

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-0337V

JA'NET SHEEN, as personal
representative of ESTATE OF
ROBERT MURPHY,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 11, 2025

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

Madelyn Weeks, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

On January 8, 2021, Robert Murphy filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”).³ Mr. Murphy alleged that he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a defined Table injury, after receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccine on September 28, 2020. Amended Petition at 1, ¶¶ 1, 9; Stipulation, filed Sept. 11, 2025, ¶¶ 1-2, 4. Mr. Murphy further alleged that he received the vaccine within the United States, that he suffered the residual effects of the SIRVA for more than six months,

¹ 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.

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 (2018).

³ On September 28, 2022, Mr. Murphy filed an amended petition with additional detail and medical records citation. ECF No. 21.

and that neither he nor any other party had filed a civil action or received compensation for his SIRVA, alleged as vaccine caused. Amended Petition at ¶¶ 1, 8, 10; Stipulation ¶¶ 3-5. On July 29, 2025, Ms. Sheen was substituted as Petitioner after Mr. Murphy sadly passed away from causes not related to his alleged vaccine injury. ECF No. 48. “Respondent denies that decedent sustained a SIRVA Table injury; denies that the flu vaccine caused decedent’s alleged shoulder injury or any other injury; and denies that the flu vaccine caused decedent any other injury and/or decedent’s death.” Stipulation at ¶ 6.

Nevertheless, on September 11, 2025, 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** the following compensation:

A lump sum of \$20,000.00, to be paid through an ACH deposit to Petitioner’s counsel’s IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to Petitioner. Stipulation at ¶ 8. 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.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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

⁴ 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.

6. Respondent denies that decedent sustained a SIRVA Table injury; denies that the flu vaccine caused decedent's alleged shoulder injury or any other injury; and denies that the flu vaccine caused decedent any other injury and/or decedent's death.

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 payment for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a):

A lump sum of **\$20,000.00** to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner as personal representative of the decedent's estate.

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

10. Petitioner and petitioner's attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any 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 by 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. Petitioner represents that she is currently is authorized to serve as the legal representative of decedent's estate under the laws of the District of Columbia. If petitioner is no longer authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as legal representative of decedent's estate at the time a payment pursuant to this Stipulation is to be made, any such payment shall be paid to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as legal representative of decedent's estate upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in petitioner's individual capacity and as personal representative of decedent, on petitioner's own behalf, and on behalf of decedent's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, 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 decedent resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on or about September

28, 2020, as alleged in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about January 8, 2021, and in an amended petition filed on or about September 28, 2022, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 21-337V.

14. 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.

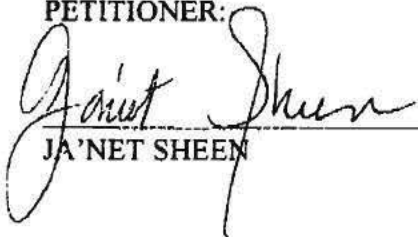
15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any 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.

16. 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 decedent's alleged injury or any other injury or decedent's death, or that decedent suffered an injury contained in the Vaccine Injury Table.

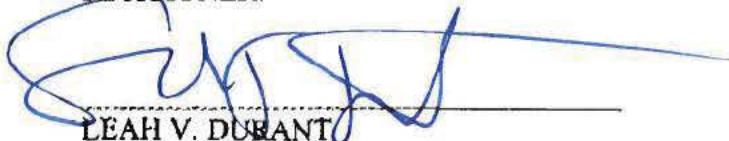
17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder in petitioner's capacity as administrator and legal representative of decedent's estate shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION


PETITIONER:


JA'NET SHEEN

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:


LEAH V. DURANT
Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC
1717 K Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 775-9200
ldurant@durantllc.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:

Jeffrey S. Digitally signed by
Jeffrey S. Beach -S
Date: 2025.08.27 15:15:41
-04'00' for
Beach -S
CAPT 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, 08W-25A
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:


MADELYN E. WEEKS
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 305-3262
madelyn.e.weeks@usdoj.gov

Dated: 9/11/2025