

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF BEN HILL COUNTY, GEORGIA (“COUNTY”) AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES CONCERNING THE NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR AND J&J SETTLEMENTS AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION OF THE “ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING,” “SUBDIVISION DISTRIBUTOR SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION FORM,” AND “JANSSEN SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION FORM.”

WHEREAS, the County initiated litigation against certain manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids in *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL 2804, to hold them accountable for the opioid epidemic and to seek equitable and monetary relief;

WHEREAS, opioid distributor defendants McKesson Corporation, AmerisourceBergen Corporation, and Cardinal Health, Inc. (“Settling Distributors”), and opioid manufacturer defendants Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc. (“J&J”) have separately reached settlement frameworks (otherwise known as the “National Distributor Settlement” and “J&J Settlement”) with certain states and local government entities that the State of Georgia and Georgia’s local government entities have the option to join;

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and certain Georgia local government entities seek to enter a Memorandum of Understanding that would enable them to join the National Distributor and J&J Settlements and maximize the recovery to the State of Georgia and Georgia local government entities from those settlements; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to agree to be bound by the Memorandum of Understanding and to participate in the National Distributor and J&J Settlements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The County Board of Commissioners, as the governing body of the County, hereby agrees to be bound by the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Georgia and certain Georgia local government entities concerning the National Distributor and J&J Settlements.

Section 2. The County Board of Commissioners, as the governing body of the County, hereby agrees to participate in the National Distributor and J&J Settlements.

Section 3. The County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints _____ as the duly-appointed representative of the County for the purposes of agreeing to be bound by the Memorandum of Understanding and participating in the National Distributor and J&J Settlements.

Section 4. The County Board of Commissioners directs the duly-appointed representative of the County to execute the “ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING,” attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

Section 5. The County Board of Commissioners directs the duly-appointed representative of the County to execute the “Subdivision Distributor Settlement Participation Form,” attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**.

Section 6. The County Board of Commissioners directs the duly-appointed representative of the County to execute the “Janssen Settlement Participation Form,” attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit C**.

Section 7. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

Section 8. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

This Resolution was introduced, seconded and adopted at a duly convened meeting of the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners, held on _____, 2021.

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

County Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound By Memorandum of Understanding

EXHIBIT 1

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT
TO BE BOUND BY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

WHEREFORE, the undersigned, as a duly-appointed representative of the below-referenced entity, acknowledges the following:

- Ben Hill County, Georgia has received the State of Georgia and Local Governments: Memorandum of Understanding Concerning National Distributor and Johnson & Johnson Opioid Settlements.
- The undersigned is a duly-appointed representative of Ben Hill County, Georgia, and has the authority to execute this document and bind Ben Hill County, Georgia to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Ben Hill County, Georgia is either represented by legal counsel, or has the ability to obtain advice from legal counsel, concerning the contents and implication of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- The undersigned, on behalf of Ben Hill County, Georgia understands and acknowledges the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, and Ben Hill County, Georgia, agrees to be bound by its terms.
- No party is under duress or undue influence.

/s/ _____

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

Entity Ben Hill County, Georgia

EXHIBIT “B”

Subdivision Distributor Settlement Participation Form

Subdivision Distributor Settlement Participation Form

Governmental Entity:	State:
Authorized Official:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

The governmental entity identified above (“*Governmental Entity*”), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021 (“*Distributor Settlement*”), and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the Distributor Settlement, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows.

1. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the Distributor Settlement, understands that all terms in this Participation Form have the meanings defined therein, and agrees that by signing this Participation Form, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the Distributor Settlement and become a Participating Subdivision as provided therein.
2. The Governmental Entity shall, within 14 days of the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, secure the dismissal with prejudice of any Released Claims that it has filed.
3. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of the Distributor Settlement pertaining to Subdivisions as defined therein.
4. By agreeing to the terms of the Distributor Settlement and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.
5. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the Distributor Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.
6. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the court in the Governmental Entity’s state where the Consent Judgment is filed for purposes limited to that court’s role as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent provided in, the Distributor Settlement. The Governmental Entity likewise agrees to arbitrate before the National Arbitration Panel as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent otherwise provided in, the Distributor Settlement.

7. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the Distributor Settlement as provided therein.
8. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes in the Distributor Settlement, including, but not limited to, all provisions of Part XI, and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in their official capacity elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in any forum whatsoever. The releases provided for in the Distributor Settlement are intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The Distributor Settlement shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim.
9. The Governmental Entity hereby takes on all rights and obligations of a Participating Subdivision as set forth in the Distributor Settlement.
10. In connection with the releases provided for in the Distributor Settlement, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

General Release; extent. 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.

A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the Distributor Settlement.

11. Nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of the Distributor Settlement, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Participation Form is interpreted differently from the Distributor Settlement in any respect, the Distributor Settlement controls.

12. The effective date of this Participation Form shall be the date on which the State of Georgia enters into the Distributor Settlement. In the event that the State of Georgia elects not to enter into the Distributor Settlement, this Participation Form shall be null and void and shall confer no rights or obligations on the State of Georgia, the Released Entities (as defined in the National Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021), or the Governmental Entity.

I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Participation Form on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT “C”

Janssen Settlement Participation Form

Janssen Settlement Participation Form

Governmental Entity:	State:
Authorized Official:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

The governmental entity identified above (“Governmental Entity”), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021 (“Janssen Settlement”), and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the Janssen Settlement, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows.

1. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the Janssen Settlement, understands that all terms in this Election and Release have the meanings defined therein, and agrees that by this Election, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the Janssen Settlement and become a Participating Subdivision as provided therein.
2. The Governmental Entity shall, within 14 days of the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, dismiss with prejudice any Released Claims that it has filed.
3. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of the Janssen Settlement pertaining to Subdivisions as defined therein.
4. By agreeing to the terms of the Janssen Settlement and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.
5. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the Janssen Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.
6. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the court in the Governmental Entity’s state where the Consent Judgment is filed for purposes limited to that court’s role as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent provided in, the Janssen Settlement.
7. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the Janssen Settlement as provided therein.

8. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes in the Janssen Settlement, including but not limited to all provisions of Section IV (Release), and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in their official capacity elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in any forum whatsoever. The releases provided for in the Janssen Settlement are intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The Janssen Settlement shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim.
9. In connection with the releases provided for in the Janssen Settlement, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

General Release; extent. 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 that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the Janssen Settlement.

10. Nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of the Janssen Settlement, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Election and Release is interpreted differently from the Janssen Settlement in any respect, the Janssen Settlement controls.

11. The effective date of this Participation Form shall be the date on which the State of Georgia enters into the Janssen Settlement. In the event that the State of Georgia elects not to enter into the Janssen Settlement, this Participation Form shall be null and void and shall confer no rights or obligations on the State of Georgia, the Released Entities (as defined in the National Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021), or the Governmental Entity.

I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Election and Release on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____