

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 12-565V

Filed: November 25, 2014

Not for Publication

MANDY G. CAIRNES, as Personal *
Representative of the Estate of *
WALTER CAIRNES, Deceased, *

Petitioner, *

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH *
AND HUMAN SERVICES, *

Respondent. *

Damages decision based on proffer;
influenza (flu) vaccine; tetanus
(Tdap) vaccine; brachial neuritis;
cardiac injury; death

Anne C. Toale, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.
Michael P. Milmo, Washington, DC, for respondent.

MILLMAN, Special Master

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 4, 2012, Walter Cairnes filed a petition under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10–34 (2006), alleging that he suffered shoulder and cardiac injuries as a result of the trivalent influenza (“flu”) and tetanus (“Tdap”) vaccinations he received on August 31, 2011.

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). Vaccine Rule 18(b) states that all decisions of the special masters will be made available to the public unless they contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. When such a decision is filed, petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact such information prior to the document's disclosure. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within the banned categories listed above, the special master shall redact such material from public access.

On February 11, 2013, respondent filed her Rule 4(c) Report, conceding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for his brachial neuritis but denying that his cardiac injury was vaccine-related.

Mr. Cairnes died on September 21, 2013, from cardiac arrhythmia and cardiomegaly. Med. recs. Ex. 15, at 1. Mandy G. Cairnes, his spouse, was appointed personal representative of his estate and substituted as petitioner in this action.

On November 24, 2014, respondent filed Respondent's Proffer on Award of Compensation. The undersigned finds the terms of the proffer to be reasonable. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to the award as stated in the proffer. Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached proffer, the court awards a lump sum payment of **\$40,000.00**, representing compensation for the conceded injury of brachial neuritis. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). The award shall be in the form of a check for **\$40,000.00** made payable to petitioner, Mandy G. Cairnes.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 25, 2014

/s/ Laura D. Millman
Laura D. Millman
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party, either separately or jointly, filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and request that the special master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:

- A. A lump sum payment of \$40,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Mandy G. Cairnes. This amount accounts for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner would be entitled.

Petitioner represents that she is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as the legal representative of Walter Lewis Cairnes' estate under the laws of the State of South Carolina. No payment pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing her appointment as legal representative of Walter Lewis Cairnes' estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as legal representative of the estate of Walter Lewis Cairnes at the time payment pursuant to this Stipulation is to be made, any such payment shall be paid to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as legal representative of the estate of Walter Lewis Cairnes upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 24, 2014