

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1184V

Filed: February 6, 2020

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ROBIN CROCE,

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UNPUBLISHED

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Petitioner,

*

Decision on Joint Stipulation;

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Guillain-Barre Syndrome

v.

*

("GBS"); Tetanus-diphtheria-

*

acellular pertussis ("TDaP")

SECRETARY OF HEALTH

*

Vaccine

AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

*

Respondent.

*

* * * * *

Alison Haskins, Esq., Maglio Christopher and Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.

Adriana Teitel, Esq., US Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

Roth, Special Master:

On September 1, 2017, Robin Croce ["Ms. Croce" or "petitioner"] filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² Petitioner alleges that she developed Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") after receiving a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccination on June 24, 2016. Stipulation, filed Feb. 6, 2020, 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 February 6, 2020, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to settle this case and describing the settlement terms.

¹ Although this Decision has been formally designated "unpublished," it will nevertheless be posted on the Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** However, the parties may object to the Decision's inclusion of certain kinds of confidential information. Specifically, under Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has fourteen days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the whole Decision will be available to the public. *Id.*

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).

Respondent agrees to issue the following payments:

(1) **A lump sum of \$2,324.50**, representing a balance due for petitioner's past incurred medical expenses, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and Pendrick Capital Partners II LLC. Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to Pendrick Capital Partners II LLC;

(2) **A lump sum of \$10,135.15**, representing a balance due for petitioner's past incurred medical expenses, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and Westside Regional Medical Center. Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to Westside Regional Medical Center; and

(3) **A lump sum of \$147,500.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Robin Croce. 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**

ROBIN CROCE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 17-1184V
Special Master Roth
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Petitioner Robin Croce ("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 petitioner's receipt of a Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine ("Tdap"), which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).

2. Petitioner received her Tdap immunization on June 24, 2016.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that she sustained a vaccine-related injury diagnosed as Guillain-Barre syndrome ("GBS") that was caused-in-fact by the Tdap vaccine she received. She further alleges that she experienced the 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 as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's alleged GBS and its residual effects were caused-in-fact by her Tdap vaccine. Respondent further denies that the vaccine caused petitioner any other injury or her current condition.

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 payments:

- a. a lump sum of **\$2,324.50**, representing a balance due for petitioner's past incurred medical expenses, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and Pendrick Capital Partners II LLC. Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to Pendrick Capital Partners II LLC;
- b. a lump sum of **\$10,135.15**, representing a balance due for petitioner's past incurred medical expenses, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and Westside Regional Medical Center. Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to Westside Regional Medical Center; and
- c. a lump sum of **\$147,500.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

These amounts represent 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 they have 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 pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation 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 and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner 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. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or 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 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 petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Tdap vaccination administered on June 24, 2016, as

alleged by petitioner in her petition for vaccine compensation filed on September 1, 2017, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 17-1184V.

14. If petitioner 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.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the 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.

16. 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 to 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.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Tdap vaccination caused petitioner to suffer GBS or any other injury.


18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:


ROBIN CROCE

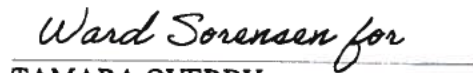
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Dated: 2/6/2020