

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 10-210 V

Filed: April 28, 2011

Not for Publication

PHYLLIS CHAPNICK,

*

*

Petitioner,

*

Damages and Attorneys' Fees & Costs
based on Stipulation

*

v.

*

*

SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

*

*

Respondent.

*

*

Diana L. Stadelnikas, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.

Chrysovalantis P. Kefalas, Washington, D.C., for respondent.

MILLMAN, Special Master

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES AND ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS¹

On April 25, 2011, the parties filed the attached stipulation, in which they agreed to settle the damages as well as the attorneys' fees and costs in this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioner alleged that she suffered from ocular myasthenia gravis following a flu vaccination. Respondent denies that petitioner's injuries were caused in fact by her flu vaccination. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this matter informally.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). Vaccine Rule 18(b) states that all decisions of the special masters will be made available to the public unless they contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. When such a decision is filed, petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to delete such information prior to the document's disclosure. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within the banned categories listed above, the special master shall delete such material from public access.

In accordance with the General Order #9 requirements, petitioner states she incurred no costs to pursue her petition.

The court hereby adopts the parties' stipulation and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. The court awards petitioner **\$125,000.00** in compensation for her damages, in the form of a check made payable solely to petitioner. The court also awards **\$31,064.84**, representing reimbursement for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, in the form of a check made payable jointly to petitioner and the law firm of Maglio, Christopher & Toale, P.A.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 28, 2011

s/ Laura D. Millman
Laura D. Millman
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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

_____)	
PHYLLIS CHAPNICK,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	No. 10-210V
)	Special Master Millman
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN)	
SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Phyllis Chapnick (“petitioner”) filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34 (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the influenza vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received the influenza vaccination on October 7, 2008.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she sustained a vaccine-related injury diagnosed as ocular myasthenia gravis that was caused-in-fact by the influenza vaccine. She further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of her injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her injury.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's alleged ocular myasthenia gravis and residual effects were caused-in-fact by the influenza vaccine.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$125,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a); and
- b. A lump sum of \$31,064.84 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and her counsel, Diana L. Stadelnikas, Esq., of Maglio Christopher & Toale, P.A., for all attorneys' fees and costs that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(e).

9. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

10. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation

will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in her individual capacity and on behalf of herself, her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the influenza vaccination administered on October 7, 2008, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about April 7, 2010, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 10-210V.

13. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended,

except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

16: This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that petitioner sustained a vaccine-related injury diagnosed as ocular myasthenia gravis that was caused-in-fact by the influenza vaccine or that petitioner experienced the residual effects of this alleged injury for more than six months.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

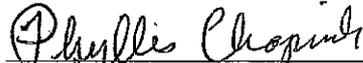
/

/

/

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:



PHYLLIS CHAPNICK

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**



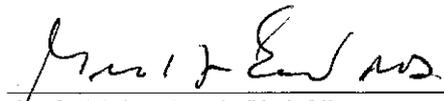
DIANA L. STADELNIKAS
Maglio Christopher & Toale, P.A.
1751 Mound Street
Second Floor
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 952-5242

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**



MARK W. ROGERS
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**



GEOFFREY EVANS, M.D.
Director, Division of
Vaccine Injury Compensation
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:**



CHRYSOVALANTIS P. KEFALAS
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 616-9197

Dated: 25 April 2011