



## Visa/MasterCard Class Action Settlement - How does this affect you?

If you accepted Visa or MasterCard at any point between January 1, 2004, and January 25, 2019, you are part of a class action lawsuit that resulted in a settlement of more than \$5 billion. The official name of the class action lawsuit is *Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation (MDL No. 1720)*.

**CURRENT STATUS:** We are pleased to inform you that, as of December 1, 2023, the official claim form for the VISA/MasterCard Class Action Settlement is now available. With the formal approval of the VISA/MasterCard Class Action Settlement in September 2023, the process of recovering a portion of the fees you may have paid from January 2004 to January 2019 is materially progressing. The current enrollment period is from December 1, 2023, to August 30, 2024.

## What is this case all about?

- The court case was between a group of merchants (on one side) and Visa, MasterCard, and issuing banks (on the other side) about unfair practices related to interchange fees.
- Interchange is the fee collected by banks every time a merchant accepts payment from a customer using a credit card. We don't have to tell you how high the fees have gotten.
- The lack of competition meant steadily rising fees and no alternatives. Finally, merchants fought back and sued.
- Both parties originally agreed to settle for more than \$5 billion dollars.

## What are Your options?

- OPTION 1:** Do nothing and do not receive your share of the settlement. Note: If you want to participate, you must take action in this class action to receive compensation.
- OPTION 2:** File your own claim by working with the official settlement administrator. For more information, and contact details for no-cost assistance, you can visit [www.paymentcardsettlement.com](http://www.paymentcardsettlement.com). Claim forms started mailing on December 1, 2023 and are also available on line. The claim filing deadline is August 30, 2024.
- OPTION 3:** Retain Brownstone Recovery to work on your behalf and help you recover your share of the settlement. Our areas of expertise are interchange fees and class action settlements. We will focus on your claim while you focus on your business. Simply go to [www.brownstonerecovery.com](http://www.brownstonerecovery.com) and click on the "Retain" button.

Brownstone Recovery's broad expertise includes successfully handling the previous Visa/MasterCard class action case. Visit our website for more information. If you are interested, simply provide your contact information - we will confirm your enrollment, keep you up to date on the settlement progress, and file your claim(s).

[www.brownstonerecovery.com](http://www.brownstonerecovery.com)

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