

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

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GAINES HEARNS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

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No. 14-669V

Special Master Christian J. Moran

Filed: October 16, 2015

Damages; decision based on proffer;  
influenza (“flu”) vaccination;  
shoulder injury.

Ronald C. Homer, Conway, Homer & Chin-Caplan, Boston, MA, for Petitioner;  
Jennifer L. Reynaud, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for  
Respondent.

### **UNPUBLISHED DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES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

On July 29, 2014, Gaines Hearn filed a petition seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 et seq., alleging that the trivalent influenza vaccination caused him to suffer a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”).

On October 14, 2015, respondent filed a Proffer on Award of Compensation, to which petitioner agrees. Based upon the record as a whole, the special master finds the proffer reasonable and that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer. Pursuant to the attached Proffer the court awards petitioner:

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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 parties have 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.

1. **A lump sum payment of \$75,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Gaines Hearn. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a), except as set forth below in paragraph 2; and**
2. **A lump sum of \$307.27, which amount represents reimbursement of a lien for services rendered on behalf of Gaines Hearn, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and**

**HMS  
TPL Recovery Unit  
2000 Interstate Park Dr., Suite 401  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
Case No: 160873**

**Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the HMS, TPL Recovery Unit.**

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the clerk is directed to enter judgment in case 14-669V according to this decision and the attached proffer.<sup>2</sup>

Any questions may be directed to my law clerk, Dan Hoffman, 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**

GAINES HEARNS,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 14-669V  
Special Master Moran  
ECF

**PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

**I. Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$75,307.27, which represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through the following payments:

- a. A lump sum of **\$75,000.00** 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), except as set forth in paragraph II.b; and
- b. A lump sum of **\$307.27**, which amount represents reimbursement of a lien for services rendered on behalf of petitioner, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner<sup>1</sup> and

HMS  
TPL Recovery Unit  
2000 Interstate Park Dr., Suite 401  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
Case No: 160873

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<sup>1</sup> Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the appropriate State agency.

Petitioner agrees.<sup>2</sup>

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

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN C. MIZER  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

RUPA BHATTACHARYYA  
Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

VINCENT J. MATANOSKI  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

LYNN E. RICCIARDELLA  
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Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
(202) 305-1586

DATED: October 14, 2015

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<sup>2</sup> 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 medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.