

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

No. 12-733V

Filed: September 16, 2014

PHILIP SAPIENZA and *
PAMELA SAPIENZA, *
Parents and next friends of A.S., *
*
Petitioners, *

Attorney Fees and Costs; Stipulation

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND *
HUMAN SERVICES, *
*
Respondent. *

Joseph F. McDowell, III, Esq., McDowell & Osburn, PA, Manchester, NH, for petitioners.
Heather Pearlman, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

Vowell, Chief Special Master:

In this case under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program,² I issued a decision awarding damages on March 28, 2014. Judgment entered on April 18, 2014. On September 5, 2014, the parties filed a stipulation for attorney fees and costs. The stipulation indicates that respondent does not object to the amount petitioners are requesting. Additionally, pursuant to General Order #9, the stipulation notes that petitioners incurred no personal litigation costs.

I find that this petition was brought in good faith and that there existed a reasonable basis for the claim. Therefore, an award for fees and costs is appropriate,

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will delete such material from public access.

² The applicable statutory provisions defining the program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006).

pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(b) and (e)(1). Further, the proposed amount seems reasonable and appropriate. **Accordingly, I award the total \$102,793.98³ as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioners Philip Sapienza and Pamela Sapienza, and their attorney, Joseph F. McDowell.**

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Denise K. Vowell
Denise K. Vowell
Chief Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, “advanced costs” as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec’y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party’s filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).