

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In re Flint Water Cases.

_____/

**This Report and Recommendation
Relates To:**

**Judith E. Levy
United States District Judge**

ALL CASES

_____/

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MASTER
REGARDING THE STATUS OF PAYMENTS TO
APPROVED CLAIMANTS IN THE ASA**

This Report explains the payment process for approved claims under the Amended Settlement Agreement (“ASA”).¹ The Distribution Vendor² began

¹ Unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms herein have the same meaning set forth in the ASA. On July 31, 2018, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53, the Court appointed Deborah E. Greenspan to serve as a Special Master. *Amended Order Appointing Special Master* (“Special Master Appointment Order”), ECF No. 544, PageID.16581-16590. The Special Master Appointment Order specified various assigned duties and noted additional tasks that could be performed by the Special Master, as directed by the Court. On January 20, 2022, the Court issued its *Order Regarding Settlement-Related Duties Of The Special Master*, ECF No. 2096, PageID.71973-71977 (“January 2022 Order”). By this Order, the Court amended its previous Special Master Appointment Order and directed Deborah E. Greenspan to fulfill all of the duties of Special Master set forth in the ASA. *See* January 2022 Order, PageID.71975.

² The Court approved the engagement of the Distribution Vendor – Epiq Class Action & Claims Solutions, Inc. d/b/a Epiq Class Action & Mass Tort Solutions (“Epiq”) (“Distribution Vendor”) – on September 3, 2024. *See Order Authorizing Engagement of Epiq Class Action & Claims Solutions, Inc. as Distribution Vendor*

distribution of payments for property damage claims on December 12, 2025. Since then, claims have been transferred to the Distribution Vendor in batches as they become eligible for payment (as explained below). Payments have been distributed for all payment categories (property, adult injury, business, minor child, adolescent and teen categories).

Payments are processed in groups as soon as claims become eligible for payment. It takes at least two weeks to prepare the data for upload to the payment portal – so once a group of claims is identified as payable (if they have cured the issues noted below) then the file is sent to the Distribution Vendor for processing and once the processing is completed, the award letters are issued. The payments do not go out daily. They are grouped for efficiency and cost savings.

As of today, approximately 78% of approved claims for claimants 18 years or older have been issued payment award notices (or will be in the next two weeks). The remaining 22% of approved claims for claimants 18 or over are not payable for one of three general reasons:

1. The claim is not eligible for payment if the claimant has not provided a valid Social Security Number (SSN), or signatures, or identification documents, or has not shown that they have the legal authority to represent a claimant who cannot represent themselves. Claimants who cannot represent themselves are minors, deceased individuals, legally incapacitated individuals.

to Distribute Payments to Eligible Claimants in the Partial Settlement [3136], ECF No. 3137, PageID.107384-107385 (Sept. 3, 2024).

2. The claim is not eligible for payment if there is a lien asserted by the government: The law requires that Medicare (and Tricare and VA) have the right to assert liens and until the government liens are resolved, the claim cannot be paid. These are liens asserted on the settlement payments – they are not “past” liens. Over 1,300 claims have been identified by the government as claims subject to the lien process.
3. The claim is not eligible for payment if the Claimant does not agree with the claim decision and has requested a reconsideration or appeal or if the claim involves a shared property that requires validation.

Payments for claims of minors (currently under 18) must be made to a trust or in a structured settlement. There are 6,817 approved claims for current minors. The settlement payment letters for minors will be issued after the expiration of the deadlines set by the Court for approved claimants to finalize their claims. After the expiration of those deadlines, the claims administrator will identify the claims that have not provided the required information and therefore are not eligible for payment. At that point, it will be possible to finalize calculations of the payment amounts for claims of minors and for the second payment for injury claims of the claimants who are 18 and older and who have already received a partial payment. As previously reported, once the legal representatives of the minor claimants select their preferred payment option, the funds will be wired to the trustee or to the annuity company that is issuing the structured settlements. In some cases, the Next Friend may receive a cash payment of \$5,000 – for the benefit of the minor.

In finalizing the claims submitted for minors, as previously reported, the Special Master's office and the Master Guardian ad Litem have noted that some claims were filed by persons who have no legal authority to represent the interest of the minor. Specifically, claims have been filed by parents whose parental rights have been terminated by the State and who cannot represent the interest of the minor. In some cases, an adoptive parent has filed a claim for the same minor (under a different name). The Special Master and Master Guardian ad Litem have worked with the State to identify and confirm all such invalid claims. These invalid claims will be denied. The denial does not affect the right of the child to submit a claim and those children will be eligible for the future fund established by the ASA. I will provide a report on the outcome of this review once it is completed.

I note also that there are additional appeals that have been filed by individuals whose claims have been found deficient by the claims administrator on initial review and on reconsideration. Many of these appeals were filed recently as a result of reconsideration decisions issued by the claims administrator. All of the pending appeals are being reviewed and, of course, any that are found eligible will be added to the group of approved claims.

Following is a breakdown of the status of the approved claims:³

- How many claims have been approved? 29,476
- How many claims have been sent award letters/transferred to the Distribution Vendor? 16,709
- How many claims will receive award letters in the next two weeks? 899
- Total awards issued by mid-October: 17,608
- How many remaining approved claims (except for minors still under 18) are waiting for payments? 5,051.
- What is the reason that the 5,051 claims have not been paid?
 - 27% (1,346) cannot be paid because Medicare/Tricare/VA have liens.
 - 60% (3,045) cannot be paid because the Claimant or the Next Friend or representative has not provided the required identification, signatures, or Social Security number, or because the Next Friend has been found not legally eligible.
 - 4% (211) cannot be paid because the claimant has submitted an appeal or the administrator has identified an issue that requires Special Master review.
 - 3% (160) cannot be paid because there is a question about the accuracy of a shared property award.
 - 5.7% (289) cannot be paid because the administrator has identified an issue of the proper payees and payment amounts.

³ The numbers set forth herein are approximate based on the most recent claims administrator reports but note that the data changes on a daily basis. Numbers are of approved claims, not claimants. Some claimants may have more than one approved claim (for example, an approved injury and property claim).

What is the October 8 deadline? – The October 8 deadline applies to claimants who were sent final notices by the claims administrator pursuant to the Court’s September 8, 2024 Order advising that they need to do one of three basic things by October 8 in order for their otherwise approved claim to be payable so they could receive an award letter: (i) provide their Social Security number, (ii) sign the required form (release and attestation), or (iii) submit a required identification document (such as a current driver’s license or other recent government issued identification).⁴ Claimants not represented by a lawyer were provided an extended deadline to respond (October 17) to allow additional time for mailing considerations. The claims administrator reports that claimants and their counsel have been responding to these notices – providing the signatures, SSN or identification documents required – and that, as of today, hundreds of claimants have responded. These claimants and others who respond with the required information by the deadline will now be eligible for payment and will be issued award notices.

⁴ Claimants who are represented by a law firm and had been sent award letters in December 2025 but have still not accessed the website were also given until October 8 to access the payment portal to make a payment selection or their claims will be closed without payment pursuant to the Court’s September 8 Order. The Distribution Vendor and the claims administrator will be issuing additional final notices to Claimants in accordance with the Court’s September 8 order providing 30 more days to access payments or to 30 more days to provide required signatures, identification documents or SSNs, as applicable, in accordance with the Court’s order.

I will continue to provide updates as the process progresses. As noted in previous submissions, there will be a final report at the end of the process explaining all aspects of the program, including fees and costs required to undertake all of this work to ensure that qualified claimants receive their compensation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 25, 2026

/s/ Deborah E. Greenspan

Deborah E. Greenspan

Special Master

BLANK ROME LLP

Michigan Bar # P33632

1825 Eye Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: (202) 420-2200

Facsimile: (202) 420-2201

Deborah.Greenspan@blankrome.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on September 25, 2026, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the Court's ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to attorneys of record.

Dated: September 25, 2026

/s/ Deborah E. Greenspan

Deborah E. Greenspan

Special Master

BLANK ROME LLP

Michigan Bar # P33632

1825 Eye Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: (202) 420-2200

Facsimile: (202) 420-2201

Deborah.Greenspan@blankrome.com