

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**  
**No. 20-2013V**

TERESA L. RITTER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 14, 2024

*Brynna Gang, Kraus Law Group, LLC, Chicago, IL, for Petitioner.*

*Elizabeth Andary, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

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

On December 29, 2020, Teresa Ritter 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 vaccine administered on October 17, 2018. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 26, 2024, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA. On May 15, 2024, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$60,000.00. Proffer at 2. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (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 section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$60,000.00 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.<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**

TERESA L. RITTER,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 20-2013

Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran  
ECF

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

On December 29, 2020, Teresa Ritter (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), as amended, alleging that she suffered a Table shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as the result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccination received on October 17, 2018. *See generally* Petition.

On August 30, 2022, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is not appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury. ECF No. 44. Petitioner filed a motion for a ruling on the record on December 1, 2022, respondent filed a response to the motion on December 29, 2022, and petitioner filed a reply to respondent’s response on January 5, 2023. ECF No. 48; ECF No. 50; ECF No. 51. On March 26, 2024, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 53.

**I. Items of Compensation**

A. Pain and Suffering

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$60,000.00** for pain and suffering, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following<sup>1</sup>: a lump sum payment of \$60,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

**III. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Teresa L. Ritter: **\$60,000.00**

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

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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, unreimbursed expenses, future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ ELIZABETH A. ANDARY  
ELIZABETH A. ANDARY  
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Dated: May 15, 2024