

Corrected

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1971V

UNPUBLISHED

SHAROLL CRITTEN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: May 4, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU); Joint
Stipulation on Damages; Influenza
(Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder Injury
Related to Vaccine Administration
(SIRVA)

Milton Clay Ragsdale, Ragsdale LLC, Birmingham, AL, for Petitioner.

Ryan Daniel Pyles, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

On December 30, 2019, Sharoll Critten 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 a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) which meets the Table definition of SIRVA or, in the alternative, was caused-in-fact by the influenza vaccine she received on October 23, 2017. Petition at ¶¶ 2, 11-12, 16-17; Stipulation, filed at Apr. 26, 2022, ¶¶ 1-2, 4. Petitioner further alleges that she received the vaccine in the United States, that she suffered the residual effects of her SIRVA for more than six months, and that neither she nor any other party has filed a civil case or received compensation for her SIRVA injury. Petition at ¶¶ 2, 15,

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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 section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

18-19; Stipulation at ¶¶ 3-5. “Respondent denies that [P]etitioner sustained a Table SIRVA within the timeframe set forth in the Table; and denies that the flu immunization caused or significantly aggravated [P]etitioner’s alleged shoulder injury and/or any other injury.” Stipulation at ¶ 6.

Nevertheless, on April 26, 2022, the parties filed the attached joint stipulation, stating that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. I find the stipulation reasonable and adopt it as my decision awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Stipulation, **I award \$115,334.64 as follows:**

- 1. A lump sum payment of \$110,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner; and**
- 2. A lump sum payment of \$5,334.64, representing reimbursement of a Medicaid lien for services rendered to Petitioner by the State of Alabama, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and**

**HMS
TPL Recovery Unit
4121 Carmichael Road, Suite 205
Montgomery, AL 36106.**

Stipulation at ¶ 8. Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to HMS for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien. This amount represents compensation for all items of damages that would be available under Section 15(a). *Id.*

I approve the requested amount for Petitioner’s compensation. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, 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.

THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

SHAROLL CRITTEN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 19-1971V
Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Sharoll Critten (“petitioner”) 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 petitioner’s receipt of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).

2. Petitioner received a flu vaccine on or about October 23, 2017, in her left deltoid.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that the flu vaccine caused her to develop a left-sided shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) and that she experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner sustained a Table SIRVA within the timeframe set forth in the Table; and denies that the flu immunization caused or significantly aggravated petitioner's alleged shoulder injury and/or any other injury.

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 payments:

- a. A lump sum payment of **\$5,334.64**,¹ representing compensation for satisfaction of a State of Alabama Medicaid lien, payable jointly to petitioner and

HMS
TPL Recovery Unit
4121 Carmichael Road, Suite 205
Montgomery, AL 36106.

Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to HMS; and

- b. A lump sum of **\$110,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents all remaining compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the flu vaccine.

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

¹ This amount represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the State of Alabama may have against any individual as a result of any Medicaid payments made by, or on behalf of, the State of Alabama to, or on behalf of, Sharoll Critten as a result of her alleged vaccine-related injury suffered as a result of her October 23, 2017 flu vaccination, under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, *see* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), (h).

the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

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

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors and/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. § 300aa-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 petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on or about October 23, 2017, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about December 30, 2019, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 19-1971V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

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

16. 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, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to 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, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged shoulder injury and/or any other injury.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:



SHAROLL CRITTEN

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR PETITIONER:



M. CLAY RAGSDALE
RAGSDALE, LLC
517 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, AL 35209
(205) 290-6800
clay@ragdalellc.com

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:



HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

George R. Grimes - Digitally signed by George R. Grimes - S14
Date: 2022.04.08 15:25:48 -0400'

CDR GEORGE REED GRIMES, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Injury
Compensation Programs
Health Systems Bureau
Health Resources and Services
Administration
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, 08N146B
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR RESPONDENT:



RYAN D. PYLES
Senior Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 616-9847
ryan.pyles@usdoj.gov

Dated: 04/26/2022