

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-1072V

Filed: November 5, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

MICHELLE JOHNSON,

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)

*Jimmy A. Zgheib, Zgheib Sayad, P.C., White Plains, NY, for petitioner.*

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

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

**Corcoran**, Chief Special Master:

On July 20, 2018, petitioner 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”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (SIRVA) after receiving the influenza vaccine on November 14, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On October 3, 2019, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On November 1, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$72,500.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered

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 Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

<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 (2012).

award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award petitioner a lump sum payment of \$72,500.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Michelle Johnson.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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MICHELLE JOHNSON,

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Petitioner,

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No. 18-1072V

CHIEF SPECIAL MASTER CORCORAN

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v.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

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\*

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Respondent.

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**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On September 27, 2019, respondent filed a Rule 4(c) Report, conceding that petitioner’s claim meets the Table criteria for a SIRVA injury. On October 3, 2019, the Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation under the Vaccine Act.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded the following, and requests that the Chief Special Master’s decision and the Court’s judgment award:

A lump sum payment of \$72,500.00, which represents compensation for pain and suffering, *see* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4).

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).<sup>1</sup> Petitioner agrees.

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future pain and suffering.

**II. Form of the Award**

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

Respondent recommends that petitioner be awarded a lump sum payment of **\$72,500.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant Attorney General

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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/s/ DEBRA A. FILTEAU BEGLEY  
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Dated: November 1, 2019