

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-439V

UNPUBLISHED

JENNIFER VENIER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 13, 2023

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.

Kyle Edward Pozza, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On March 25, 2019, Jennifer Venier 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 injuries, including Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (SIRVA), resulting from adverse effects of an influenza (flu) vaccination she received on September 29, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 17, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA and related sequelae. On February 7, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$200,467.61, comprised of \$175,000.00 for pain and suffering, \$22,218.60 for lost wages;

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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.

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).

and \$3,249.01 for past unreimbursed expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the 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 \$200,467.61, comprised of \$175,000.00 for pain and suffering, \$22,218.60 for lost wages; and \$3,249.01 for past unreimbursed expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to 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), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made as described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's damages decision and the Court's judgment award the following:²

A. Petitioner's Damages

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through:

a lump sum of **\$200,467.61**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

Petitioner agrees.

B. Guardianship

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

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

² 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.

/s/ Kyle E. Pozza
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Dated: February 7, 2023