In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 15-0300V
Filed: January 28, 2016
Unpublished

JOSEPH SULLIVAN,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	
v.	*	Attorneys' Fees and Costs; Stipulation; Special Processing Unit ("SPU")
	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

Alison Haskins, Maglio Christopher and Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.
Christine Becer, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS[1]

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On March 24, 2015, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,[2] (the "Vaccine Act" or "Program"). Petitioner alleged that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome ("GBS") as a result of an influenza ("flu") vaccine he received on October 2, 2013. On December 2, 2015, the undersigned issued a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on a joint stipulation.

On January 27, 2016, the parties filed a Stipulation of Facts Concerning Attorneys' Fees and Costs. According to the stipulation, the parties stipulate to an award of $20,786.71 for attorneys' fees and costs. In compliance with General Order

[1] Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, 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)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

[2] National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

#9, petitioner's counsel represented that petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket expenses in this case.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request and the lack of any objection by respondent, the undersigned **GRANTS** the request for approval and payment of attorneys' fees and costs.

Accordingly, I award the total of $20,786.71[3] as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Alison Haskins.

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.[4]

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

[3] This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. *See generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

[4] Entry of judgment can be expedited by the filing of a joint notice renouncing the right to seek review. *See* Vaccine Rule 11(a).