

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-1454V  
UNPUBLISHED

GARY KOELDER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 22, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Jessi Carin Huff, Maglio Christopher & Toale, Seattle, WA, for Petitioner.*

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

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

On June 9, 2021, Gary Koelder 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 he suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza vaccination he received on December 9, 2019. Petition at ¶¶ 1, 6. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 23, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for his GBS. On February 21, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$297,783.88, representing \$180,000.00 in pain and suffering, \$5,028.91 in past unreimbursable expenses, and \$112,754.97 in past lost wages. Proffer at 1-2. 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 Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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.

<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).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$297,783.88, representing \$180,000.00 in pain and suffering, \$5,028.91 in past unreimbursable expenses, and \$112,754.97 in past lost wages, 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**

GARY KOELDER,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 21-1454V
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

On June 9, 2021, Gary Koelder (“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 he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, following administration of an influenza vaccine he received on December 9, 2019. Petition at 1, 3. On May 23, 2022, 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 GBS Table injury, and on the same day, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 18; ECF No. 19.

**I. Items of Compensation**

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$180,000.00 in pain and suffering. See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$5,028.91. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B).

Petitioner agrees.

C. Lost Wages

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past lost wages related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past lost wages in the amount of \$112,754.97. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(3)(A). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent 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 \$297,783.88, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

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

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Gary Koelder:	<b>\$297,783.88</b>
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Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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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.

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Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
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/s/ Matthew L. Murphy  
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DATED: February 21, 2023