

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FORT MYERS DIVISION

ELLEN COTTER,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No: 2:17-cv-209-FtM-29CM

SOUTHERN TRANSCRIPTION  
SERVICES, INC., a Georgia  
profit corporation and  
HANNAH BROOKS MORRIS,  
individually,

Defendants.

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**OPINION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on consideration of the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation (Doc. #22), filed August 7, 2017, recommending that that the parties' Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Dismissal With Prejudice (Doc. #20) be granted, the settlement be approved, and the case dismissed. On August 15, 2017, the parties filed a Joint Notice of Non-Objection to Report and Recommendations (Doc. #23) indicating no objections.

After conducting a careful and complete review of the findings and recommendations, a district judge may accept, reject or modify the magistrate judge's report and recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Williams v. Wainwright, 681 F.2d 732 (11th Cir. 1982),

cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1112 (1983). In the absence of specific objections, there is no requirement that a district judge review factual findings *de novo*, Garvey v. Vaughn, 993 F.2d 776, 779 n.9 (11th Cir. 1993), and the court may accept, reject or modify, in whole or in part, the findings and recommendations. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). The district judge reviews legal conclusions *de novo*, even in the absence of an objection. See Cooper-Houston v. Southern Ry. Co., 37 F.3d 603, 604 (11th Cir. 1994); Castro Bobadilla v. Reno, 826 F. Supp. 1428, 1431-32 (S.D. Fla. 1993), aff'd, 28 F.3d 116 (11th Cir. 1994) (Table).

After conducting an independent examination of the file and upon due consideration of the Report and Recommendation, the Court accepts the Report and Recommendation of the magistrate judge.

Accordingly, it is now

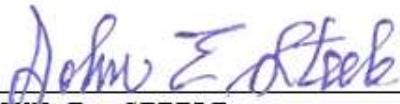
**ORDERED:**

1. The Report and Recommendation (Doc. #22) is hereby **adopted** and the findings **incorporated** herein.

2. The parties' Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Dismissal With Prejudice (Doc. #20) is **granted** and the Settlement Agreement and Mutual General Release of Claims (Doc. #21-1) is approved as a fair and reasonable resolution of a bona fide dispute.

3. The Clerk shall enter judgment **dismissing** the case with prejudice, terminate all deadlines and motions, and close the file.

**DONE and ORDERED** at Fort Myers, Florida, this 21st day of August, 2017.

  
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JOHN E. STEELE  
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies:  
Hon. Carol Mirando  
United States Magistrate Judge

Counsel of Record  
Unrepresented parties