

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 15-1464V

Filed: April 4, 2016

UNPUBLISHED

JANE TOUGAS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

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Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (“Flu”) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine Administration
 (“SIRVA”); Adhesive Capsulitis; Rotator
Cuff Impingement Syndrome; Special
Processing Unit (“SPU”)

Paul R. Brazil, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Linda Sara Renzi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On December 3, 2015, Jane Tougas (“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”). Petitioner alleged that she suffered a left shoulder injury, including adhesive capsulitis and rotator cuff impingement syndrome, as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to her on November 19, 2014. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On February 3, 2016, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation. On April 1, 2016, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) stating petitioner should be awarded \$70,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represents that petitioner agrees with the proffered award.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website,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. 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.

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).

Based 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 \$70,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Jane Tougas.** 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.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ 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

JANE TOUGAS,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	No. 15-1464V
)	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:

Respondent proffers that based on the evidence of record, petitioner should be awarded \$70,000.00. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1); §15(a)(3)(B); and §15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award:

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to Jane Tougas should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and request that the special master’s decision and the Court’s judgment award the following:¹

A lump sum payment of \$70,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Jane Tougas. This amount accounts for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner would be entitled.

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

¹ 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 and future pain and suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

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RUPA BHATTACHARYYA
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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Dated: April 1, 2015