

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 08-0478V

Filed: March 9, 2012

Not to be Published

GABRIELLE GOURRIER,
as parent and next friend of
EMMANUEL GOURRIER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

Autism; Attorneys' Fees and Costs

DECISION AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS 1

On March 9, 2012, the parties filed a Joint Stipulation of Fact Concerning Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The parties stipulate to an award of \$19,988.54 for attorneys' fees and costs in this case. In compliance with Vaccine General Order #9, petitioner filed a statement on March 9, 2012 indicating she had \$250.00 in costs incurred that are compensable under § 15 (e)(1).

The request for attorneys' fees and costs is granted. Petitioner is awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to §§ 15(b) and (e)(1), as I find that the petition was brought in good faith and upon a reasonable basis, and the amounts requested are reasonable and appropriate.

1 Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in 42 U.S.C. § 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.

Accordingly, I hereby award the **total of \$19,988.54**². This total represents \$250.00 in petitioner's personal costs, and \$19,738.54 in attorney fees. The payment shall be:

- 1. a lump sum of \$19,738.54, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner, and petitioner's counsel, Richard Gage for attorney fees; and**
- 2. a lump sum of \$250.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, for out-of-pocket expenses personally incurred by petitioner.**

In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review filed pursuant to Appendix B of the Rules of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/George L. Hastings, Jr.
George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master

² This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally Beck v. Sec'y of Dep't Health and Human Services, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

³ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).