In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 17-0419V
Filed: August 21, 2018
UNPUBLISHED

EDWARD HORNE, Petitioner, v. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Respondent.	Special Processing Unit (SPU); Attorneys' Fees and Costs

Isaiah Richard Kalinowski, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for petitioner.
Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS[1]

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On March 24, 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 he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA") as a result of an influenza ("flu") vaccine administered on November 10, 2014. Petition at 1-3. On April 2, 2018, the undersigned issued a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on the parties' stipulation. (ECF No. 34).

On August 3, 2018, petitioner filed a motion for attorneys' fees and costs. (ECF No. 39). Petitioner requests attorneys' fees in the amount of $24,660.90 and attorneys'

[1] Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims'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

costs in the amount of $2,088.16. *Id.* at 1-2. Petitioner is also requesting $2,637.50 in attorney fees and $1,039.02 in attorney costs incurred from prior counsel Janna Martin of Friedman & Martin. *Id.* at 2. In compliance with General Order #9, petitioner filed a signed statement indicating that petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. *Id.* at 2. Thus, the total amount requested is $30,425.58.

On August 6, 2018, respondent filed a response to petitioner's motion. (ECF No. 40). Respondent argues that "[n]either the Vaccine Act nor Vaccine Rule 13 contemplates any role for respondent in the resolution of a request by a petitioner for an award of attorneys' fees and costs." *Id.* at 1. Respondent adds, however, that he "is satisfied the statutory requirements for an award of attorneys' fees and costs are met in this case." *Id.* at 2. Respondent "respectfully recommends that the Chief Special Master exercise her discretion and determine a reasonable award for attorneys' fees and costs." *Id.* at 3.

On August 9, 2018, petitioner filed a reply. (ECF No. 41). Petitioner disputes respondent's position that he has no role in resolving attorneys' fees and costs and further reiterates his view that his attorneys' fees and costs in this case are reasonable.

The undersigned has reviewed the billing records submitted with petitioner's request. In the undersigned's experience, the request appears reasonable, and the undersigned finds no cause to reduce the requested hours or rates, with the following exception.

The undersigned notes that there is a duplicate billing entry dated March 29, 2018. (ECF No. 39-1 at 13). This entry is for 0.10 hour and is listed as "Review and update case deadlines regarding 15 week stipulation." The undersigned **reduces the request for attorney's fees by $14.80** the amount of the duplicated entry.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. § 15(e). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request, the undersigned **GRANTS** petitioner's motion for attorneys' fees and costs.

Accordingly, the undersigned awards the total of $30,410.78[3] as follows:

- **A lump sum of $26,734.26, representing reimbursement for attorneys' fees and costs, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Isaiah Richard Kalinowski; and**

[3] This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. *See generally Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.,* 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

- **A lump sum of $3,676.52 check payable jointly to petitioner and Janna Martin, Esq. of Friedman & Martin.**

- **Petitioner requests checks be forwarded to Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, 1605 Main Street, Suite 710, Sarasota, Florida, 34236.**

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.[4]

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

[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.