

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 22-0054V

DENISE WATTS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 30, 2023

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

Christine Mary Becer, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On January 18, 2022, Denise Watts 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 she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of a Prevnar-13 vaccination she received on March 13, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 16, 2023, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. ECF No. 27. On June 29, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$48,542.31, representing \$47,500.00 in pain and suffering and \$1,042.31 in out-of-pocket expenses. Proffer at 2-3. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (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 section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$48,542.31, representing \$47,500.00 in pain and suffering and \$1,042.31 in out-of-pocket expenses, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to 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), 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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|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| DENISE WATTS, |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | No. 22-54V |
| |) | Chief Special Master Corcoran |
| SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND |) | ECF |
| HUMAN SERVICES, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |
| |) | |

RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

I. Procedural History

On January 18, 2022, Denise Watts (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to 34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), alleging that she suffered a right shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a Table injury, as a result of a Prevnar-13 (“Prevnar”) vaccine administered to her on March 13, 2019. Petition at 1. On June 15, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) Report conceding entitlement. ECF No. 26. On June 16, 2023, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued an entitlement ruling in favor of petitioner. *See* Ruling on Entitlement (ECF No. 27).

II. Items of Compensation

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$47,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,042.31 for out-of-pocket expenses.

This represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

III. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following¹: a lump sum payment of \$48,542.31, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

IV. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Denise Watts: **\$48,542.31**

Respectfully submitted,

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
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Assistant Director
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s/Christine Mary Becer
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DATED: June 29, 2023

¹ Should petitioner die prior to 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.