

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 24-2142V

MATTHEW JOHNSON,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: May 8, 2026

*Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for
Petitioner.*

Tyler King, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On December 30, 2024, Matthew Johnson 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 he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, 42 C.F.R. § 100.3, as the result of an influenza vaccination received on October 9, 2023. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On July 29, 2025, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On May 7, 2026, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation, ECF No. 30 (“Proffer”), indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$119,252.91. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees

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).

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 \$119,252.91 (comprised of \$115,000.00 in pain and suffering and \$4,252.91 for unreimbursable expenses), 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**

MATTHEW JOHNSON,

Petitioner,

V.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 24-2142V

Chief Special Master Corcoran
ECF

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION¹

On December 30, 2024, Matthew Johnson (“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 a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, 42 C.F.R. § 100.3, as the result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccination received on October 9, 2023. *See* Pet. at 1.

On July 28, 2025, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) report, concluding that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury. *See* ECF No. 15. On July 29, 2025, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a ruling on entitlement, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA Table injury. *See* ECF No. 16.

¹ This Proffer does not include attorneys' fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

I. Items of Compensation

Based on the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded the following:

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **\$115,000.00** 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 **\$4,252.91**. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

The above 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/Recommended Payments

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment described below, and request that the Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:²

- A. A lump sum payment of **\$119,252.91** to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner, Matthew Johnson.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Proof of guardianship is not required in this case.

² 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 pain and suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE
Assistant Attorney General

JONATHAN D. GUYNN
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

JAMES V. LOPEZ
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Tyler C. King
TYLER C. KING
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) 305-0730
Tyler.King@usdoj.gov

Dated: May 7, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that today, May 7, 2026, a copy of the foregoing pleading was served by electronic mail to Leah Durant at ldurant@durantllc.com.

s/ Tyler King