

State of California - Department of Justice - Attorney General's Office - Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting

Attention: Prop 65 Coordinator, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000, Oakland, CA 94612

FORM JUS 1501
(03-01)

PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT FILING - Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(e) and (f)

REPORT OF SETTLEMENT

Please print or type required information Original Filing Supplemental Filing Corrected Filing

PARTIES TO THE ACTION	PLAINTIFF(S)			
	DEFENDANT(S) INVOLVED IN SETTLEMENT			
CASE INFO	COURT DOCKET NUMBER		COURT NAME	
	SHORT CASE NAME			
REPORT INFO	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF			
	PAYMENT: CIVIL PENALTY		PAYMENT: ATTORNEYS FEES	PAYMENT: OTHER
	WILL SETTLEMENT BE SUBMITTED TO COURT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT BY COURT, REPORT OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL		DATE SETTLEMENT SIGNED / /
	COPY OF SETTLEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED			
FILER INFO	NAME OF CONTACT			
	ORGANIZATION			TELEPHONE NUMBER ()
	ADDRESS			FAX NUMBER ()
	CITY	STATE	ZIP 91406	E-MAIL ADDRESS

FILING INSTRUCTIONS: This form can be completed online and printed. If electronic filing is not available, mail the completed form with a copy of the settlement to the attention of the Prop 65 Coordinator at the address shown above. If you need additional space to complete this form please use an attachment.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MONARCH LLC AND DMS HOLDINGS, Inc., dba HEALTHSMART
INTERNATIONAL

Mothers Oversight Network for Actionable Response to Contaminant Harm, LLC (FKA MONARCH ACTION, LLC) (“MONARCH”) and DMS Holdings, Inc. dba HealthSmart International (“Defendant”), (collectively the “Parties”) enter into this agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation to settle MONARCH’s allegations that Defendant violated California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”). The effective date of this Settlement Agreement shall be the date upon which it is fully executed by all Parties hereto (the “Effective Date”).

I. Recitals

A. MONARCH is a California-based entity that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and industrial products.

B. MONARCH alleges that Defendant manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes for sale in the State of California stethoscope product(s) that contain Di [2-Ethylhexyl] Phthalate (“DEHP”) without first providing a clear and reasonable warning as required by Proposition 65.

C. DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

D. The product(s) covered by this Settlement Agreement are stethoscope products manufactured by or for Defendant, imported by or for Defendant, or distributed or sold by or for Defendant to others, including, but not limited to, MABIS Spectrum Nurse Stethoscope for Adults (the “Covered Products”).

E. On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive cancer.

F. On October 24, 2003, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity.

G. These additions took place more than twelve (12) months before MONARCH served its “60-Day Notice of Violation” which is further described below.

H. DEHP is referred to hereinafter as the “Listed Chemical.”

I. On or about October 9, 2023, MONARCH served Defendant, as well as certain relevant public enforcement agencies, with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (“Notice”) advising of its intent to sue for violations of Proposition 65 arising from or related to Covered Products containing the Listed Chemical.

J. The Notice alleged Defendant violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Covered Products exposed users to the Listed Chemical.

K. To the best of the Parties’ knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the same allegations against Defendant.

L. Defendant denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice with respect to the Covered Products.

M. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to settle disputed claims between the Parties as alleged in the Notice and as set forth below concerning the Parties’ and the Covered Products’ compliance with Proposition 65 (the “Dispute”).

N. By execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties 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.

O. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission against interest by any Party of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law.

P. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed, considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission against interest or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, or parents, subsidiaries, or affiliated corporations, or any person acting for Defendant, or any direct or indirect customer of Defendant who sold or sells the Covered Products, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or forum.

Q. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that MONARCH or Defendant may have against one another in any other legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the Dispute or claims released herein.

II. Release

A. This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between MONARCH, individually and *not* in its representative capacity, and:

1. Defendant, and its owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, employees, shareholders, members, officers, directors, insurers, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns (collectively the “Releasees”), and

2. All entities to whom or from whom Releasees directly or indirectly buy, provide, distribute, or sell the Covered Products, including but not limited to manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees, including Home Depot (“Additional Releasees”) of any violation(s) or claimed violation(s) of Proposition 65 or any statutory or common law claim that has been, could have been, or may in the future be asserted against the Releasees and/or Additional Releasees regarding exposing persons or failing to warn persons about exposure to the Listed Chemical and the failure to warn about exposure to the Listed Chemical arising in connection with the Covered Products manufactured, shipped, and/or otherwise distributed prior to the Effective Date, even if sold by Releasees after the Effective Date.

3. This release applies to all Additional Releasees up through the Effective Date and continues after the Effective Date as to liability for Additional Releasees if and only if Defendant provides notice of this Settlement and Release or has provided or thereafter provides notification of the responsibility of the Additional Releasee to provide the warning as described in Section III (Duties) of this Agreement.

B. The Parties agree compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement by Defendant shall be deemed to be compliance with Proposition 65 by Releasees and Additional Releasees with respect to any exposures to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Defendant after the Effective Date.

C. The Covered Products subject to this Settlement Agreement are limited to those manufactured by or for Defendant, or imported by or for Defendant, or distributed by or for Defendant, or sold by or for Defendant.

D. MONARCH, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, but not in its capacity as representative of the public,

hereby waives and releases with respect to the Covered Products all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action, 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) (collectively the "Claims"), against Releasees and/or Additional Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law claims that were or could have been asserted in respect of any Covered Products sold up to the Effective Date, including without limitation to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Additional Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Products or any failure by Releasees and Additional Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Products.

E. MONARCH acknowledges that it is familiar with Section 1542 of the Civil Code, 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.

MONARCH, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, in its individual and *not* representative capacity, 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 Civil Code § 1542, *only as it pertains to the Listed Chemical and the Covered Products*, 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.

III. Defendant's Duties

A. Commencing July 1, 2024, Defendant shall not manufacture, import, sell, or distribute for sale in the State of California any product unless it either:

1. contains the Listed Chemical in a concentration less than or equal to 1,000 parts per million ("ppm") (0.1%) when analyzed pursuant to a scientifically reliable

application of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C, or any other scientifically reliable methodology for determining the Listed Chemical content in a substance of the form of the Covered Products herein; **or**

2. exhibits a warning in compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

B. For purposes for testing pursuant to Subsection (A)(1), Defendant agrees to only use an accredited laboratory that is not located within the Country of manufacture and/or origin of the Covered Products unless the product is manufactured and/or originates in Canada, the United States of America, or Mexico.

C. Whenever a clear and reasonable warning is required under Subsection (A)(2) for Covered Products offered for sale in the State of California, it shall state one of the warnings described in Subsection E below in such a conspicuous and prominent manner as to be likely to be read and understood by the consumer prior to or at the time of the sale or purchase.

D. Defendant further agrees to send out instructions to all distributors and retailers, including third-party online vendors, with regard to displaying a clear and reasonable warning at the time of purchase, if a warning is deemed required.

E. The Parties agree that any of the following warning shall constitute a Compliant Warning for the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product:

1. the text, “**WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.”

2. the text, “**WARNING:** Cancer and Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov”, accompanied by and placed to the right of a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline sized to be no smaller than the word, “WARNING” as provided by regulations adopted on or about August 30, 2016.

a. The triangular warning symbol specified in Subsection (3)(2) shall be in yellow with a black exclamation mark; *provided however*, the symbol may be printed in black and white if the Covered Product label is not printed against a yellow background.

3. Where a consumer product provides a warning in language(s) other than English, the warning must also be provided in the other language(s) in addition to English.

F. The Parties agree the specifications for Compliant Warnings in this Settlement Agreement comply with Proposition 65 and its regulations as of the Effective Date.

G. If modifications or amendments to Proposition 65 or its regulations after the Effective Date are inconsistent with, or provide warning specifications or options different from, the specifications in this Settlement Agreement, Defendant may modify the content and delivery methods of its warnings to conform to the modified or amended provisions of Proposition 65 or its regulations.

IV. Payments

A. **Payment from Defendant.** Within ten (10) business days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall make the Total Settlement Payment of \$28,000.00.

B. **Allocation of Payments.** The Total Settlement Payment shall be paid in three (3) separate checks made payable and allocated as follows:

1. **Civil Penalty.** Defendant shall pay \$10,000.00 as a civil penalty pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). The civil penalty shall be apportioned in accordance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.12 (25% to MONARCH and 75% to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA")).

a. Accordingly, the OEHHA portion of the civil penalty payment in the amount of \$7,500.00 shall be made payable to OEHHA and associated with taxpayer identification number 68-0284486. This payment shall be delivered along with a 1099 as follows: Attn: Fiscal Operations Branch Chief, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, P.O. Box 4010, MS #19B, Sacramento, CA 95812-4010.

b. The MONARCH portion of the civil penalty payment in the amount of \$2,500.00 shall be made payable to MONARCH and associated with taxpayer identification number 88-0835494. This payment shall be delivered along with a 1099 to MONARCH, 573 N Olive St, Ventura, CA 93001.

2. **Attorney's Fees and Costs.** A reimbursement of MONARCH's attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$18,000.00 payable to the "Greenbaum Law Firm," and

associated with taxpayer identification number 46-4580172. This payment shall be delivered to the Greenbaum Law Firm, 7120 Hayvenhurst Ave, Suite 320, Van Nuys, CA 91406 (“GLF”) along with a 1099 for the same amount.

V. Reporting the Settlement Agreement. MONARCH shall report this Settlement Agreement to the Attorney General’s Office within five (5) days of the Parties’ execution of this Settlement Agreement.

VI. Execution in Counterparts and Facsimile. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute the same document. A facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature shall be as valid as the original.

VII. 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 any of the Parties.

VIII. Modification of Settlement Agreement. Any modification to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the Parties.

IX. Application of Settlement Agreement

A. This Settlement Agreement shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, MONARCH and the Releasees and Additional Releasees identified in Section 2, Subsection (2)(A) above.

B. Defendant’s compliance with this Settlement Agreement shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by the Releasees and Additional Releasees regarding the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product.

X. Enforcement of Settlement Agreement

A. Violation of the warning requirements in this Agreement by Defendant or Additional Releasees, may be enforced, at MONARCH’s sole discretion by way of enforcing this Agreement or through a new Notice of Violation and the procedures of Health and Safety Code §25249.6 et seq.

B. Any Party may file suit before the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in Subsections (C) and (D) of this Settlement Agreement, to enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Settlement Agreement.

C. No action to enforce this Settlement Agreement may be commenced or maintained unless the Party seeking enforcement or alleging violation notifies the other Party of the specific acts alleged to breach this Settlement Agreement at least 30 days before serving or filing any action and the entity receiving the notice fails to comply with the requirements set forth in Subsection (C) below.

D. Within those 30 days (or such additional time as the Parties may mutually agree upon) of receiving the notice described in Subsection (C) supra, Defendant and MONARCH shall meet and confer on the alleged violation. Should the Parties be unable to resolve the dispute, any Party may seek relief under Subsection (B) above.

E. Enforcement of the other responsibilities under this Agreement may be enforced through an action for specific performance or breach of contract in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The prevailing party is entitled to prejudgment interest if applicable, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees, subject to Subparagraphs B-D, above.

XI. Notification Requirements

A. Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be effective if sent via email, unless one of the Parties requests notice in another method, to the following designees:

<p><u>For MONARCH:</u> Daniel N. Greenbaum, Esq. Email: dgreenbaum@greenbaumlawfirm.com</p>	<p><u>For DMS Holdings Inc:</u> Aaron Allan, Esq. Email: aallan@glaserweil.com</p>
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B. Any Party may change its designee(s) for purposes of notification by providing written notice of such change pursuant to this section.

XII. Severability. If after the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected.

XIII. Governing Law.

A. The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California.

B. This Settlement Agreement shall have no application to Covered Products which are not sold to California consumers.

C. If Proposition 65 is repealed, preempted, or otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Covered Products, then Defendant shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, any Covered Products that are so affected.

D. The Parties, including their counsel, have participated in the preparation of this Settlement Agreement and this Settlement Agreement is the result of the joint efforts of the Parties.

E. This Settlement Agreement was subject to revision and modification by the Parties and has been accepted and approved as to its final form by all Parties and their counsel.

F. Each Party to this Settlement Agreement agrees that any statute or rule of construction providing that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting Party should not be employed in the interpretation of this Settlement Agreement and, in this regard, the Parties hereby waive California Civil Code § 1654.

XIV. Authorization

A. Each signatory to this Settlement Agreement certifies they are fully authorized by the Party they represent to stipulate to this Settlement Agreement and to enter into and execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Party represented and legally bind that Party.

B. The undersigned have read, understand, and agree to all the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

C. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party is to bear its own fees and costs.

AGREED TO:

Dated: Apr 25, 2024

MONARCH LLC

By: *Sayward Halling*
Sayward Halling (Apr 25, 2024 10:43 PDT)

Dated: 4/24/2024 | 12:46 PM PDT

DMS HOLDINGS INC., DBA HEALTHSMART INTERNATIONAL

By: *Tim Fairbanks*
DocuSigned by:
C4357244A369456
Timothy Fairbanks, CFO