

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-1927V

UNPUBLISHED

DONNA JENNINGS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 16, 2020

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

*Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for petitioner.*

*Lara Ann Englund, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

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

On December 17, 2018, Donna Jennings 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 a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA") as a result of an influenza ("flu") vaccine administered on October 16, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 9, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On April 13, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$132,662.85. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

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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 Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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).

proffered award. *Id.* 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 \$132,662.85 (consisting of compensation in the amount of \$125,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$7,662.85 in past unreimbursable 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>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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

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<sup>3</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**

DONNA JENNINGS	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 18-1927V
	)	Chief Special Master Brian Corcoran
SECRETARY OF	)	
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On January 6, 2020, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner suffered a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration within the Table timeframe following an influenza vaccination, and conceding petitioner’s entitlement to compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, **42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10** to -34. Accordingly, on January 9, 2020, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$132,662.85, consisting of \$125,000.00 in pain and suffering and \$7,662.85 in past, unreimbursed expenses, which amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**. Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$132,662.85** in the form of a check 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/ LARA A. ENGLUND  
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Dated: April 13, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to 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 pain and suffering, and future lost wages.