

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-534V

Filed: December 4, 2014

* * * * *		UNPUBLISHED
CARISSA A BRINK, <i>as personal</i>	*	
<i>representative of the Estate of Raymond</i>	*	
<i>Edward Black, Jr.</i>	*	
	*	Special Master Gowen
Petitioner,	*	
	*	Joint Stipulation on Damages;
v.	*	Influenza (“Flu”) Vaccine;
	*	Significant aggravation; Gout;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	Cardiomyopathy; Chronic left
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	bundle branch block; Death
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	
* * * * *		

Yuri Jelokov, Chelsey, Kroon, et al., Mankato, MN, for petitioner.

Debra A Filteau Begley, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

On August 1, 2013, Carissa Brink (“petitioner”) filed a petition on behalf of the decedent Raymond Black Jr. (Mr. Black) pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006). Petitioner alleged that an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 1, 2012 caused Mr. Black’s death, or that the flu vaccine

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this ruling on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b).

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

caused significant aggravation of Mr. Black's pre-existing cardiomyopathy, chronic left bundle branch block, and gout, which caused his death on February 9, 2013. Stipulation ¶ 2, 4, filed Dec. 3, 2014.

On December 3, 2014, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. "Respondent denies that Mr. Black's cardiomyopathy, chronic left bundle branch block, gout, or any other condition, was significantly aggravated by, or that his death was caused by his flu vaccination." Id. at ¶ 6. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

A lump sum of \$8,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Carissa Brink, as personal representative of the Estate of Raymond Edward Black Jr. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

Id. at ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

The clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Thomas L. Gowen
Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is 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

CARISSA A. BRINK, as a personal
Representative of Estate of RAYMOND
EDWARD BLACK J.R.,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

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No. 13-534V
SPECIAL MASTER
THOMAS L. GOWEN

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Petitioner filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries and death allegedly related to Raymond Edward Black Jr.'s ("Mr. Black") receipt of an influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Mr. Black received a flu immunization on October 1, 2012.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that the flu vaccine caused-in-fact petitioner's death, or that it caused-in-fact a significant aggravation of Mr. Black's pre-existing cardiomyopathy, chronic left bundle branch block, and gout, which caused his death on February 9, 2013.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of Mr. Black as a result of the alleged significant aggravation of his pre-existing conditions and/or death.

6. Respondent denies that Mr. Black's cardiomyopathy, chronic left bundle branch block, gout, or any other condition, was significantly aggravated by, or that his death was caused by his flu vaccination.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$8,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner as personal representative of the Estate of Raymond Edward Black Jr. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be

expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. Petitioner represents that she is currently duly authorized to serve as personal representative of Mr. Black's estate under the laws of the State of Minnesota and she has filed a copy of her letters of general administration with the Court.

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity and as the personal representative of Mr. Black's estate, on behalf of herself, Mr. Black's heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of Mr. Black resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on October 1, 2012, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about August 1, 2013, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 13-534V.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

16. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that Mr. Black's cardiomyopathy, chronic left bundle branch block, gout, or any other condition, was significantly aggravated, or that his death was caused-in-fact by his flu vaccination.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representatives of Mr. Black's estate.

END OF STIPULATION

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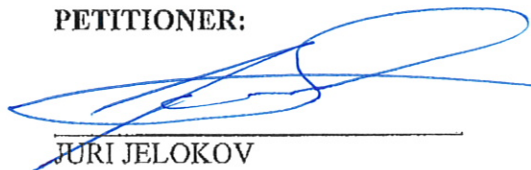
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Respectfully submitted,

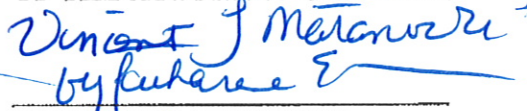
PETITIONER:


CARISSA A. BRINK


**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**


JURI JELOKOV
Chelsey, Kroon, Harvey & Carpenter, PLLP
75 Teton Lane
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 625-3000


**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**


VINCENT J. MATANOSKI
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**


A. MELISSA HOUSTON M.D., M.P.H., FAAP
Director, Division of Injury Compensation
Programs
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:**


DEBRA A. FILTEAU BEGLEY
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 616-4181