

PX 209

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JENNIFER YICK, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,

Defendant.

Case No. 21-cv-00376-VC

PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Re: Dkt. Nos. 64, 100

With the assistance of Magistrate Judge Kim, the plaintiffs and defendants worked together to craft preliminary injunction language that is designed to protect the class members from future harm while minimizing disruption to the defendant's operations. This language is an improvement over what was presented by the plaintiffs in support of their motion. The hardship to the defendant from this injunction is outweighed by its benefits to the class members. The injunction is also in the public interest. Accordingly, in accordance with the language submitted by the parties, and for the reasons discussed in the order issued on May 17, 2021:

Bank of America, N.A. (the "Bank"), and the Bank's officers, directors, agents, employees, representatives, and all persons acting under, in concert or participation with, or for them ("Defendant") are preliminarily enjoined in the administration of prepaid debit cards for Employment Development Department ("EDD") unemployment or disability benefits issued by Defendant to members of the certified class as follows:

(1) Defendant shall be prohibited from considering the results of the Bank's initial automated claims fraud filter (Claim Fraud Filter) in investigating or resolving unauthorized transaction error claims (*see* 12 C.F.R. 1005.11) (Claims).

authenticated their identity through either EDD (in the knowledge of the Bank) or the Bank, Defendant shall complete the investigation and resolve the claim within 45 calendar days of the entry of this Order (or of the date the class member authenticates their identity, if later) and, if the claim has not been resolved within 10 business days of the entry of this Order (or of the date the class member authenticates their identity, if later), provide provisional credit in the amount of the alleged error(s).

b. For any Previously Closed Claims that were filed by a class member who has authenticated their identity through either EDD (in the knowledge of the Bank) or the Bank, but the Claim has never been reopened, Defendant shall reopen such Claim within ten (10) days of the entry of this Order and Defendant shall complete the investigation and resolve the claim within 45 calendar days of reopening and, if the claim has not been resolved within 10 business days of reopening, provide provisional credit in the amount of the alleged error(s).

(6) In addition to Claims that Defendant reopens pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5(b), Defendant shall, upon request from the affected cardholder, reopen any Claim that it closed or denied on or after January 1, 2020.

(7) Within 10 days of the entry of this Order (by mail and email, if available) or after the date of the blocking (by mail, within three (3) business days, and email, if available, within one (1) business day), whichever is later, Defendant shall give written notice to class members whose accounts are blocked solely based upon its Claims Fraud Filter that explains that the Bank will promptly unblock their account if the class member authenticates their identity. The written notice shall explain: the basis for the previous block; what steps the class member needs to take to authenticate their identity (which may include presenting identification at a Bank branch or by calling the dedicated toll free number at the Fraud Call Center referred to in paragraph 9); that if they do not authenticate their identity, their account will remain blocked or will be closed; and that they have the right to ask EDD to issue future benefits payments by paper check instead of by the Bank Debit Card.

(8) Defendant shall:

the time, separately measured for the Claims Initiation and Fraud Call Centers and based on all callers to such centers (rather than just calls by Class Members).

b. Train and require CSRs in the Claims Initiation Call Center to request email contact information from a claimant at the time a claim is filed (if email is not already available for that claimant), so that the Bank may use that information to contact the claimant regarding authentication, if and to the extent this is consented to by EDD.

c. Train and require CSRs in the Fraud Call Center to immediately inform cardholders who are unable to authenticate their identity by phone that they have the option of authenticating their identity at a Bank branch.

(11) Within 10 business days of the entry of this Order, Defendants shall provide email and mail notice to all Class Members of their rights under paragraphs (1) through (7) of this Order.

(12) Paragraphs 2 and 4 of this Order shall not apply to,

a. Claims made with respect to accounts that EDD has found to be disqualified or not entitled to benefits, or has requested an account freeze; or

b. Claims made with respect to accounts that Defendant has frozen or blocked based on (i) receipt of legal process or (ii) information provided or made available by law enforcement, or (iii) the outcome of an investigation of suspicious facts and circumstances related to an individual cardholder developed independent of the Claim (if such cardholder has been sent a notice that the action has occurred and a statement of what the cardholder can do in response).

Defendant shall implement the requirement of paragraph 1 as soon as practicable but in no event more than seven (7) days from the entry of this Order.

There shall be no bond required.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 2, 2021



VINCE CHHABRIA
United States District Judge