

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-929

Filed: June 7, 2017

* * * * *		Special Master Sanders
DARREN STARR, as father and	*	
natural guardian of the minor, J.S.,	*	Joint Stipulation on Damages; Human
	*	Papillomavirus (“HPV”) Vaccine; Postural
Petitioner,	*	Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome
	*	(“POTS”); Dysautonomia.
v.	*	
	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
* * * * *		

Kathleen Rachel Hersh-Boyle, Hersh & Hersh, San Francisco, CA, for Petitioner.

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

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

On September 30, 2014, Darren Starr (“Petitioner”), on behalf of his minor son, J.S., petitioned for compensation pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that as a result of a human papillomavirus (“HPV”) vaccine administered on October 24, 2013, J.S. developed postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (“POTS”) and/or dysautonomia. *See* Stipulation for Award at ¶¶ 1-4, filed June 6, 2017. Petitioner further alleged that J.S. experienced residual effects of his injury for more than six months. *Id.* at ¶ 4.

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<sup>1</sup> This decision shall be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, such material will be deleted from public access.

<sup>2</sup> The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 et seq. (hereinafter “Vaccine Act,” “the Act,” or “the Program”). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

On June 6, 2017, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation to Petitioner. Respondent denies that J.S. suffers POTS and/or dysautonomia, and further denies that these conditions and/or any other condition were caused-in-fact by his HPV vaccine. 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. A lump sum payment of \$50,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner as guardian/conservator of J.S.'s estate. 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.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Herbrina D. Sanders  
Herbrina D. Sanders  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> 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**

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**DARREN STARR**, as father and natural guardian of the minor, **J.S.**,

Petitioner,

v.

**SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**,

Respondent.

\*\*\*\*\*

**No. 14-929V**  
SPECIAL MASTER  
HERBRINA SANDERS

**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. On behalf of his son, J.S., 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 J.S.’s receipt of the human papillomavirus (“HPV”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. J.S. received an HPV immunization on October 24, 2013.
3. This vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that J.S. developed postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (“POTS”) and/or dysautonomia and that these conditions were caused-in-fact by his October 24, 2013, HPV vaccination, and that he has experienced residual effects of his injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of J.S. as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that J.S suffers POTS and/or dysautonomia, and further denies that these conditions and/or any other condition, were caused-in-fact by his HPV vaccine.

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 payment of \$50,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner as guardian/conservator of J.S.'s estate. 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 his 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. 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 either immediately or as part of the annuity contract, will be used solely for the benefit of J.S. 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. Petitioner represents that he presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardians/conservators of J.S.'s estate under the laws of the State of California. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing his appointment as guardians/conservators of J.S.'s estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of J.S. at the time a payment pursuant to this Stipulation is to be made, any such payment shall be paid to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of J.S. upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

14. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity and as legal representative of J.S., on behalf of himself, J.S., and J.S.'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 J.S. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the HPV vaccination administered on October 24, 2013, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about September 30, 2014, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 14-929V.

15. If J.S. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 8 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.

18. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that J.S.'s alleged POTS, and/or dysautonomia, and/or any other condition, were caused-in-fact by his HPV vaccination.




Respectfully submitted,

**PETITIONER:**



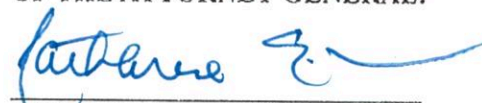
DARREN STARR

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**



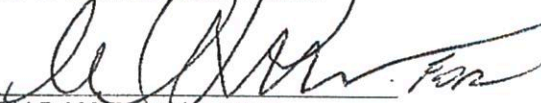
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Dated: 06/06/2017