

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
TEXARKANA DIVISION

JAMES STUART and CAREDA L.
HOOD, individually and on behalf
of all others similarly situated

PLAINTIFFS

v.

Case No. 4:14-cv-4001

STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY
COMPANY

DEFENDANT

ORDER

Before the Court is the parties' Joint Motion to Conduct Final Approval Hearing By Video. (ECF No. 254). The Court finds that no response is necessary and that the matter is ripe for consideration.

A final approval hearing is scheduled in this case for June 1, 2020, in the United States Courthouse, Hot Springs, Arkansas. The parties propose, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, that the Court conduct the hearing by videoconference. The parties state that zero objections have been lodged to the proposed class action settlement in this matter and that access information for the hearing can be placed on the settlement website for any Class Member who wishes to remotely attend the hearing.

Upon consideration, the Court finds that good cause exists for the instant motion. Per Administrative Order No. 2020-5, all civil and criminal trials scheduled before July 6, 2020 have been continued pending further court order. Civil hearings may still take place, either in person or by videoconference, at the discretion of the presiding judge. Considering the severity of risk posed by the continued outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to the public, court staff, parties, and counsel, the Court agrees that it would be appropriate to hold the final approval hearing

in this case by videoconference. Accordingly, the parties' joint motion (ECF No. 254) should be and hereby is **GRANTED**. The final approval hearing scheduled for June 1, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., shall be conducted by videoconference at the date and time previously scheduled.

The attorneys who plan to appear for each party should email the Court at SOHinfo@arwd.uscourts.gov **by no later than 1:00 p.m. on May 28, 2020**, and provide their names. Members of the public may access and view the videoconference hearing, free of charge. Any non-party desiring access to the hearing should likewise contact chambers at SOHinfo@arwd.uscourts.gov **no later than 1:00 p.m. on May 28, 2020**, and state their interest in the case. Anyone granted remote access to the hearing is advised that photographing, recording, or rebroadcasting of the proceedings, by any means, is prohibited. *See* Local Rule 83.2(a). Violation of this prohibition could result in sanctions. Please keep teleconference devices on mute unless asked to speak by the judge.

The parties shall, as soon as possible, notify Class Members and the public that the final approval hearing will be conducted by videoconference, and provide the necessary information to attend the hearing, by publishing a prominent notice on the home page of the settlement website, www.stuart-v-statefarm.com. This notice should also list the names and contact information for Class Counsel for the benefit of any Class Members who might require additional information or assistance.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 22nd day of May, 2020.

/s/ Susan O. Hickey
Susan O. Hickey
Chief United States District Judge