

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 09-405V

Filed: March 15, 2011

Reissued for Redaction: April 6, 2011

Not To Be Published

S.M.G., a minor, by
her mother and natural guardian,
JENNIFER M. GROVES

Petitioner,

Petitioner's Motion for a Decision
Dismissing her Petition; Insufficient Proof
of Causation; Vaccine Act Entitlement;
Denial Without Hearing

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

DECISION¹

On June 22, 2009, petitioner filed a Petition For Vaccine Compensation in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program("the Program")² alleging that various vaccinations injured S.M.G.. The information in the record, however, does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

On March 14, 2011, petitioner filed a Motion for a Decision dismissing her Petition. Petitioner asserts in her Motion that under the current applicable law she will be unable to demonstrate entitlement to compensation in the Program. Petitioner's Motion at 1. Accordingly,

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal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), a party 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, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, such material will be deleted from public access.

²The 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.A. § 300aa of the Act.

petitioner requests that the undersigned dismiss the above-captioned petition. Id.

To receive compensation under the Program, petitioner must prove either 1) that S.M.G. suffered a “Table Injury” – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to one of her vaccinations, or 2) that S.M.G. 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 did not uncover any evidence that S.M.G. suffered a “Table Injury.” Further, the record does not contain a medical expert’s opinion or any other persuasive evidence indicating that S.M.G.’s alleged injury was vaccine-caused.

Under the Act, a petitioner may not be given a Program award based solely on the petitioner’s claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either medical records or by the opinion of a competent physician. § 300aa-13(a)(1). In this case, because there are no medical records supporting petitioners’ claim, a medical opinion must be offered in support. Petitioner, however, has offered no such opinion.

Accordingly, it is clear from the record in this case that petitioner has failed to demonstrate either that S.M.G. suffered a “Table Injury” or that her 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.

s/Gary J. Golkiewicz
Gary J. Golkiewicz
Special Master

³ The undersigned notes that if petitioner elects to file a Petition for Fees and Costs pursuant to § 300aa-15(e), based on current case law petitioner 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).