

Minnesota Consumers and Businesses May Claim Microsoft Settlement Benefits.

Settlement valued at \$174,500,000

A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit against Microsoft on behalf of consumers and businesses that acquired Microsoft software from May 18, 1994 through March 17, 2003 for use in Minnesota, and not for resale. Shortly after "final" court approval of the settlement, Microsoft will distribute up to \$174.5 million in vouchers that eligible consumers and businesses can redeem to buy computers, peripheral computer hardware, or computer software made by any manufacturer. Eligible Microsoft software users may now request a claim form for the vouchers.

WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

The Plaintiffs in the lawsuit claim that Microsoft violated Minnesota's antitrust and unfair competition laws and thereby overcharged consumers for some of its software. Microsoft denies these claims and contends that it developed and sold high quality and innovative software at fair and reasonable prices. The Court did not decide in favor of the Plaintiffs or Microsoft. Instead, both sides agreed to a settlement.

WHAT CAN YOU GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT?

You are eligible for vouchers if you acquired the Microsoft software listed below, or a computer on which the software was already installed. The vouchers are worth \$15 for each Microsoft "Windows" or "MS-DOS" license that was purchased, \$23 for each Microsoft "Office" or Microsoft "Excel" license, and \$9 for each Microsoft "Word" (including "Home Essentials" and "Works Suite") license. Software purchased for server computers and Apple computers is not eligible. You are entitled to claim the specified amounts for each computer on which you were lawfully entitled to use the Microsoft software. Also, if you acquired multiple versions of the same product (or separately acquired upgrades), you're entitled to the specified amounts for each version or upgrade. More information is in a detailed notice at the Web site below.

HOW DO YOU GET BENEFITS?

Simply call or go to the Web site to get a claim form. Then, fill out and send in a claim form postmarked no later than **February 20, 2005** to get benefits. You may also fill one out and submit it online. If you acquired up to five copies of qualifying Microsoft products and your claim is for \$100 or less, you can use a Standard Claim Form to ask for benefits, and you do not have to provide any additional documents or proof for your software. If your claim is larger, you can also use a Standard Claim Form, but you will need to provide additional information. If you are a volume licensee (e.g., "Open," "Select," or "Enterprise"), you need a Volume License Claim

Form. All the claim forms are available at www.microsoftMNsettlement.com or by calling 1-800-465-4306 toll free. Claims may be audited and penalties apply for false claims. One-half of the difference between the total value of vouchers issued and \$174.5 million, plus 100% of the vouchers issued but not redeemed, will be distributed as vouchers to certain Minnesota public schools that are considered most in need. The settlement also provides the University of Minnesota with \$2.5 million in cash and \$2.5 million in vouchers and the Minnesota Legal Aid Society with \$2.5 million in cash.

SELLING OR DONATING YOUR BENEFITS.

You may donate up to \$650 of your settlement vouchers to a school or charity of your choice, sell them, or give them as a gift. Vouchers may be sold to anyone who does not intend to resell them. Transferred vouchers may be redeemed up to \$10,000. Vouchers can be transferred only once.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

If you don't want vouchers and you don't want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by **October 4, 2004**, or you won't be able to sue Microsoft about the claims in this lawsuit ever again. If you exclude yourself, you can't get any vouchers. If you don't exclude yourself, you may object in writing no later than **October 4, 2004** to any part of the settlement or a request by the lawyers representing you for up to \$59.4 million in attorneys' fees, and reimbursement of their expenses. Fee petitions will be filed by July 21, 2004. These fees and expenses will be paid separately by Microsoft and will not reduce the settlement benefits you get. The detailed notice explains how to object or ask to be excluded. The Fourth Judicial District Court of Hennepin County in Minneapolis will hold a hearing in this case, called *Gordon v. Microsoft Corp.*, No. 00-005994, on **October 22, 2004**, to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement, and to consider the lawyers' request for fees and expenses. You or your lawyer may appear at the hearing, at your own cost. If the settlement is approved, Microsoft will be released from liability for all claims associated with the litigation and, if you did not exclude yourself, you won't be able to sue or continue to sue Microsoft for that liability. For more details, call toll free or go to the Web site below.

To get a Claim Form:

1-800-465-4306

www.microsoftMNsettlement.com