

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 16-489V

Filed: September 6, 2016

Unpublished

CHRISTINE BENSHOFF,

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"); Special Processing Unit
("SPU")

Maximillian J. Muller, Muller Brazil LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Edward J. Martin, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On April 19, 2016, Christine Benshoff ("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 she suffered right shoulder injuries from the administration of an influenza vaccination she received on October 23, 2014. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit ("SPU") of the Office of Special Masters.

On July 25, 2016, the undersigned issued a ruling on entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA"). On September 2, 2016, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating petitioner should be awarded \$80,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.*

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website,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 \$80,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Christine Benshoff.** 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.

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No. 16-489V
Chief Special Master
Nora Beth Dorsey
ECF

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items

On July 25, 2016, the Chief Special Master 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 \$80,000.00. 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)(A); and 15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:¹

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, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

A lump sum payment of \$80,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Christine Benschoff. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN C. MIZER
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO, JR.
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES
Acting Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

LINDA S. RENZI
Senior Trial Counsel
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/Edward J. Martin
EDWARD J. MARTIN
Senior Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Ben Franklin Station, P.O. Box 146
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Tel.: (202) 616-1024

DATE: September 2, 2016