

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-0947V

Filed: October 25, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

SANDRA WILLIAMS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Attorneys' Fees and Costs

Bridget Candace McCullough, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.
Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS¹

On June 29, 2018, Sandra Williams, 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 Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") as a result of the adverse effects of the influenza ("flu") vaccine administered on November 16, 2015. Petition at 1. On September 6, 2019, a decision was issued by then Chief Special Master Nora Beth Dorsey awarding compensation to petitioner based on the respondent's proffer. (ECF No. 38).

Petitioner has now filed a motion requesting attorney's fees and costs, dated September 19, 2019 (ECF No. 43.), requesting a total award of \$15,864.75 (representing \$13,780.30 in fees plus \$2,084.45 in costs). Pursuant to General Order #9, petitioner

¹ Although I have not designated this Decision for publication, it will be made available 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). 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.

² 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).

filed a signed statement indicating that she has not incurred out-of-pocket costs in pursuit of this litigation. (ECF No. 45). Respondent reacted to the motion on September 20, 2019, indicating that he is satisfied that the statutory requirements for an award of attorney's fees and costs are met in this case, and deferring to the Court's discretion to determine the amount to be awarded. (ECF No. 44). Petitioner notified the managing staff attorney on September 20, 2019, that petitioner would not file a reply. See Informal Remark dated September 20, 2019.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. § 15(e). I have reviewed the billing records submitted with Petitioner's initial request, and based on my discretion and Vaccine Program experience, I find the requested hourly rates and work performed to be reasonable. I therefore approve the requested amount for attorney's fees and costs.

Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorneys' fees and costs. I award a total of **\$15,864.75** (representing \$13,780.30 in attorney's fees and \$2,084.45 in costs) as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and her counsel, Bridget Candace McCullough, Esq. In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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

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