

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

\* \* \* \* \*

LISA N. BUTTON,  
Petitioner,

\* No. 13-900V  
\* Special Master Moran  
\*

v.

\* Filed: October 16, 2014  
\*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
Respondent.

\* Stipulation; Influenza (“flu”) vaccine;  
\* transverse myelitis (“TM”)  
\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Diana L. Stadelnikas Sedar, Maglio, Christopher & Toale, Sarasota, FL, for  
Petitioner;

Julia McInerny, United States Dep’t of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

### **UNPUBLISHED DECISION**<sup>1</sup>

On October 8, 2014, respondent filed a joint stipulation concerning the petition for compensation filed by Lisa Button on November 12, 2013. In her petition, Ms. Button alleged that the influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. §100.3(a), and which she received on September 24, 2011, caused her to suffer transverse myelitis (“TM”). Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of this condition for more than six months. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her condition.

Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner’s TM or any other injury.

---

<sup>1</sup> The E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002), requires that the Court post this decision on its website. Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 18(b), the party has 14 days to file a motion proposing redaction of medical information or other information described in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4). Any redactions ordered by the special master will appear in the document posted on the website.

Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as “Appendix A.” The undersigned finds said stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Damages awarded in that stipulation include:

**A lump sum of \$120,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Lisa Button. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).**

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the clerk is directed to enter judgment in case 13-900V according to this decision and the attached stipulation.<sup>2</sup>

Any questions may be directed to my law clerk, Mary Holmes, at (202) 357-6353.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/ Christian J. Moran  
Christian J. Moran  
Special Master

---

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

LISA N. BUTTON,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 13-900V

Special Master Moran

ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Lisa Button ("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"). Petitioner seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to the influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received her flu vaccine on September 24, 2011.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered transverse myelitis ("TM") as a result of her flu vaccination. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of this condition for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of his condition.
6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's TM or any other injury.
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 \$120,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. 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 they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including 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 entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

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

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursed expenses, the money provided

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.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused petitioner to suffer TM or any other injury.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

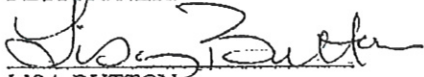
/

/

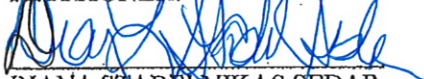
/

Respectfully submitted,

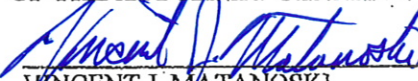
PETITIONER:

  
LISA BUTTON

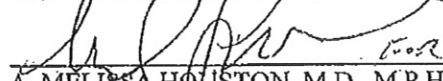
ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:

  
DIANA STADELNIKAS SEDAR  
MAGLIO, CHRISTOPHER &  
TOALE  
1605 Main Street, Suite 710  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(888) 952-5242

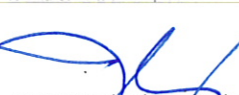
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

  
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 (DICP)  
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:

  
JULIA W. MCNERNY  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
(202) 353-3919

Dated: 10.8.14