

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 05-473V

Filed: April 28, 2011

**SHANNON TINNELL and ROBERT
TINNELL, Parents of JOHN F.O.
TINNELL, a Minor Child,**

Petitioners,

v.

**SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES**

Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED DECISION

Petitioners' Motion for a Decision
Dismissing their Petition; Insufficient Proof
of Causation; Vaccine Act Entitlement;
Denial Without a Hearing

DECISION¹

On April 14, 2005, petitioners filed a Short-Form Autism Petition for Vaccine Compensation in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“the Program”).² In effect, by use of the special “Short-Form” developed for use in the context of the Omnibus Autism Proceeding, the petition alleges that various vaccinations injured John. The information in the record, however, does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

¹Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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 delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete such material from public access.

² The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* (hereinafter “Vaccine Act” or “the Act”). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

On April 25, 2011, petitioners filed a Motion for a Decision dismissing their Petition. Petitioners assert in the Motion that under the current applicable law they will be unable to demonstrate entitlement to compensation in the Program. Petitioners' Motion at 1. Accordingly, petitioners request that the undersigned dismiss the above-captioned petition. Id.

To receive compensation under the Program, petitioners must prove either 1) that John suffered a "Table Injury" – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to one of John's vaccinations, or 2) that John suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccine. See §§ 300aa-13(a)(1)(A) and 300aa-11(c)(1). An examination of the record does not uncover any evidence that John suffered a "Table Injury." Further, the record does not contain a medical expert's opinion or any other persuasive evidence indicating that John's alleged injury was vaccine-caused.

Under the Act, petitioners may not be given a Program award based solely on the petitioners' claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either medical records or by the opinion of a competent physician. § 300aa-13(a)(1). Because the offered medical records cannot alone support petitioners' claim, a medical opinion must also be offered in support. Petitioners, however, have offered no such opinion.

Accordingly, it is clear from the record in this case that petitioners have failed to demonstrate either that John suffered a "Table Injury" or that John's injuries were "actually caused" by a vaccination. **Thus, this case is dismissed for insufficient proof. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Patricia E. Campbell-Smith
Chief Special Master

³ The undersigned notes that if petitioners elect to file a Petition for Fees and Costs pursuant to § 300aa-15(e), based on current case law petitioners will need to first establish proof of vaccination and the timely filing of their Petition for Vaccine Compensation, see § 300aa-16(a)(2) and 16(b), prior to any award for attorneys' fees and costs being granted. See Brice v. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 358 F.3d 865, 869 (2004), citing Martin v. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 62 F.3d 1403, 1406 (1995).