

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-702V

(not to be published)

JASON R. CHRISTENSEN, Personal Representative of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Filed: July 7, 2021

Decision by Stipulation; Damages; Hepatitis A Vaccine; Hepatitis B Vaccine; Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (“CIDP”).

Glen Sturtevant, Jr., Rawls Law Group, Richmond, VA, for Petitioner
Claudia Gangi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

On May 18, 2018, Randy LeBlanc, original Petitioner, filed a petition, seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“the Vaccine Program”).² Pet., ECF No. 1. Petitioner alleges he suffered from chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (“CIDP”) as a result of the Hepatitis A and/or Hepatitis B vaccines he received on January 5, 2016, January 12, 2016 and February 2, 2016. See Stipulation ¶¶ 2, 4,

¹ Although this Decision has been formally designated “not to be published,” it will nevertheless be posted on the Court of Federal Claims’ website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 (2012). This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet. As provided by 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B), however, the parties may object to the Decision’s inclusion of certain kinds of confidential information. Specifically, under Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has fourteen days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the Decision in its present form will be available. Id.

² The Vaccine Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10–34 (2012)) (hereinafter “Vaccine Act” or “the Act”). All subsequent references to sections of the Vaccine Act shall be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa.

dated July 6, 2021 (ECF No. 41); *see also* Petition. Following Mr. LeBlanc's death, Jason Christensen was substituted as Petitioner on July 19, 2019. ECF No. 22. Petitioner alleges that Mr. LeBlanc's death was a sequela of his alleged vaccine-related injury. Stipulation ¶ 4.

Respondent denies "that the Hep A and/or Hep B vaccine(s) caused Mr. LeBlanc's alleged CIDP, any other injury, or his death." *See* Stipulation ¶ 6. Nonetheless, both parties, while maintaining their above-stated positions, agreed in a stipulation filed July 6, 2021 that the issues before them can be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding Petitioner compensation.

I have reviewed the file, and based upon that review, I conclude that the parties' stipulation is reasonable. I therefore adopt it as my decision in awarding damages on the terms set forth therein.

The stipulation awards:

a lump sum of \$130,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

Stipulation ¶ 8. This award represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

I approve a Vaccine Program award in the requested amount set forth above to be made to Petitioner. 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.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Katherine E. Oler
Katherine E. Oler
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by jointly filing notice renouncing their right to seek review.

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

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JASON R. CHRISTENSEN, <i>Personal</i>)	
<i>Representative of the Estate of Randy</i>)	
<i>LeBlanc,</i>)	
	Petitioner,)	No. 18-702V
)	Special Master Katherine E. Oler
v.)	(ECF)
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND)	
HUMAN SERVICES,)	
	Respondent.)	
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STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Randy LeBlanc (“Mr. LeBlanc”) filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to -34 (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to Mr. LeBlanc’s receipt of Hepatitis A (“Hep A”) and/or Hepatitis B (“Hep B”) vaccines, which vaccines are contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a). Following Mr. LeBlanc’s death, Jason R. Christensen, personal representative of the estate of Randy LeBlanc, was substituted as petitioner herein.

2. Mr. LeBlanc received Hep A and Hep B vaccines on January 5, 2016, January 12, 2016, and February 2, 2016.

3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that as a result of receiving the Hep A and/or Hep B vaccine(s), Mr. LeBlanc suffered Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (“CIDP”). Mr. LeBlanc

passed away on December 16, 2018. Petitioner further alleges that Mr. LeBlanc's death was the sequela of his alleged vaccine-related injury.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of Mr. LeBlanc as a result of his alleged condition or his death.

6. Respondent denies that the Hep A and/or Hep B vaccine(s) caused Mr. LeBlanc's alleged CIDP, any other injury, or his death.

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 petitioner has 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 payment:

A lump sum of \$130,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner as legal representative of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has 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.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable

under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including 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 entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation, and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. Petitioner represents that he presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as the legal representative of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc under the laws of the State of Utah. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing his appointment as the legal representative of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as the legal representative of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc 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 the legal representative(s) of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

13. In return for the payment described in paragraph 8, and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Randy LeBlanc, on behalf of Mr. LeBlanc's heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does 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 Mr. LeBlanc resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Hep A and/or Hep B vaccines administered on January 5, 2016, January 12, 2016, and/or February 2, 2016, as alleged in a Petition filed on July 12, 2018, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 18-702V.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States 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.

15. 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. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or 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.

16. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Hep A and/or Hep B vaccines caused Mr. LeBlanc's alleged CIDP or any other injury or his death.

Respectfully submitted,

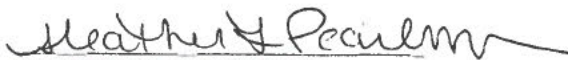
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JASON R. CHRISTENSEN

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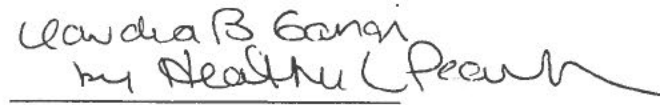
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