

Corrected

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-0449V

UNPUBLISHED

KAREN OWENS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 9, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Tetanus Diphtheria acellular  
Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*William E. Cochran, Jr., Black McLaren Jones Ryland & Griffee, P.C., Memphis, TN , for petitioner.*

*Jennifer Leigh Reynaud, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

## **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On March 27, 2018, Karen Owens filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered the Table injury of shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) after receiving a tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccination on April 13, 2015. Petition at 1, ¶ 2. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On February 5, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On April 9, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$35,649.41,

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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). **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, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

representing compensation in the amount of \$35,000.00 for Petitioner's actual and projected pain and suffering<sup>3</sup> and in the amount of \$649.41 for Petitioner's actual unreimburseable expenses. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* at 2. Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$35,649.41, representing compensation in the amount of \$35,000.00 for Petitioner's actual and projected pain and suffering and in the amount of \$649.41 for Petitioner's actual unreimburseable expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** 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.<sup>4</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Any amount being awarded for Petitioner's projected pain and suffering has been reduced to its net present value. Proffer at 1; see § 300aa-15(a)(4) (requiring this reduction).

<sup>4</sup> 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**

KAREN OWENS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 18-449V

Chief Special Master Corcoran  
ECF

**PROFFER ON AWARD OF DAMAGES**

On March 27, 2018, Karen Owens (“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. The Petition alleged that petitioner suffered a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”) following her receipt of a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine on April 13, 2015. Respondent conceded petitioner’s entitlement to compensation in his Rule 4(c) Report filed on January 31, 2020. Based on Respondent’s Rule 4(c) Report the Court found petitioner entitled to compensation.

**I. Items of Compensation**

**A. Pain and Suffering**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$35,000.00 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 \$649.41. Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$35,649.41**, in the form of a check made payable to petitioner.<sup>1</sup> 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: April 9, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> 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.