In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 18-1018V
(not to be published)

WAYNE BUTLER, Petitioner, v. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Respondent.	Chief Special Master Corcoran Filed: October 29, 2020 Special Processing Unit (SPU); Attorney's Fees and Costs

Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for Petitioner.

Debra A. Filteau Begley, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS[1]

On July 16, 2018, Wayne Butler 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 injuries including brachial neuritis (BN) resulting from adverse effects of a flu vaccination on October 5, 2017. (Petition at 1). On March 16, 2020, a decision was issued awarding compensation to Petitioner based on the parties' stipulation. (ECF No. 36).

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[1] Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** 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, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I 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).

Petitioner has now filed a motion for attorney's fees and costs, dated October 13, 2020, (ECF No. 40), requesting a total award of $30,899.10 (representing $28,690.80 in fees and $2,208.30 in costs). In accordance with General Order #9, Petitioner filed a signed statement indicating that she incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. (*Id.* at 2). Respondent did not file a response to Petitioner's motion for attorney's fees and costs.

I have reviewed the billing records submitted with Petitioner's request. In my experience, the request appears reasonable, and I find no cause to reduce the requested hours or rates.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs. § 15(e). Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorney's fees and costs. I award a total of **$30,899.10** (representing $28,690.80 in fees and $2,208.30 in costs) as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel. In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision.[3]

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

[3] Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing their right to seek review.