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## **Judge rules \$63.8 million settlement in Paxil case fair**

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A Madison County judge Thursday deemed a \$63.8 million settlement fair and reasonable for a class-action suit against the makers of Paxil and Paxil CR.

"My job is to determine the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of this settlement," Associate Judge Ralph Mendelsohn said. "This court fully feels that it is as fair as fair can be."

The lawsuit claimed GlaxoSmithKline promoted the drugs - usually used to treat depression and anxiety - for children and adolescents while withholding negative information about the drugs' safety and effectiveness. Members of the class include all U.S. residents who bought the drugs for their children.

Consumers who have records of their purchases can get full refunds for their expenditures.

The objections to the settlement were withdrawn prior to the fairness hearing after modifications were made. Those modifications included: Consumers who do not have records can get \$100; the \$300,000 cap for undocumented claims was eliminated; and the \$16.6 million for attorney fees will be distributed to attorneys who have also done work to benefit the class-action suit other than the plaintiff attorneys.

Fees for the plaintiff attorneys - Stephen Tillery of Korein Tillery LLC in St. Louis and Stephen Swedlow of Swedlow & Associates in Chicago - will be deducted from settlement fund.

Of the filed objections, Belleville attorney Tom Keefe represented four out-of-town law firms -- Baum Hedlund, P.A.; Strange & Carpenter; Pendley, Baudin & Coffin, LLP; and Larson King, LLP. All of these firms were pursuing other class-action lawsuits involving Paxil.

After the hearing, attorney Christopher Coffin said they were satisfied with changes to the settlement.

"Most important thing to us, the class benefit was increased by our involvement," Coffin said.

By eliminating the cap for undocumented claims and increasing the amount of money, attorney Michael Baum said more people will come forward to make claims.

"It simplified the process for a large portion of the class who would make claims," Baum said.

For more information on the settlement, go to [www.paxilpediatricsettlement.com](http://www.paxilpediatricsettlement.com).