Final Approval Hearing may be continued to another date without further notice. If you plan to attend the Final Approval Hearing, it is recommended that you check the settlement website to confirm the date, time, and location.

10. GETTING MORE INFORMATION

Visit the website, smithcountysettlement.com, where you will find the Settlement Agreement, the claim form, and all other relevant documents about this case.

You may also view the Court docket in this case, for a fee, through the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov>, or by visiting the office of the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, located at 211 W. Ferguson Street, Tyler, TX 75702, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays.

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

You may also contact the Settlement Administrator by email at info@smithcountysettlement.com or phone at 800-290-2481. Include the case name (*Hughes v. Smith County*) in the subject line of your email.

If your address changes or is different from the address on the envelope enclosing this Notice, please promptly notify the Settlement Administrator.