

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

*Salvador Beltran, Jr. and Eli Gross, et al. v. Sony Pictures
Entertainment, Inc. d/b/a Crunchyroll
Case No.: 1:22-cv-04858*

Our Records Indicate You Have Subscribed to *Crunchyroll* and May Be Entitled to a Payment From a Class Action Settlement.

A Court authorized this website. You are not being sued. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT ABOUT THIS NOTICE!

- A Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit against Crunchyroll, LLC (“Crunchyroll” or “Defendant”). The class action lawsuit accuses Crunchyroll of disclosing its subscribers’ personally identifiable information (“PII”) to third parties without consent in violation of the Video Privacy Protection Act (the “VPPA”). The VPPA defines PII to include information which identifies a specific Person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider. Defendant denies that it violated any law but has agreed to the Settlement to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with continuing the case.
- You are included if you are a Person in the United States who, from September 8, 2020 through September 20, 2023, (1) was a registered user of an online website, mobile app, or any video-on-demand service or app owned, controlled, and/or operated by Crunchyroll; and (2) viewed videos on an online website, mobile app, or any video-on-demand service or app owned, controlled, and/or operated by Crunchyroll.
- Persons included in the Settlement will be eligible to receive a *pro rata* (meaning equal) portion of the Settlement Fund, which Class Counsel anticipates to be approximately \$30.00, but the exact amount is not yet known and could be more or less.
- Read this website carefully. Your legal rights are affected whether you act, or don’t act.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM BY DECEMBER 12, 2023	This is the only way to receive a payment.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF BY NOVEMBER 27, 2023	You will receive no benefits, but you will retain any rights you currently have to sue the Defendant about the claims in this case.
OBJECT BY NOVEMBER 27, 2023	Write to the Court explaining why you don’t like the Settlement.
GO TO THE HEARING ON DECEMBER 19, 2023	Ask to speak in Court about your opinion of the Settlement.
DO NOTHING	You won’t get a share of the Settlement benefits and will give up your rights to sue the Defendant about the claims in this case.

Your rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this website.

Basic Information

1. Why was this website created?

A Court authorized this website because you have a right to know about a proposed Settlement of this class action lawsuit and about all of your options, before the Court decides whether to give Final Approval to the Settlement. This website explains the Action, the Settlement, and your legal rights. The Honorable Sara L. Ellis, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, is overseeing this case. The case is called *Beltran, et al. v. Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc. d/b/a Crunchyroll*; Case No.: 1:22-cv-04858. The people who have sued are called the Plaintiffs. The Defendant is Crunchyroll, LLC.¹

2. What is a class action?

In a class action, one or more people called the Class Representative(s) (in this case, Salvador Beltran, Jr. and Eli Gross) sue on behalf of a group or a “class” of people who have similar claims. In a class action, the Court resolves the issues for all Settlement Class Members, except for those who exclude themselves from the Settlement Class.

3. What is this Action about?

This Action claims that Defendant violated the Video Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2710, *et seq.* (“VPPA”) by disclosing its subscribers’ personally identifiable information (“PII”) to third parties, including Facebook, Google, Adobe, and others without consent. The VPPA defines PII to include information which identifies a specific Person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider. The Defendant denies that it violated any law. The Court has not determined who is right. Rather, the parties have agreed to settle the Action to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with ongoing litigation.

4. Why is there a Settlement?

The Court has not decided whether the Plaintiffs or the Defendant should win this case. Instead, both sides agreed to a Settlement. That way, they avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with ongoing litigation, and Settlement Class Members will get compensation sooner rather than, if at all, after the completion of a trial.

Who’s Included in the Settlement?

5. How do I know if I am in the Settlement Class?

The **Settlement Class** is defined as:

all Persons in the United States who: (1) were registered users of an online website, mobile app, or any video-on-demand service or app owned, controlled, and/or operated by Crunchyroll; and (2) who viewed videos on an online website, mobile app, or any video-on-demand service or app owned, controlled, and/or operated by Crunchyroll during the Class Period.

¹ Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. was incorrectly named as the Defendant in the case. Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. is a separate corporation from Crunchyroll, LLC and is not a party to the Settlement.

The Settlement Benefits

6. What does the Settlement provide?

Monetary Relief: Defendant has created a Settlement Fund totaling \$16,000,000.00. Settlement Class Member payments, and Settlement Administration Expenses, the cost to inform people about the Settlement, Fee Award, and an award to the Class Representatives will also come out of this Settlement Fund (*see* Question 13).

A detailed description of the Settlement Benefits can be found in the Settlement Agreement available on the Settlement website at www.crvppasettlement.com.

7. How much will my payment be?

If you are member of the Settlement Class you may submit a Claim Form to receive a portion of the Settlement Fund. The amount of this payment will depend on how many of the Settlement Class Members file Approved Claims. Each Settlement Class Member who files an Approved Claim will receive a proportionate share of the Settlement Fund, which Class Counsel anticipates will be approximately \$30.00. You can contact the Settlement Administrator at (833) 933-5590 to inquire as to the number of claims filed.

8. When will I get my payment?

The Final Approval Hearing to consider the fairness of the Settlement is scheduled for **December 19, 2023**. If the Court approves the Settlement, eligible Settlement Class Members whose claims were approved by the Settlement Administrator will receive their payment 90 days after the Settlement has been finally approved and/or any appeals process is complete. You will have the option of how you wish to receive your Settlement funds. More information is available at www.crvppasettlement.com.

How to Get Benefits

9. How do I get a payment?

If you are a Settlement Class Member and you want to get a payment, you **must** complete and submit a Claim Form by **December 12, 2023**. An online Claim Form can be submitted on the Settlement website at www.crvppasettlement.com or by printing and mailing a paper Claim Form, copies of which are available for download on the Settlement website www.crvppasettlement.com.

We encourage you to submit your claim online. Not only is it easier and more secure, but it is completely free and takes only minutes!

Remaining in the Settlement

10. What am I giving up if I stay in the Class?

If the Settlement becomes Final, you will give up your right to sue Defendant for the claims this Settlement resolves. The Settlement Agreement describes the specific claims you are giving up against the Defendants. You will be “releasing” the Defendant and certain of its affiliates described in Section 1.24 of the Settlement Agreement. Unless you exclude yourself (*see* Question 14), you are “releasing” the claims, regardless of whether you submit a claim or not. The Settlement Agreement is available through the “Documents” link on the website.

The Settlement Agreement describes the Released Claims with specific descriptions, so read it carefully. If you have any questions you can talk to the lawyers listed in Question 12 for free or you can, of course, talk to your own lawyer if you have questions about what this means.

11. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing, you won't get any Settlement Benefits. If you don't exclude yourself, or "opt out," you won't be able to start an Action or be part of any other Action against the Defendant for the claims being resolved by this Settlement.

The Lawyers Representing You

12. Do I have a lawyer in the case?

The Court has appointed Brandon Wise and Adam Florek of Peiffer Wolf Carr Kane Conway & Wise, LLP and Michael Murphy and Patrick Muench of Bailey & Glasser, LLP to be the attorneys representing the Settlement Class. They are called "Class Counsel." They believe, after conducting an extensive investigation, that the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer in this case, you may hire one at your expense.

13. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel's Fee Award will be paid from the Settlement Fund in an amount determined and awarded by the Court. Class Counsel is entitled to seek no more than one-third of the \$16 million Settlement Benefit, but the Court may award less than this amount.

As approved by the Court, the Class Representatives will be paid an incentive award from the Settlement Fund for helping to bring and settle the case. The Class Representatives will seek no more than \$5,000 each as an incentive award, but the Court may award less than this amount.

Excluding Yourself from the Settlement

14. How do I get out of the Settlement?

To exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must mail or otherwise deliver a letter (or request for exclusion) stating that you want to be excluded from the *Beltran, et al. v. Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. d/b/a Crunchyroll*, Case No. 1:22-cv-04858 Settlement. Your letter or request for exclusion must also include your name, your address, your signature, the name and number of this case, and a statement that you wish to be excluded. You must mail or deliver your exclusion request no later than **November 27, 2023**, to:

Beltran v. Sony
c/o Kroll Settlement Administration LLC
PO Box 225391
New York, NY 10150-5391

15. If I don't exclude myself, can I sue the Defendant for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue the Defendant for the claims being resolved by this Settlement.

16. If I exclude myself, can I get anything from this Settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself, do not submit a Claim Form to ask for Settlement Benefits.

Objecting to the Settlement

17. How do I object to the Settlement?

If you're a Settlement Class Member, you can object to the Settlement if you don't like any part of it. You can give reasons why you think the Court should not approve it. The Court will consider your views. To object, you must file with the Court a letter or brief stating that you object to the Settlement in *Beltran, et al. v. Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc. d/b/a Crunchyroll*, Case No. 1:22-cv-04858 and identify all your reasons for your objections (including citations and supporting evidence) and attach any materials you rely on for your objections. Your letter or brief must also include your name, an explanation of the basis upon which you claim to be a Settlement Class Member, the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting you in connection with your objection, and your signature. If you, or an attorney assisting you with your objection, have ever objected to any class action Settlement where you or the objecting attorney has asked for or received payment in exchange for dismissal of the objection (or any related appeal) without modification to the Settlement, you must include a statement in your objection identifying each such case by full case caption. You must also mail or deliver a copy of your letter or brief to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel listed below.

Class Counsel will file with the Court and post on this website its request for a Fee Award by October 26, 2023.

If you want to appear and speak at the Final Approval Hearing to object to the Settlement, with or without a lawyer (explained below in answer to Question Number 21), you must say so in your letter or brief. File the objection with the Court and mail a copy to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel at the addresses below postmarked no later than **November 27, 2023**.

Court	Class Counsel	Defendant's Counsel
The Hon. Sara L. Ellis Courtroom 1403 Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse 219 South Dearborn Street Chicago, IL 60604	Brandon M. Wise Adam J. Florek Peiffer Wolf Carr Kane Conway & Wise, LLP 73 W. Monroe 5 th Floor Chicago, IL 60604 Michael L. Murphy Patrick Muench Bailey & Glasser LLP 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street NW Suite 540 Washington, DC 20007	William F. Farley Rachel Agius Holland & Knight LLP 150 North Riverside Plaza Suite 2700 Chicago, IL 60606 Mark S. Melodia Holland & Knight LLP 31 West 52 nd Street Floor 2 New York, NY 10019

18. What's the difference between objecting and excluding myself from the Settlement?

Objecting simply means telling the Court that you don't like something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Settlement Class. Excluding yourself from the Settlement Class is telling the Court that you don't want to be part of the Settlement Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the case no longer affects you.

The Court's Final Approval Hearing

19. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing on December 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 1403 at Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The purpose of the hearing will be for the Court to determine whether to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class; to consider the Class Counsel's Fee Award; and to consider the request for an incentive award to the Class Representatives. At that hearing, the Court will be available to hear any objections and arguments concerning the fairness of the Settlement.

The hearing may be postponed to a different date or time without notice, so it is a good idea to check [this website](#) or call the Settlement Administrator at (833) 933-5590. If, however, you timely objected to the Settlement and advised the Court that you intend to appear and speak at the Final Approval Hearing, you will receive Notice of any change in the date of such Final Approval Hearing.

20. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have. You are welcome, however, to attend the hearing at your own expense. If you send an objection or comment, you don't have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you filed and mailed your written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay another lawyer to attend, but it's not required.

21. May I speak at the hearing?

Yes. You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Final Approval Hearing. To do so, you must include in your letter or brief objecting to the Settlement a statement saying that it is your "Notice of Intent to Appear in *Beltran, et al. v. Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc. d/b/a Crunchyroll*, Case No. 1:22-cv-04858." It must include your name, address, telephone number and signature as well as the name and address of your lawyer, if one is appearing for you. Your objection and Notice of intent to appear must be filed with the Court and postmarked no later than **November 27, 2023** and be sent to the addresses listed in Question 17.

Getting More Information

22. Where do I get more information?

This website summarizes the Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You can get a copy of the Settlement Agreement at www.crvppasettlement.com. You may also write with questions to *Beltran v. Sony, c/o Kroll Settlement Administration LLC, PO Box 225391, New York, NY 10150-5391*. You can call the Settlement Administrator at (833) 933-5590 or Class Counsel at (314) 888-4827, if you have any questions. Before doing so, however, please read this full website carefully. You may also find additional information elsewhere on the case website.