

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-445V

UNPUBLISHED

VERA VERONICA KELLY,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 16, 2020

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

*Elizabeth Martin Muldowney, Sands Anderson PC, Richmond, VA, for petitioner.*

*Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

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

On March 26, 2019, Vera Kelly 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 left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccination administered on January 25, 2017. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccine was administered within the United States, that she suffered the residual effects of her injury for more than six months, and that she has not received an award or settlement of any civil action for damages for her vaccine-related injury. Petition at 2, 7. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

---

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 Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

On April 7, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA. On September 14, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$93,105.44 (consisting of \$90,000.00 for pain and suffering, and \$3,105.44 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 \$93,105.44 (consisting of \$90,000.00 for pain and suffering, and \$3,105.44 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 § 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

---

<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**

VERA VERONICA KELLY,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 19-445V (ECF)
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

On April 7, 2020, respondent, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, filed his Rule 4(c) Report conceding entitlement to compensation in this matter alleging a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”). The same day, the Court entered its Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner Vera Veronica Kelly entitled to Vaccine Act compensation. Respondent now proffers that petitioner receive a compensation award consisting of a lump sum of **\$93,105.44** in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Vera Veronica Kelly.<sup>1</sup> This amount consists of \$90,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$3,105.44 for past unreimbursed expenses, and represents compensation for all elements of compensation under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)** to which petitioner is entitled.<sup>2</sup>

Petitioner agrees with the proffered award of \$93,105.44.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Petitioner is a competent adult. No guardianship is required.

<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

<sup>3</sup> This proffer does not include any award for attorneys’ fees and costs that may be awarded pursuant to **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)**.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY BOSSERT CLARK  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

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

CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

DARRYL R. WISHARD  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/Voris E. Johnson, Jr.  
VORIS E. JOHNSON, JR.  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Direct dial: (202) 616-4136

Dated: September 14, 2020