

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

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JORGE PEREZ and TERESA PEREZ, \*  
as the parents and natural guardians of, \*  
J.P., a minor, \*

Petitioners, \*

v. \*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH \*  
AND HUMAN SERVICES, \*

Respondent. \*

\*\*\*\*\*

Mark T. Sadaka, Mark T. Sadaka, LLC, Englewood, NJ, for Petitioner;  
Claudia B. Gangi, United States Dep't of Justice, Washington, DC, for  
Respondent.

No. 15-331V  
Special Master Christian J. Moran

Filed: March 4, 2019

Hepatitis A vaccine; CIDP;  
stipulation.

### UNPUBLISHED DECISION<sup>1</sup>

On February 28, 2019, the parties filed a joint stipulation concerning the petition for compensation filed by Jorge and Teresa Perez on April 1, 2015. In their petition, petitioners alleged that the Hepatitis A vaccine, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a), and which the Perezes' child, J.P., received on August 27, 2012, caused J.P. to suffer chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy ("CIDP"). Petitioners further allege that J.P. suffered the residual effects of this injury for more than six months. Petitioners represent that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.

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<sup>1</sup> The E-Government Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services), requires that the Court post this decision on its website. Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 18(b), the parties have 14 days to file a motion proposing redaction of medical information or other information described in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4). Any redactions ordered by the special master will appear in the document posted on the website.

Respondent denies that the vaccines either caused or significantly aggravated J.P.'s alleged injury or any other injury, and denies that J.P.'s current disabilities are the result of a vaccine-related injury.

Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto. The undersigned finds said stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Damages awarded in that stipulation include:

- a. A lump sum payment of \$201,250.92, in the form of a check payable to petitioners as guardian(s) / conservator(s) of the estate of J.P. for the benefit of J.P. This amount represents compensation for first-year life care expenses (\$11,250.92) and pain and suffering (\$190,000.00). No payments shall be made until petitioners provide respondent with documentation establishing that they have been appointed as guardian(s) / conservator(s) of J.P.'s estate;**
- b. A lump sum of \$10,000, which amount represents compensation for past unreimbursable expenses, in the form of a check payable to petitioners, Jorge Perez and Teresa Perez;**
- c. A lump sum of \$122,560.13, which amount represents reimbursement of a lien for services rendered on behalf of J.P., in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioners and:**

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Wisconsin Casualty Recovery  
HMS case Management – WI  
5615 High Point Drive  
Irving, TX 75038-9984  
Case Number: 171911  
Attn: Shuniqua Young**

**Petitioners agree to endorse this payment to the State of Wisconsin; and**

- d. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in paragraph 10 of the attached stipulation, paid to the life**

**insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased (the  
“Life Insurance Company”)**

These amounts represent all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the clerk is directed to enter judgment in case 15-331V according to this decision and the attached stipulation.<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Christian J. Moran  
Christian J. Moran  
Special Master

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.



6. Respondent denies that the Hepatitis A vaccine caused J.P. to suffer from CIDP or any other injury or his current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioners have filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

a. A lump sum of \$201,250.92, which amount represents compensation for first year life care expenses (\$11,250.92) and pain and suffering (\$190,000.00), in the form of a check payable to petitioners as guardian(s)/conservator(s) of the estate of J.P. for the benefit of J.P. No payments shall be made until petitioners provide respondent with documentation establishing that they have been appointed as guardian(s)/conservator(s) of J.P.'s estate;

b. A lump sum of \$10,000.00, which amount represents compensation for past unreimbursable expenses, in the form of a check payable to petitioners, Jorge Perez and Teresa Perez;

c. A lump sum of \$122,560.13, which amount represents reimbursement of a lien for services rendered on behalf of J.P., in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioners and

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Petitioners agree to endorse this payment to the State of Wisconsin; and

d. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in paragraph 10 below, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased (the "Life Insurance Company").

9. The Life Insurance Company must have a minimum of \$250,000,000.00 capital and surplus, exclusive of any mandatory security valuation reserve. The Life Insurance Company must have one of the following ratings from two of the following rating organizations:

- a. A.M. Best Company: A++, A+, A+g, A+p, A+r, or A+s;
- b. Moody's Investor Service Claims Paying Rating: Aa3, Aa2, Aa1, or Aaa;
- c. Standard and Poor's Corporation Insurer Claims-Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA;
- d. Fitch Credit Rating Company, Insurance Company Claims Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA.

10. The Secretary of Health and Human Services agrees to purchase an annuity contract from the Life Insurance Company for the benefit of J.P., pursuant to which the Life Insurance Company will agree to make payments periodically to petitioners, as the court-appointed guardian(s)/conservator(s) of the estate of J.P. for the following items of compensation:

- a. For future unreimbursable Insurance Premium expenses, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of judgment, an annual amount of \$4,600.92 to be paid up to the anniversary of the date of judgment in year 2029, increasing at the rate of four percent (4%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.
- b. For future unreimbursable Insurance Maximum-out-of-Pocket expenses, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of judgment, an annual amount of \$6,650.00 to be paid up to the anniversary of the date of judgment in year 2068, increasing at the rate of four percent (4%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.
- c. For future unreimbursable Medigap expenses, beginning on the anniversary of the date of judgment in year 2068, an annual amount of \$2,173.44 to be paid for the remainder of J.P.'s life, increasing at the rate of four percent (4%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.
- d. For future unreimbursable Medicare Part D expenses, beginning on the anniversary of the date of judgment in year 2068, an annual amount of \$1,102.60 to be paid for the remainder of J.P.'s life, increasing at the rate of four percent (4%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.

At the sole discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the periodic payments may be provided to the petitioners in monthly, quarterly, annual or other installments. The “annual amounts” set forth above describe only the total yearly sum to be paid to the petitioners and do not require that the payment be made in one annual installment. The petitioners will continue to receive the annuity payments from the Life Insurance Company only so long as J.P. is alive at the time that a particular payment is due. Written notice to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Life Insurance Company shall be provided within twenty (20) days of J.P.’s death.

11. The annuity contract will be owned solely and exclusively by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and will be purchased as soon as practicable following the entry of a judgment in conformity with this Stipulation. The parties stipulate and agree that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America are not responsible for the payment of any sums other than the amounts set forth in paragraph 8 herein and the amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 12 herein, and that they do not guarantee or insure any of the future annuity payments. Upon the purchase of the annuity contract, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America are released from any and all obligations with respect to future annuity payments.

12. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioners have filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

13. Petitioners and their attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

14. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 12 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

15. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of J.P. as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

16. Petitioners represent that they presently are, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardian(s)/conservator(s) of J.P.'s estate under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioners provide the Secretary with documentation establishing their appointment as guardian(s)/conservator(s) of J.P.'s estate. If petitioners are not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian(s)/conservator(s) of the estate of J.P. at the time a 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 guardian(s)/conservator(s) of the estate of J.P. upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

17. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 12, petitioners, in their individual capacities and as legal representatives of J.P., on behalf of themselves, J.P., and his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, do forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of J.P. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from the Hepatitis A vaccination administered on August 27, 2012, as alleged by petitioners in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about April 1, 2015, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 15-331V.

18. If J.P. should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

19. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

20. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 12 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated

and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

21. Petitioners hereby authorize respondent to disclose documents filed by petitioners in this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

22. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Hepatitis A vaccine caused J.P. to suffer from CIDP or any other injury or condition.

23. All rights and obligations of petitioners hereunder shall apply equally to petitioners' heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representatives of J.P.

END OF STIPULATION

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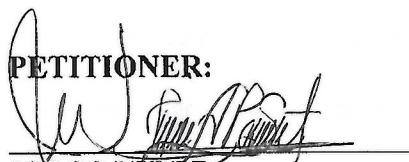
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Respectfully submitted,


**PETITIONER:**  
  
JORGE PEREZ

**PETITIONER:**  
  
TERESA PEREZ

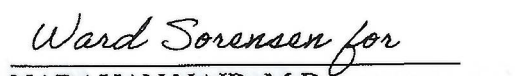
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Dated: 2-28-19