

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-201V

Filed: May 23, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

BONNIE GAMBERDELLA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Traci R. Patton, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On February 10, 2017, 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 alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) following an influenza (“flu”) vaccination administered on October 13, 2015. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 15, 2017, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA. On May 21, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$250,756.50 comprised of \$165,000.00 for pain and suffering; \$3,491.04 for past out of pocket

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims'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

medical expenses; and \$82,235.46 for past and future lost wages. Proffer at 1.³ In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. 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 \$250,726.50 (comprised of \$165,000.00 for pain and suffering; \$3,491.04 for past out of pocket medical expenses; and \$82,235.46 for past and future lost wages) in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Bonnie Gamberdella.** 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.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ A proffer was filed on March 16, 2018 (ECF No. 39) that resulted in a decision on damages. ECF No. 40. Due to an error in the document, the proffer was struck on May 9, 2018, and the original decision on damages was withdrawn. ECF No. 45, Order, May 9, 2018.

⁴ 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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V.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
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No. 17-201V

Chief Special Master Dorsey

ECF

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

I. Items of Compensation

On September 13, 2017, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. Thereafter, on September 15, 2017, Chief Special Master Dorsey issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”). Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$250,726.50. The award is comprised of the following: \$165,000.00 for pain and suffering; \$3,491.04 for past out of pocket medical expenses; and \$82,235.46 for past and future lost wages. 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

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$250,726.50**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.¹ Petitioner agrees.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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s/ Traci R. Patton
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Dated: May 21, 2018

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 lost earnings and future pain and suffering.