

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Consumer Protection Group, LLC and The Children's Place Services Company, LLC.

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Consumer Protection Group, LLC ("CPG"), on the one hand, and The Children's Place Services Company, LLC ("Children's Place"), on the other hand, with CPG and Children's Place collectively referred to as "Parties."

1.2 General Allegations

CPG alleges that Children's Place manufactured and distributed and offered for sale a – kids backpack (the, "Subject Product") in the State of California containing Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate ("DEHP") and that such product did not include warnings pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code sections 25249.6 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"). On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, and on October 24, 2003, the Governor added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male reproductive toxicity. Children's Place denies violation to Proposition 65 and contends that its products have been in conformance with the law.

1.3 Product Description

The product that is covered by this Settlement Agreement is defined as Kids Backpack – Shaker Confetti : UPC No. 193511763165 (the "Subject Product") that Children's Place has sold, offered for sale, or distributed in California containing DEHP.

1.4 **Notice of Violation**

On August 10, 2020 (AG No. 2020-02049), CPG served Children's Place, T.J. Maxx of CA, LLC and The TJX Companies, Inc., and the requisite public enforcement agencies eligible to initiate Proposition 65 actions on behalf of the People of the State of California, with a document entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" (the "Notice") that provided Children's Place, T.J. Maxx of CA, LLC and The TJX Companies, Inc., and such public enforcers with notice that Children's Place was allegedly in violation of California Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 for failing to warn consumers and customers that the Subject Product exposed users in California to DEHP. To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced or is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 **No Admission**

By execution of this Settlement Agreement, Children's Place and its respective affiliates and subsidiaries, parents, directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, successors, and assigns and each entity to whom Children's Place directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Subject Product, including but not limited to downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers (including T.J. Maxx of CA, LLC and The TJX Companies, Inc.), marketplace retailers, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees (collectively, the "Releasees"), do not admit any facts or conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, any facts or conclusions of law regarding any violation of Proposition 65, or any other statutory, regulatory, common law, or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by the Releasees of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law.

Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed, considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by the Releasees in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or forum. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that CPG or Children's Place, may have against one another in any other pending legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the dispute or claims released herein. Notwithstanding the allegations in the Notices, Releasees maintain that they have not knowingly manufactured or distributed, or caused to be manufactured or distributed, the Subject Product for sale in California in violation of Proposition 65.

1.6 **Effective Date**

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date this Settlement Agreement is executed.

2. **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

2.1 **Reformulation Standards**

"Reformulated Products" are defined as those Products containing DEHP in concentration no more than 0.1 percent (1,000 parts per million).

2.2 **Commitment to Reformulate**

As of the Effective Date, Children's Place shall not sell or offer the Subject Product for sale in the State of California unless they are Reformulated Products as defined in Section 2.1.

If the California State Legislature, the Government of the United States of America, the voters of California, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment or any other state or Federal regulatory agency with authority to do so enacts legislation or issues regulations authorizing or requiring other applicable texts or transmission methods for warnings concerning carcinogenicity and/or reproductive toxicity concerning DEHP, or providing that no such warnings are necessary as to the Subject Products and these chemicals, Children's Place compliance with this legislation or these regulations will constitute compliance with Section 2 of this Agreement.

3. PENALTIES PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(b)

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Children's Place shall pay a total of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) in civil penalties in accordance with this Section. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code section 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the funds remitted to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") and the remaining 25% of the penalty remitted to CPG. CPG's counsel shall be responsible for delivering OEHHA's portion and CPG's portion of any penalty payment made under this Settlement Agreement.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to CPG and its counsel under the Private Attorney General doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these

legal principles, Children's Place shall reimburse CPG's counsel for fees and costs, incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to Children's Place attention. Children's Place shall pay Consumer Protection's counsel thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000.00) for all attorneys' fees, expert and investigation fees, and related costs associated with this matter and the Notice.

5. PAYMENT INFORMATION

Within seven (7) days of the Effective Date, Children's Place shall make a total payment of thirty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$36,500.00) for the civil penalties and attorney's fees/costs to Plaintiff's counsel, Blackstone Law APC by wire transfer:

Bank: First Republic Bank

Routing No.: 321081669

Account No.: 80006597266

Beneficiary: Blackstone Law APC IOLTA

Other than this payment, each side is to bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

6. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

6.1 Release of Children's Place, Downstream Customers and Upstream Vendors

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, and for the payments to be made pursuant to Sections 3, 4 and 5 above, CPG, in its representative capacity, and on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys,

successors and/or assignees, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims relating to the Subject Product, including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, in law or in equity, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses or expenses (including, but not limited to, investigation fees, expert fees and attorneys' fees) of any nature whatsoever, whether known or unknown, fixed or contingent (collectively "Claims"), against (a) Children's Place (b) each of Children's Place' downstream distributors (including T.J. Maxx of CA, LLC and The TJX Companies, Inc), wholesalers, vendors, licensors, licensees, auctioneers, retailers, franchisees, dealers, shareholders, cooperative members, customers, owners, purchasers, users, and each of their parent companies, corporate affiliates, subsidiaries, and their respective officers, directors, attorneys, representatives, shareholders, agents, and employees, and sister and parent entities.

CPG also, in its capacity, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees and *not* in its representative capacity, provides a general release herein which shall be effective as a full and final accord and satisfaction, as a bar to all actions, causes of action, obligations, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, losses, claims, liabilities and demands of any nature, character or kind, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, against Children's Place and the Releasees with regards to the Subject Product. CPG acknowledges that it is familiar with California Civil Code section 1542, which provides as follows:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her

favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

CPG in its individual capacity only, and on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees expressly waives and relinquishes any and all rights and benefits which it may have under, or which may be conferred on it by the provisions of California Civil Code section 1542 as well as under any other state or federal statute or common law principle of similar effect, to the fullest extent that it may lawfully waive such rights or benefits pertaining to the released matters. The release in this section shall have no force or effect until payments for the full amount set forth in above Sections 3, 4 and 5 are paid in full to Blackstone Law, APC by Children's Place.

6.2 **Children's Place Release of Consumer Protection Group, LLC.**

Children's Place waives any and all claims against CPG, its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken, or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by CPG and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against it in this matter, and/or with respect to the Subject Product. Children's Place represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind Children's Place to this Settlement Agreement.

7. **GOVERNING LAW**

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is

repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Subject Product, then Children's Place shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement but shall have no recourse to claw back payments already made in accordance with Section 3, 4 and 5 of this Settlement Agreement.

8. NOTICES

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by: (i) first-class, (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (ii) overnight courier on any party by the other party at the following addresses:

For Children's Place:	Robert S. Niemann, Esq. Keller and Heckman LLP Three Embarcadero Center, Suite 1420 San Francisco, CA 94111 niemann@khlaw.com
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For CPG:	Jonathan M. Genish, Esq. Blackstone Law APC 8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 745 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 jgenish@blackstonepc.com
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Any party, from time to time, may specify in writing to the other party a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

9. COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE/E-SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or e-signatures, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(f)

CPG agrees to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

11. ENTIRE AGREEMENT



This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind either of the Parties.

12. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement signed by the Parties.

13. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

<p style="text-align: center;">AGREED TO:</p> <p>Date: February 23 , 2021</p> <p>By: </p> <p>On Behalf of Consumer Protection Group, LLC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGREED TO:</p> <p>Date: February 23 , 2021</p> <p>By: </p> <p>On Behalf of The Children's Place Services Company, LLC</p>
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