

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 15-0392V

Filed: April 6, 2016

Unpublished

\*\*\*\*\*

LARA FELKER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis  
("Tdap") Vaccine; Shoulder Injury  
Related to Vaccine Administration  
("SIRVA"); Special Processing Unit  
("SPU")

\*\*\*\*\*

*Jane Morrow, Otorowski, Johnston, et al., Bainbridge Island, WA, for petitioner.  
Althea Davis, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

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

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On April 20, 2015, Lara Felker ("petitioner") filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleged that she suffered an injury to her left shoulder as a result of a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis ("Tdap") vaccine administered on September 22, 2014. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On October 30, 2015, the undersigned issued a ruling on entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA"). On April 4, 2016, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating petitioner should be awarded \$135,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Based

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website,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. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$135,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Lara Felker.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be 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

LARA FELKER,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 15-392V
	)	Chief Special Master
v.	)	Nora Beth Dorsey
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

**I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items**

On October 30, 2015, Chief Special Master Nora Beth Dorsey issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”). Respondent proffers that based on the evidence of record, petitioner should be awarded \$135,000.00. This amount 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 a lump sum payment as described below, and requests that the special master’s decision and the Court’s judgment award the following:<sup>1</sup>

- A. A lump sum payment of \$135,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Lara Felker. This amount accounts for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner would be entitled.

---

<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent reserves 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.

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

MICHAEL P. MILMOE  
Senior Trial Counsel  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Althea Walker Davis  
ALTHEA WALKER DAVIS  
Senior Trial Counsel  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Phone: (202) 616-0515  
Fax: (202) 616-4310

DATED: 4 April 2016