

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-930V

Filed: September 22, 2015

Unpublished

\*\*\*\*\*

████████████████████

Petitioner,  
v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Joint Stipulation on Damages;  
Influenza Vaccine or Flu Vaccine;  
Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”);  
Bell’s Palsy; Special Processing  
Unit (“SPU”)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Anne Toale, Esq., Maglio Christopher and Toale, PA, (FL) Sarasota, FL, for  
petitioner.*

*Linda Renzi, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On October 1, 2014, ██████████ filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> [the “Vaccine Act” or “Program”]. Petitioner alleged that she suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and Bell’s palsy resulting from the influenza vaccine she received on October 4, 2012. Petition, ¶¶ 1, 8-9; see also Stipulation, filed Sept. 22, 2015, ¶¶ 2, 4. Petitioner further alleges that her “vaccine related injuries have lasted more than six months.” Petition, ¶ 10. Respondent denies that the influenza vaccination caused petitioner’s GBS, Bell’s palsy or any other injury or condition. Stipulation, ¶ 6.

---

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance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 (2006)). 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 (2006).

Nevertheless, the parties have agreed to settle the case. Stipulation, ¶ 7. On September 22, 2015, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to settle this case and describing the settlement terms.

Respondent agrees to pay petitioner the following amounts:

1. A lump sum payment of **\$5,689.43** in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner, [REDACTED] and

Agency for Health Care Administration  
P.O. Box 12188  
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2188  
Case ID No. 487899

representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of Florida Medicaid lien.<sup>3</sup>

2. A lump sum of **\$125,200.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner, [REDACTED]

Stipulation, ¶ 8. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). *Id.*

I adopt the parties' stipulation attached hereto, and award compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>4</sup>

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the Agency for Health Care Administration.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

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

<div style="background-color: black; width: 200px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div>	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 14-930V
	)	Chief Special Master
v.	)	Denise K. Vowell
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1.  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 an influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received a flu immunization on October 4, 2012.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") and Bell's palsy as the result of the administration of the flu vaccine, and that she experienced residual effects of these injuries for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on her behalf as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's GBS, Bell's palsy, or any other injury, and denies that her current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related 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 payments:

(a) A lump sum payment of \$5,689.43 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and to:

Agency for Health Care Administration  
P.O. Box 12188  
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2188  
Case ID No. 487899

Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to the Agency for Health Care Administration; and,

(b) A lump sum of \$125,200.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, [REDACTED]. This amount represents compensation for all remaining 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 compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42

U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any 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 by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. The payments 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 flu vaccination administered on October 4, 2012, as

alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about October 1, 2014 in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 14-930V.

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 flu vaccine caused petitioner's GBS, Bell's palsy or any other injury or her current disabilities.

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

END OF STIPULATION

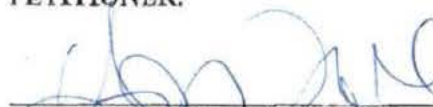


Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:



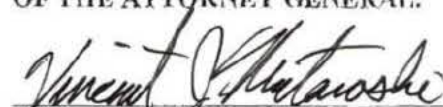
ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:

  
ANNE CARRION TOALE  
Maglio Christopher and Toale  
1605 Main Street, Suite 710  
Sarasota, Florida 34236  
(941) 952-5242

  
A. MELISSA HOUSTON M.D., M.P.H., FAAP  
Director, Division of Injury  
Compensation Programs (DICP)  
Healthcare Systems Bureau  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dated: 9/22/15

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

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

  
LINDA S. RENZI  
Senior Trial Counsel  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
Tel: (202) 616-4133