

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 22-0465V

R.F., a minor, by and through his
parent and natural guardian, CORINNE
FENN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: March 12, 2024

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

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

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On April 25, 2022, Corinne Fenn filed a petition on behalf of her minor child, R.F., for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that R.F. suffered an intussusception following receipt of his second dose of the rotavirus vaccine on August 18, 2021. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On December 2, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for R.F.’s intussusception. On March 11, 2024, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of \$5,311.91 for past unreimbursed expenses and \$50,000.00, the amount

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).

proffered as sufficient to purchase an annuity contract as described in Proffer Section I.B. Proffer at 1-3. 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.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award the following:**

- **Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$5,311.91 for past unreimbursed expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a)(1)(B).
- **An amount of \$50,000.00, to purchase the annuity contract described in the Proffer, Section I.B.** This amount represents all remaining elements of compensation to which R.F. would be entitled 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.

A. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that she incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to R.F.'s vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of **\$5,311.91**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

B. Pain and Suffering

For pain and suffering, an amount not to exceed **\$50,000.00** to purchase an annuity contract,² paid to the life insurance company³ from which the annuity will be purchased,⁴ subject to the conditions described below, that will provide payments to R.F. as set forth below:

² In respondent's discretion, respondent may purchase one or more annuity contracts from one or more life insurance companies.

The parties further agree that the annuity payments cannot be assigned, accelerated, deferred, increased, or decreased by the parties and that no part of any annuity payments called for herein, nor any assets of the United States or the annuity company, are subject to execution or any legal process for any obligation in any manner. Petitioner and petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns do hereby agree that they have no power or right to sell, assign, mortgage, encumber, or anticipate said annuity payments, or any part thereof, by assignment or otherwise, and further agree that they will not sell, assign, mortgage, encumber, or anticipate said annuity payments, or any part thereof, by assignment or otherwise.

³ The Life Insurance Company must have a minimum of \$250,000,000 capital and surplus, exclusive of any mandatory security valuation reserve. The Life Insurance Company must have one of the following ratings from two of the following rating organizations:

- a. A.M. Best Company: A++, A+, A+g, A+p, A+r, or A+s;
- b. Moody's Investor Service Claims Paying Rating: Aa3, Aa2, Aa1, or Aaa;
- c. Standard and Poor's Corporation Insurer Claims-Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA;
- d. Fitch Credit Rating Company, Insurance Company Claims Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA.

⁴ Petitioner authorizes the disclosure of certain documents filed by the petitioner in this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

- a. A certain Lump Sum of \$32,987.57 payable on April 16, 2039.
- b. A certain Lump Sum of \$37,990.40 payable on April 16, 2042.
- c. A certain Lump Sum of \$43,717.44 payable on April 16, 2045.

The purchase price of the annuity described in this section I.B shall neither be greater nor less than \$50,000.00. In the event that the cost of the certain lump sum annuity payments set forth above varies from \$50,000.00, the certain lump sum payable on April 16, 2045, shall be adjusted to ensure that the total cost of the annuity is neither less than nor greater than \$50,000.00. Should R.F. predecease payment of any of the certain lump sum payments set forth above, said payments shall be made to his estate. Written notice to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and to the Life Insurance Company shall be provided within twenty (20) days of R.F.'s death.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which R.F. would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.⁵

II. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment

- A. Past Unreimbursable Expenses: **\$5,311.91**
- B. An amount of **\$50,000.00** to purchase the annuity contract described above in section I.B.

Respectfully submitted,

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

⁵ At the time payment is received, R.F. will be an adult, and thus guardianship is not required. However, petitioner represents that she presently is, or if necessary, will become, authorized to serve as guardians/conservators of R.F.'s estate as may be required under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

JULIA M. COLLISON
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/s/ Catherine E. Stolar

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DATED: March 11, 2024