

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1146V

Filed: June 12, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

LINDA CARTMEL,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

*Andrew Donald Downing, Van Cott & Talamante, PLLC, Phoenix, AZ, for petitioner.
Jennifer Leigh Reynaud, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On August 24, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury as a result of the influenza (“flu”) vaccine on December 26, 2016. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 14, 2019, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for shoulder injury. On June 6, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$51,096.97. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

¹ The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$51,096.97, representing compensation for actual and projected pain and suffering (\$50,000.00) and past unreimbursable expenses (\$1,096.97), in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Linda Cartmel.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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

LINDA CARTMEL,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 17-1146V

Chief Special Master Dorsey

ECF

PROFFER ON AWARD OF DAMAGES

On August 24, 2017, Linda Cartmel (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“Petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), as amended. In his Amended Rule 4(c) Report, filed on May 7, 2019, respondent recommended that the Chief Special Master decide the issue of entitlement in this case based on the record. The Chief Special Master found petitioner entitled to compensation.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$50,000.00 in actual and projected pain and suffering. This amount reflects that any award for projected pain and suffering has been reduced to net present value. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents her expenditure of past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$1,096.97. Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$51,096.97**, in the form of a check made payable to petitioner.¹ This lump sum payment represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/Jennifer L. Reynaud
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Date: June 6, 2019

¹ Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.