

**Notice of Proposed Settlement in
*M.C. v. Jefferson County, New York, 6:22-cv-190 (N.D.N.Y.)***

IF YOU ARE PRESCRIBED MEDICATION FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE OF A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO CONTINUE TREATMENT IF YOU ARE DETAINED AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

A proposed settlement has been reached in a class-action lawsuit about access to medication for opioid use disorder (“MOUD,” sometimes known as medication-assisted treatment or “MAT”), such as methadone and buprenorphine, at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility. The proposed settlement aims to benefit class members significantly. A court must now decide whether to approve the settlement.

The proposed settlement requires Jefferson County to make treatment with MOUD available to people with opioid use disorder (“OUD”) incarcerated at the jail. Under the proposed settlement, people with OUD can request to start or continue MOUD treatment when they enter the jail or at any time during their detention. If approved, the proposed settlement will also end the lawsuit and resolve the claims of class members about access to MOUD at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility.

This is just a summary of the proposed settlement. A copy of the proposed settlement and other information is available at www.nyclu.org/MClitigation.

**IF YOU WISH TO OBJECT TO THE FAIRNESS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE COURT ON OR BEFORE JULY 16, 2024 TO:
Attn: Clerk of Court, Re: Class Action Objections, US District Court, 10 Broad St., Utica, NY 13501.
THE COURT WILL ONLY CONSIDER WRITTEN OBJECTIONS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE JULY 16, 2024**

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Who is impacted by the proposed settlement?

The proposed settlement covers all class members in the *M.C. v. Jefferson County* lawsuit. The class includes all non-pregnant individuals who are or will be detained at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility and had or will have prescriptions for agonist medication for opioid use disorder (such as methadone or any form of buprenorphine, including Suboxone and Sublocade) at the time of entry into the county’s custody.

What do I need to do to join the class?

Nothing. If you meet the class definition, you are automatically in the class. You do not need to take further action unless you wish to object to the proposed settlement.

Am I entitled to money damages under the proposed settlement?

No. This lawsuit does not involve any claim for money damages. The case and settlement will not affect an individual’s ability to bring an individual case for money damages.

If I am *not* in the class, can I still seek treatment for OUD at the jail?

Yes. Anyone with OUD detained at the jail can request to be assessed for MOUD treatment. State law now requires jails, including the Jefferson County Correctional Facility, to make MOUD available to treat people with OUD.

Does the proposed settlement apply to jails others than the Jefferson County Correctional Facility?

No, but state law now requires jails throughout New York State to make MOUD treatment available.

**NOTICE: YOUR RIGHT TO TREATMENT FOR OPIOID
ADDICTION AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL**

Attention: If you have an addiction to opioids (a condition also known as “opioid use disorder”), you may be entitled to medication-based treatment for your condition at the Jefferson County Jail. This medication for opioid use disorder, or “MOUD,” includes methadone and buprenorphine in various forms, such as Suboxone and Sublocade.

A class-action lawsuit, *M.C. v. Jefferson County*, was filed in federal court regarding the availability of MOUD at the Jefferson County Jail. This lawsuit has resulted in a settlement. You can view the settlement at www.nyclu.org/mclitigation or request a copy using the information below.

Your rights under the consent decree:

- **If you already have a prescription for MOUD when you enter the Jail, the Jail is required to continue providing your prescribed MOUD treatment.**
- **If you believe you need MOUD to treat your opioid addiction, you have a right to request MOUD treatment at any time during your incarceration at the Jail. For example, you may make the request at intake or later during your incarceration through a sick call.**
- **When you make a request for MOUD treatment, the Jail is required to provide you with a medical assessment to determine whether you are eligible for treatment.**

If you face any problems with MOUD treatment at the Jefferson County Jail or would like a copy of the settlement, please contact the New York Civil Liberties Union:

- **By mail:** New York Civil Liberties Union
Attn: M.C. Settlement
125 Broad Street, Floor 19
New York, NY 10004
- **By email:** mcsettlement@nyclu.org
- **By phone:** 212-607-3300