

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 24-1605V

STUART PALMER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 26, 2025

Sean Frank Greenwood, Greenwood Law Firm, Houston, TX, for Petitioner.

Sara DeStefano, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On October 8, 2024, Stuart Palmer filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”), which he amended on January 10, 2025. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) resulting from an influenza vaccine received on September 26, 2022. Amended Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On August 18, 2025, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On August 26, 2025, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$250,000.00. 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.

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).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$250,000.00 (in pain and suffering), to be paid through an ACH deposit to Petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement 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**

STUART PALMER,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 24-1605V

Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran
ECF

RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On October 8, 2024, Stuart Palmer (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“Petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34, as amended (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”). On January 10, 2025, petitioner filed an Amended Petition adding additional facts but alleging no new claims. *See* Amended Petition at 1. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”), which developed following an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to him on September 26, 2022. *Id.*

On August 15, 2025, 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 August 18, 2025, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 25.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$250,000.00 in pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

This amount 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 following¹: a lump sum payment of \$250,000.00 to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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 lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

/s/ Sara DeStefano
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DATED: August 26, 2025