

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-0511V

KELSEY GATES,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 30, 2024

*Paul R. Brazil, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.*

*Meghan Murphy, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

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

On January 11, 2021, Kelsey Gates 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”), alleging that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to her on October 9, 2019. Petition (ECF No. 1). The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters (the “SPU”).

On May 6, 2024, a Ruling on Entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA. On August 30, 2024, Respondent filed a Proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”). Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

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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 (2012).

proffered award. *Id.* at 1 – 2. 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 Proffer, I award the following compensation:

**A lump sum of \$30,000.00 (for pain and suffering) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** Proffer at 1 – 2. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which Petitioner is entitled under Section 15(a). *Id.* at 2.

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**

KELSEY GATES,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 21-511V
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

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

On January 11, 2021, Kelsey Gates (“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. The petition alleges that as a result of receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccination on October 9, 2019, petitioner suffered from a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”). Petition at 1. On March 3, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case was not appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act. ECF No. 36. After further proceedings, on May 6, 2024, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 45.

**I. Items of Compensation**

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$30,000.00 in pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). 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 Chief Special Master Corcoran's decision and the Court's judgment award the following<sup>1</sup>: a lump sum payment of \$30,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

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

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Kelsey Gates: **\$30,000.00**

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

VORIS E. JOHNSON, JR.  
Assistant 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.

/s/ Meghan R. Murphy  
MEGHAN R. MURPHY  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Tel: (202) 616-4264  
meghan.r.murphy@usdoj.gov

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