

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

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RUBEN CASTILLO, \* No. 14-083V  
Petitioner, \* Special Master Moran  
\*

v. \* Filed: May 8, 2015  
\*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH \* Stipulation; Influenza (“flu”) vaccine;  
AND HUMAN SERVICES, \* transverse myelitis; neuromyelitis  
Respondent. \* optica (“NMO”).  
\* \* \* \* \*

Anne Toale, Maglio, Christopher & Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for Petitioner;  
Ryan Pyles, United States Dep’t of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

### **UNPUBLISHED DECISION**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

On May 7, 2015, respondent filed a joint stipulation concerning the petition for compensation filed by Ruben Castillo on January 29, 2014. In his petition, Mr. Castillo 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 he received on January 10, 2013, caused him to develop transverse myelitis and/or neuromyelitis optica (“NMO”). Petitioner further alleges that he experienced the residual effects of these injuries 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 his condition.

Respondent denies that the vaccine is the cause of petitioner’s alleged transverse myelitis, NMO, and/or any other injury.

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<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. A lump sum payment of \$1,308.08, which amount represents reimbursement of a State of Florida Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and**

**Agency for Health Care Administration  
Xerox Recovery Services  
P.O. Box 12188  
Tallahassee, FL 32317**

**Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the State; and**

**B. A lump sum payment of \$254,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Ruben Castillo. This amount represents compensation for all remaining 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 14-083V according to this decision and the attached stipulation.<sup>2</sup>

Any questions may be directed to my law clerk, Mary Holmes, at (202) 357-6360.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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

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<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**

RUBEN CASTILLO,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 14-83V

Special Master Christian J. Moran  
ECF

**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Ruben Castillo (“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 allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of 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 the flu vaccine on or about January 10, 2013.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that the flu vaccine caused him to develop transverse myelitis and/or neuromyelitis optica (NMO) and that he experienced residual effects of these injuries 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 vaccine is the cause of petitioner's alleged transverse myelitis, NMO, and/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. A lump sum of **\$1,308.08**, which amount represents reimbursement of a State of Florida Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and

Agency for Health Care Administration  
Xerox Recovery Services  
P.O. Box 12188  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2188.

Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the State; and

- b. A lump sum of **\$254,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all remaining 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 his 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 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. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors and/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 petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccine administered on or about January 10, 2013, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about January 29, 2014, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 14-83V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. 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.

16. 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.

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's alleged transverse myelitis, NMO, and/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

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Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:

  
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RUBEN CASTILLO


ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:

  
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ANNE C. TOALE  
MAGLIO-CHRISTOPHER & TOALE, PA  
1605 Main St., Ste. 710  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(888) 952-5242

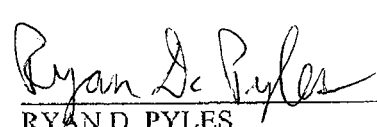
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

  
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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:

  
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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:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RYAN D. PYLES  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
(202) 616-9847

Dated: May 7, 2015