



## BUFFALO, NEW YORK, NAACP BRANCH RELEASE AND DISCLAIMER FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print name), the Complainant,

reside at \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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By placing my initials to the left of each numbered item below, I affirm that I understand it and agree with it.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. I have submitted to the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of the NAACP ("NAACP") a Complaint of Discrimination directed against \_\_\_\_\_ ("Respondent").
- \_\_\_\_ 2. I understand that the NAACP is a private, nonprofit, voluntary organization. It is not a governmental agency. Filing a complaint with the NAACP is not the same as filing a complaint with an administrative agency or filing a suit in a court of law. Whatever rights I have to file a complaint with an administrative agency or to file a civil lawsuit, are completely unaffected by whether or not I have filed this complaint with the NAACP.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. I have authorized the NAACP to (1) investigate my complaint, (2) to attempt to mediate my complaint with Respondent in order to explore the possibility of settlement, and (3) if there is no settlement, to provide me with a referral of a lawyer(s) who may consider representing me in litigation against Respondent.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. I will provide the NAACP copies (not originals) of whatever documents I have to support the complaint. If I request in writing that some of the materials be held in confidence, the NAACP will hold it in confidence; otherwise the NAACP may share it with the Respondent or with state or federal anti-discrimination agencies.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. If the NAACP mediates my complaint with, Respondent, I will refrain from filing my complaint with a state or federal anti-discrimination agency or filing a lawsuit while the mediation is in progress. However, I am free at any time, after notifying the NAACP of my intentions, to terminate the mediation and file my complaint with a state or federal anti-discrimination agency or file a lawsuit. If the mediation is nonbinding, I am not required to accept a settlement with Respondent.

- \_\_\_6. The NAACP will receive no funds from any mediation or settlement. Persons conducting settlement and negotiate are not lawyers and are not providing legal services.
- \_\_\_7. I agree that if I accept a settlement with Respondent, I will be required to sign a release of claims against a respondent, and I will honor the terms of such a Release and Claim.
- \_\_\_8. I understand that if the NAACP refers me to a private attorney, I am not required to retain him/her and he/she is not required to offer legal representation to me. I understand that such representation as he/she might offer to me need not be without charge but may be on whatever terms he/she and I agree on. I understand that he/she does not represent the NAACP, nor is she employed by or paid by the NAACP. I understand that the NAACP in no way guarantees the competency, professionalism or fitness of the lawyers whose names have been provided.
- \_\_\_9. I understand that the NAACP is not a law firm and cannot provide me with legal advice or legal representation.
- \_\_\_10. I understand that if I elect to hire/retain a member or a volunteer from the NAACP who is an attorney to legally represent me, then that attorney now becomes my private attorney and no longer serves as a representative of the NAACP.
- \_\_\_11. I release and hold harmless the NAACP, its officers, director, employees, agents, personal actions and actions, cause and causes of action suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckoning, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreement, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgements, executions, claims, and demands whosoever, in law in equity, which I ever had, may have in the future, or which any of my personal representative, successors, heirs or assigns hereafter can, shall or may have against the NAACP, upon or by reason of the NAACP's handling of my Complaint of Discrimination.

Signed,

Complainant:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAACP Legal Redress Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 9/2019