

If You Are an Iowa Consumer or Business and Purchased Microsoft Software

A Proposed \$179,950,000 Settlement May Affect Your Rights. Iowa State and Local Governments are Included

A Proposed Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit against Microsoft. This is only a summary. For more information you should read the detailed *Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement* available on the Web site or by calling the number below.

Who is a Class Member?

The Class includes consumers and businesses that obtained certain Microsoft software between May 18, 1994 and June 30, 2006, for use in Iowa. The Class also includes all Iowa state and local governments that obtained certain Microsoft software between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2006, for use in Iowa. If you obtained this software for resale you are not in the Class.

What is this case about?

Plaintiffs say that Microsoft violated Iowa antitrust and unfair competition laws. The lawsuit claims that this means consumers were overcharged for software. Microsoft denies these claims and denies that it ever overcharged anyone for software. The Court did not decide in favor of the Plaintiffs or Microsoft. Instead, both sides agreed to this Proposed Settlement.

What does the Proposed Settlement provide?

Microsoft will distribute up to \$179,950,000 in (1) cash payments to consumers; and (2) vouchers to volume licensees and/or Iowa state and local governments. The vouchers can be used towards the purchase of computers, certain computer hardware, and certain software.

You can get a cash payment or vouchers if you obtained Microsoft software or a computer with the software already installed, for use in Iowa. The cash payments and vouchers are worth:

- \$29 for each Microsoft Office license;
- \$25 for each Microsoft Excel license;
- \$16 for each Microsoft Windows and MS-DOS license; and
- \$10 for each Microsoft Word (including Home Essentials and Works Suite) license.

You can get a cash payment or a voucher for each license you purchased. More information is in a detailed notice available on the Web site. Half of any funds that are not claimed will be provided as vouchers for hardware, software and technology services to Iowa public schools under a program to be approved by the Court. The total value of vouchers issued but not redeemed will also be provided to Iowa public schools.

How do you get benefits?

Simply call or go to the Web site to get a claim form. To get benefits you can apply on-line or fill out and send in a claim form postmarked no later than **December 14, 2007**.

Individual consumers do not have to provide documents or proof of purchase for software if your claim does not exceed \$200. You just need to certify with a declaration under penalty of perjury that your claim is not false. If your claim exceeds \$200, you must provide

additional information. Claims for under \$200 by individual consumers can be submitted on the Web site.

If you are a volume licensee you need a Volume License Claim Form. Iowa state or local governments that did not acquire software through a volume license program need an Iowa State and Local Government Claim Form. All of the claim forms are available at www.IowaMicrosoftCase.com or by calling 1-800-760-6294. Claims may be audited and penalties apply for false claims.

Can I transfer my vouchers?

You may sell, donate or gift up to \$650 of your vouchers. Vouchers may be transferred to anyone who does not intend to resell them. Transferred vouchers may be redeemed up to \$10,000. Vouchers can be transferred only once.

Who Represents Me?

The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. Class Counsel will request \$75 million in attorneys' fees and reasonable expenses. Class Counsel will also request that each of the class representatives be awarded \$10,000 for their time and effort. Attorneys' fees and expenses and class representative awards will be paid separately by Microsoft and will not reduce the settlement benefits you get.

What are my options?

- **If you want to stay in the Class**, you do not have to do anything. You will be bound by all the Court's orders. This means you will release any claims you may have against Microsoft that are covered by the Proposed Settlement.
- **If you do not wish to be a member of the Class** and be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself in writing. If you exclude yourself, you can't get a cash payment or any vouchers. Your request must be postmarked no later than **July 30, 2007**.
- **You can tell the Court if you do not like this Proposed Settlement** or some part of it if you do not exclude yourself. To object you must send a letter that is postmarked no later than **July 30, 2007**.

For more details on what is needed to file a claim, exclude yourself from the Class or object to the Proposed Settlement you should read the *Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement* available on the Web site or by calling 1-800-760-6294.

Will there be a Hearing?

The District Court of Iowa, Fifth Judicial District, will hold a hearing in this case, *Comes v. Microsoft Corp.*, (No. CL82311), on August 31, 2007. The Court will decide whether to give final approval to the Proposed Settlement, and may consider the lawyers' request for fees and expenses and class representative awards. You or your lawyer may appear at the hearing, at your own cost.

For more information:

Call: 1-800-760-6294 or Visit: www.IowaMicrosoftCase.com