

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-601V

JACALYN KAY WHITHAM,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 7, 2023

Andrew Donald Downing, Downing, Allison & Jorgenson, Phoenix, AZ , for Petitioner.

Rachelle Bishop, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On January 12, 2021, Jacalyn Kay Whitham 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”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine that was administered on November 7, 2019. Petition at 1, ¶ 8. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 26, 2023, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On August 2, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$100,000.00 for her pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner

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).

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 \$100,000.00 (representing pain and suffering) 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.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.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

JACALYN KAY WHITHAM,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	No. 21-601V (ECF)
)	Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran
v.)	
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On January 12, 2021, Jacalyn Kay Whitham (“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”), alleging that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, following administration of an influenza vaccination that she received on November 7, 2019. Petition at 1. On June 22, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury. ECF No. 40. On June 26, 2023, the Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 41.

I. Items of Compensation

Based on the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$100,000.00 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 the Court's decision and judgment award the following: a lump sum payment of \$100,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.¹

III. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Jacalyn Kay Whitham: **\$100,000.00**

Respectfully submitted,

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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/s/ Rachelle P. Bishop
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DATED: August 2, 2023

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¹ 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.