

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: December 1, 2017)

No. 16-1043V

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LANESIA SHEA, *mother and next* *
friend of A.S., a minor, *

UNPUBLISHED

Petitioner, *

Decision on Joint Stipulation;
Optic Neuritis; Influenza
("Flu") Vaccine.

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH *
AND HUMAN SERVICES, *

Respondent. *

* * * * *

Donald Gerstein, Esq., Richard Gage, P.C., Cheyenne, WY, for petitioner.
Claudia Gangi, Esq., US Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

Roth, Special Master:

On August 23, 2016, Lanesia Shea ("Ms. Shea or "petitioner") filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on behalf of her minor child, A.S. Petitioner alleges that A.S. developed optic neuritis after receiving an influenza

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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 (2012)). 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 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete 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).

vaccine on or about September 19, 2014. *See* Stipulation, filed December 1, 2017, at ¶¶ 1-4. Respondent denies that the aforementioned immunization caused petitioner's injury. Stipulation at ¶ 6.

Nevertheless, the parties have agreed to settle the case. On December 1, 2017, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to settle this case and describing the settlement terms.

Respondent agrees to issue the following payment:

A lump sum of \$100,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Lanesia Shea, as guardian/conservator of A.S.'s estate. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).

I adopt the parties' stipulation attached hereto, and award compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Mindy Michaels Roth
Mindy Michaels Roth
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

LANESIA SHEA,
mother and next friend of
A.S., a minor,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 16-1043V
Special Master Roth
(ECF)

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. On behalf of her son, A.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 A.S.’s receipt of the influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).

2. A.S. received his immunization on or about September 19, 2014.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that A.S. suffered optic neuritis as a result of his immunization.

Petitioners further allege that A.S. experienced residual effects of this 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 A.S. as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that A.S. suffered optic neuritis as a result of his immunization, and denies that the flu vaccine caused him any other injury.

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 of \$100,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, as guardian/conservator of A.S.'s estate, representing 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 her attorney represent that she has identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including 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 entities that provide health services on a prepaid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 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, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of A.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 she presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardian/conservator of A.S.'s estate under the laws of the State of Colorado. No payments pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing her appointment as guardian/conservator of A.S.'s estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of A.S. at the time a payment pursuant to paragraph 8 of 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 A.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 her individual capacity, and as legal representative of A.S., on her own behalf and on behalf of A.S. and A.S.'s heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and 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 United States

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 A.S. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on or about September 19, 2014, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about August 23, 2016, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 16-1043V.

15. If A.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 United States 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 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or 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 the flu vaccine caused A.S.'s optic neuritis or any other injury or any of his current conditions.

19. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representatives of A.S.

END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:

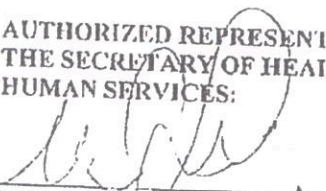

LENESTA SHEA
LENESTA

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONERS:



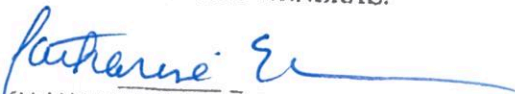
DONALD MARK GERSTEIN
RICHARD GAGE, P.C.
1815 Pebrican Avenue
P.O. Box 1223
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 631-4120

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES:



NARAYAN NAIR, M.D.
Director, Division of Injury
Compensation Programs
Healthcare Systems Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 08N146B
Rockville, MD 20857

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:



CATHARINE E. REEVES
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:



CLAUDIA B. GANGI
Senior Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 616 - 4138

Dated: 12-1-17