

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

***Weidman et al. v. Ford Motor Company, Case No. 2:18-cv-12719-GAD-JJG***

**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION**

If you purchased or leased a 2013-2018 Ford F-150 in  
Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, or Texas, a  
pending class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

*This is an official court-approved notice about your rights. It is not a solicitation from a lawyer.*

You are receiving this notice because you may be a member of a pending class action lawsuit against Ford Motor Company regarding an alleged brake defect in certain 2013-2018 Ford F-150 trucks equipped with a step-bore brake master cylinder (known as the “Class Vehicles,” and defined in further detail below).

Plaintiffs Paul Weidman, Jean Louis Thuotte, Sr., Steve Mitchell, Marty Cobb, Amanda Gollott, and Teresa Perry (known as the “Plaintiffs” or “Class Representatives” in this lawsuit) have sued Ford Motor Company alleging that the Class Vehicles were equipped with a defective brake master cylinder that impairs the vehicles’ ability to brake in a timely and efficient manner. Plaintiffs allege that this is a dangerous defect that can reduce the Class Vehicles’ ability to brake and increases the risk of a crash. Plaintiffs also allege that Ford has failed to fix the defect, and that its inadequate recalls of some of the Class Vehicles have been ineffective.

The Court has not yet determined if the allegations of the lawsuit are true or if the Plaintiffs and Class are entitled to any relief. Ford has denied the allegations in Plaintiffs’ lawsuit and has asserted multiple defenses, and some of the Class vehicles already are subject to a recall by Ford. The Court or jury will ultimately decide the disputed issues.

The Court has allowed this case to proceed as a class action to allow a jury to decide the following three issues (known as the “certified questions”):

1. Whether the Class Vehicles’ brake systems are defective;
2. Whether Ford possessed pre-sale knowledge of the alleged defect; and
3. Whether information about the alleged defect that was concealed would have been material to a reasonable buyer.

**You must now decide whether you will remain in the Class.** You are automatically included in the Class if you purchased or leased a Class Vehicle in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, or Texas, regardless of whether you still own or lease the vehicle. If you do not want to be part of the Class, you must submit a request for exclusion by October 17, 2022, as described in this notice.

Questions? Call 1-833-681-5520 or visit [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com)

Your legal rights and options in this lawsuit are summarized below.

| <b>LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS</b>                |  |
|--|--|
| <b>DO NOTHING</b>                              | <p><b>Stay as a member of the Class and await the outcome of this lawsuit.</b></p> <p>If you purchased or leased a Class Vehicle in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, or Texas, you are already a Class member and you do not need to do anything at this time to stay in the Class.</p> <p>By staying in the Class, you and all other Class members will be included in the outcome of this case, which would include any benefit if there were to be a settlement.</p> <p>You and all other members of the Class will be bound by how the Court or a jury decides the three certified questions described above, whether favorable or unfavorable, and you will not be able to sue Ford separately to reach a different result as to those three questions. After the Court or a jury decides the three certified questions described above, the Court will decide the next steps in this litigation.</p> <p>The Court has appointed a team of attorneys, known as “Class Counsel,” to litigate the three certified questions on behalf of the Class. You <b>will not</b> have to pay out of pocket for any of Class Counsel’s fees and expenses, regardless of the outcome of this case.</p> |
| <b>ASK TO BE EXCLUDED BY October 17, 2022.</b> | <p><b>Remove yourself from the Class and keep any rights you may have to sue Ford individually for the same claims.</b></p> <p>If you ask to be excluded from the Class, and money or benefits are later available to Class members, you will not share in them. If you ask to be excluded, you will retain your rights to sue Ford individually for the same claims in this lawsuit, but you will need to hire your own attorney or represent yourself if you wish to pursue your claims in a separate case, and you will be subject to any legal deadlines applicable to those claims.</p> <p>If you exclude yourself, you will <b>not</b> be bound by the outcome of the class trial on the three issues identified by the Court, because you will not be part of the Class.</p> <p>To ask to be excluded from the Class, you must submit your signed request for exclusion before October 17, 2022. Please see Question 11 for further details.</p>  |

It is important that you read the rest of this notice so you can understand your legal rights and options in this case. Your legal rights will be affected whether you act or do not act.

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For further information, please visit [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com) or contact the Notice Administrator at 1-833-681-5520.

## **LAWSUIT INFORMATION**

### **1. What is this lawsuit about?**

Plaintiffs have sued Ford to recover damages for an alleged defect in the brake master cylinder in certain 2013-2018 Ford F-150 trucks with a step-bore brake master cylinder, known as the Class Vehicles. The brake master cylinder is the component in the Class Vehicles' brake system that regulates the flow of brake fluid when the driver applies the brake pedal. Plaintiffs allege that the brake master cylinder in the Class Vehicles are defective and can reduce the Class Vehicles' ability to brake, which increases the risk of a crash.

Plaintiffs claim that Ford knowingly concealed the alleged defect, including by issuing recalls it knew were ineffective and inadequate. Plaintiffs have filed a class action lawsuit against Ford for common law fraud claims and statutory consumer protection claims arising out of Ford's conduct. Plaintiffs further claim that they and other owners and lessees of the Class Vehicles have suffered economic damages as a result of the alleged defect. This lawsuit does not involve any claims for personal injuries. For more information about the claims in this lawsuit, please refer to the Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint, available at [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com).

Ford denies any wrongdoing, has issued recalls for master cylinders in certain Class Vehicles, which was approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and denies that the other Class Vehicles' brake master cylinders are defective.

This case is currently pending before Judge Gershwin A. Drain in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. The lawsuit is known as *Weidman, et al., v. Ford Motor Company*, Case No. 2:18-cv-12719-GAD-JJG.

### **2. Why did I receive this notice?**

The Court has allowed certain issues in this lawsuit to proceed as a class action (known as "certifying" the class), and has ordered the parties to notify the potential Class members about their rights so they can decide whether they will stay in the Class.

You were identified as a potential Class member through Ford's records or records from state departments of motor vehicles (DMVs), which show that you may have purchased or leased a Class Vehicle in one of the five states that are part of the certified Class (Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, and Texas).

The Court authorized this notice to inform you of your legal rights and options.

### **3. Am I a Class member?**

The Court certified the following Class:

Questions? Call 1-833-681-5520 or visit [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com)

All persons who purchased or leased a 2013-2018 Ford F-150 equipped with a Hitachi made step-bore master cylinder not included in Safety Recall 20S31 in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, and Texas.

The cutoff date for the purchase or lease is August 17, 2022.

You are a Class member if you purchased or leased a Class Vehicle in the state of Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, or Texas. The Class Vehicles are 2013-2018 Ford F-150 trucks equipped with a Hitachi step-bore master cylinder that was not part of a recall Ford issued in 2020, known as Safety Recall 20S31. The Class Vehicles include the following engine packages Ford offered in the 2013-2018 F-150 trucks: 3.7L TIVCT V6, 5.0L V8, 3.5L GTDI V6, 6.2L V8, 2.7L V6 (if gross vehicle weight is 6,600 pounds or above), 3.3L TIVCT, and 3.0L Diesel V6. The Class Vehicles do not include the following engine packages: 3.5L TIVCT and 2.7L V6 (if gross vehicle weight is below 6,600 pounds).

You can check whether you have a Class Vehicle by entering your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) at [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com).

**4. I purchased or leased one of these vehicles, but no longer own it. Am I included?**

Yes, if you purchased or leased a Class Vehicle in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, or Texas, you are a member of the Class even if you no longer own or lease the vehicle.

**5. I am still not sure if I am included. How do I find more information?**

If you are still not sure whether you are a member of the Class, you can review documents at [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com), or call or write to Class Counsel, at the phone numbers or addresses listed below.

**6. What is a class action and who is involved?**

In a class action lawsuit, the people who bring the lawsuit are called “Plaintiffs” or “Class Representatives.” They sue on behalf of themselves and other people who have similar claims, known as “Class members.” All of the people together are called a “Class.” The company the Class Representatives sue (in this case, Ford Motor Company) is referred to as the “Defendant.”

A class action allows a court to resolve claims or decide common issues for the entire Class without requiring each Class member to file their own separate, individual lawsuit. All of the members of the Class are bound by the result of the class action lawsuit, except for those people who choose to exclude themselves from the Class (as described in Question 12 below).

In this case, the Court has allowed the lawsuit to proceed as a class action to decide the following three issues for everyone in the Class:

1. Whether the Class Vehicles’ brake systems are defective;
2. Whether Ford possessed pre-sale knowledge of the alleged defect;
3. Whether information about the alleged defect that was concealed would have been material to a reasonable buyer.

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The Court and a jury will hear the evidence and arguments presented by both sides and will decide who should prevail on each of these three certified questions. Once the certified questions are decided, the Court will determine what additional proceedings, if any, are appropriate.

More information about why the Court certified those issues in this lawsuit as a class action is in the Court's April 8, 2022 order on class certification, which is available at [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com)

#### **7. Has the Court decided who is right?**

The Court has not ruled on the merits of this lawsuit. That will be done through future proceedings in this case. By certifying the Class, the Court is not suggesting that Plaintiffs or Ford will win or lose this case. Plaintiffs must prove their position on the three certified issues described above at trial. Ford will have an opportunity to rebut Plaintiffs' positions and advance its own positions on these certified questions.

#### **8. What are Plaintiffs asking for?**

Plaintiffs are asking the Court to find that the Class Vehicles' master brake cylinder share a common defect and that Ford knew and concealed the defect from Class members and otherwise acted unlawfully. Plaintiffs will ultimately seek an award for damages from Ford, including payment for the money that they overpaid to buy or lease their defective Class Vehicles, costs of repair, legal fees and costs, and other relief sufficient to compensate for Ford's allegedly unlawful acts. These requests have not been certified for class-wide treatment, however, and will not be addressed at the trial. For more information about the claims in this lawsuit, please refer to the Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint and the Court's April 8, 2022, order on class certification, available at [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com).

#### **9. Is there any money available now?**

This lawsuit is still pending and there is no money available to the Class at this time. The Court or a jury must still decide the three certified questions for the Class described above in Question 6. If Plaintiffs are able to prove those three issues, then the Court will establish additional steps in this case on the other elements of the claims. The Court has not identified the procedure to make those determinations.

### **YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS**

#### **10. How do I participate in this class action?**

You are automatically a Class member if you fall within the definition of the Class set forth in Question 3 above. If you wish to participate in this class action and remain as a Class member, **you do not need to do anything at this time.**

By staying in the Class, you and all other Class members will be included in whatever outcome is reached for the Class in this case. This includes the possibility of receiving any compensation that may be later available to Class members through a Class settlement, if the Parties were to agree to one.

Questions? Call 1-833-681-5520 or visit [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com)

If you remain in the Class, you will not be able to separately sue Ford about the same issues that the Court or jury will decide for the Class in this case. This means that regardless of the outcome in this case, you and all other Class members will be legally bound by all of the orders and judgments that the Court issues for the Class, and you cannot sue Ford separately to change that result.

#### **11. How do I ask the Court to exclude me from the Class?**

If you ask to be excluded (also known as “opting out”) from the Class, you will not participate in this lawsuit or be subject to the outcomes in this case, including any potential Class settlement, but you will retain any legal rights you may currently have to sue Ford about the same legal claims that are the subject of this lawsuit. If you wish to sue Ford separately for the same claims in this lawsuit, you will need to hire your own attorney or represent yourself and you will be subject to any legal deadlines applicable to those claims.

To exclude yourself from the Class, you must send a letter stating that you want to exclude yourself from the lawsuit to the below address. **Your exclusion request must include:**

- Your full name
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of your Class Vehicle
- The following statement to express your desire to be excluded from the Class: “I request to be excluded from the Class in this lawsuit.”
- Your handwritten signature
- Your address, phone number, and email address

You must mail the request letter to the below address and it must be postmarked no later than October 17, 2022.

Ford F-150 Master Brake Cylinder Class Action  
P.O. Box 3395  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

If you have questions, you can call the Notice Administrator, toll free at 1-833-681-5520. However, exclusions via telephone or email will not be effective. Exclusions executed by someone besides you on your behalf will not be effective. You must sign the exclusion request with a handwritten signature.

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO BE EXCLUDED: (1) you will NOT be entitled to share in any relief from any settlement or judgment that results from this lawsuit; (2) you will NOT be bound by any judgment or settlement release entered in this lawsuit; and (3) at your own expense, you MAY pursue any claims that you have against Ford by filing a separate lawsuit.**

**Only request exclusion if you do NOT wish to be part of the Class and do NOT wish to share in any potential issue findings or potential future benefits that might be obtained on behalf of the Class in this lawsuit.**

Questions? Call 1-833-681-5520 or visit [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com)

## THE ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING YOU

### 12. Do I have an attorney in this case?

The Court has appointed a group of attorneys from The Miller Law Firm; Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles; DiCello Levitt and Gutzler; and Lieff Cabraser Heimann Bernstein to represent Plaintiffs and the Class in this litigation. These attorneys are known as “Class Counsel” and they are listed below.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| E. Powell Miller<br>THE MILLER LAW FIRM, P.C.<br>950 West University Drive, Ste. 300<br>Rochester, Michigan 48226 | W. Daniel “Dee” Miles, III<br>BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN,<br>PORTIS & MILES, P.C.<br>272 Commerce Street<br>Montgomery, Alabama 36104 |
| Adam J. Levitt<br>DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER<br>Ten North Dearborn Street<br>Sixth Floor<br>Chicago, Illinois 60602   | Mark P. Chalos<br>LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN<br>BERNSTEIN, LLP<br>222 2nd Ave S, Suite 1640<br>Nashville, Tennessee 37201                    |

### 13. Do I need to hire my own attorney?

The Court has appointed Class Counsel to represent all members of the Class in this case for purposes of the three issues certified. If you remain in the Class, Class Counsel will continue to work on your behalf to seek the best outcome for the Class. You may make an appearance in the case through another attorney if you choose, with a separate arrangement with that counsel.

If you wish to pursue your own separate lawsuit against Ford for the same claims in this case, you will need to submit a request for exclusion, as described in Question 12. If you do so, you will need to decide whether to hire your own attorney or represent yourself if you choose to pursue any legal action.

### 14. How will Class Counsel be paid?

If Plaintiffs prevail, Class Counsel will ask the Court to award fees and expenses at the conclusion of the case, which may be paid from Ford or out of a portion of any compensation obtained for the Class through a Class settlement. You **will not** have to pay out of pocket for any of Class Counsel’s fees and expenses, regardless of the outcome of this case.

## THE TRIAL

### 15. When is the trial in this case?

The Court has not yet scheduled a trial date to decide who is right in this case.

**16. Do I have to attend the trial to get potential benefits?**

The trial in this case will address the three certified questions identified above in Question 6. You do not need to attend that trial. Class Counsel will present the case for the Plaintiffs and the Class, and Ford will present its defenses. After the trial, the Court will determine whether additional proceedings are necessary and what they should entail.

**GETTING MORE INFORMATION**

**17. Where can I get more information about this case?**

This Notice contains a summary of the relevant Court papers. For more information on the Classes and the litigation, you may contact Class Counsel or the Notice Administrator using the contact information below. To view this Notice and other court documents, including the Court’s Order on Class Certification, the Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint, and Defendant’s Answer, please visit [www.F150BrakeLitigation.com](http://www.F150BrakeLitigation.com). Please check the website regularly for updated information regarding the lawsuit. You may also access the Court’s publicly available legal files at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, Michigan.

***Court-Appointed Class Counsel***

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|--|---|
| Adam J. Levitt<br>DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER<br>Ten North Dearborn Street<br>Sixth Floor<br>Chicago, Illinois 60602<br>Telephone: 312-214-7900<br><a href="mailto:alevitt@dicellolevitt.com">alevitt@dicellolevitt.com</a><br><a href="mailto:jtangren@dicellolevitt.com">jtangren@dicellolevitt.com</a><br><a href="mailto:dfjerri@dicellolevitt.com">dfjerri@dicellolevitt.com</a> | W. Daniel “Dee” Miles, III<br>BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN,<br>PORTIS & MILES, P.C.<br>272 Commerce Street<br>Montgomery, Alabama 36104<br>Telephone: 334-269-2343<br><a href="mailto:Dee.Miles@Beasleyallen.com">Dee.Miles@Beasleyallen.com</a><br><a href="mailto:Clay.Barnett@BeasleyAllen.com">Clay.Barnett@BeasleyAllen.com</a><br><a href="mailto:Mitch.Williams@beasleyallen.com">Mitch.Williams@beasleyallen.com</a> |
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