

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 12-86V

Filed: January 29, 2013

Not for publication

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JOHN VALUCKAS and  
CYNDI VALUCKAS,  
parents of P.V., a minor,

Petitioners,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

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Damages decision based on stipulation;  
measles-mumps-rubella vaccine; hepatitis A  
vaccine; varicella vaccine; opsoclonus-  
myoclonus syndrome

\*\*\*\*\*

Ronald C. Homer, Boston, MA, for petitioners.  
Lisa A. Watts, Washington, DC, for respondent.

**MILLMAN, Special Master**

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On January 29, 2013, the parties filed the attached stipulation in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioners allege that P.V. suffered from opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome (OMS) that was caused by P.V.'s March 9, 2009, receipt of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, hepatitis A (Hep A) vaccine, or varicella vaccine. Petitioners further allege that P.V. suffered the residual effects of OMS for more than six months.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub.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.

Respondent denies that P.V.'s OMS, or any other injury, was caused in fact by the MMR, Hep A, or varicella vaccines. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this matter informally.

The court hereby adopts the parties' said stipulation, attached hereto, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. Pursuant to the stipulation, the Court awards petitioners a lump sum of **\$275,000.00**, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). The award shall be in the form of a check made payable to petitioners as guardians/administrators of P.V.'s estate.

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.<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: January 29, 2013

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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

JOHN VALUCKAS and CYNDI VALUCKAS,	)	
parents of P.V., a minor,	)	<u>ECF</u>
	)	
Petitioners,	)	No. 12-86V
	)	Special Master
v.	)	Laura D. Millman
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. On February 9, 2012, John and Cyndi Valuckas ("petitioners") filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34, as amended (the "Vaccine Program"), on behalf of their minor son, P.V. Petitioners seek compensation for neurologic injuries allegedly related to P.V.'s receipt of measles-mumps-rubella ("MMR") vaccine, hepatitis A ("Hep A") vaccine, and varicella vaccine, which vaccines are contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. P.V. received the MMR, Hep A, and varicella vaccines on March 9, 2009.
3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.
4. Petitioners allege that P.V. developed opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome ("OMS") that was caused-in-fact by the MMR, Hep A, or varicella vaccines he received. Petitioners further allege that P.V. suffered the residual effects of OMS for more than six months.
5. Petitioners represent that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on P.V.'s behalf as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that the MMR, Hep A, or varicella vaccines caused P.V.'s OMS, or any other injury, and further denies that P.V.'s current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

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 petitioners have 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 payment:

A lump sum of \$275,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioners as guardians/administrators of P.V.'s estate. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioners have filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioners and their 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 prepaid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. Petitioners represent that they presently are, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardians/administrators of P.V.'s estate under the laws of the State of Connecticut. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioners provide the Secretary with documentation establishing their appointment as guardians/administrators of P.V.'s estate. If petitioners are not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardians/administrators of P.V.'s estate at the time a payment pursuant to this Stipulation is to be made, any such payment shall be paid to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/administrator of the estate of P.V. upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

13. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of P.V. 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).

14. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioners, in their individual capacity, and as guardians/conservators of P.V.'s estate, on behalf of P.V. and his heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, do 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 United States Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-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 P.V. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the MMR, Hep A, or varicella vaccines administered to P.V. on March 9, 2009, as alleged by petitioners in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on February 9, 2012, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 12-86V.

15. If P.V. 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.

16. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States 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.

17. 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 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.

18. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the MMR vaccine, Hep A vaccine, or varicella

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vaccine caused P.V.'s OMS, or any other injury, or that P.V.'s current disabilities are sequelae of any vaccine-related injury.

19. All rights and obligations of petitioners hereunder shall apply equally to petitioners' heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representatives of the estate of P.V.

END OF STIPULATION

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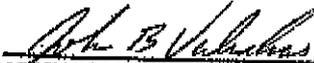
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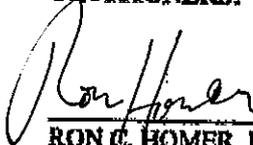
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Respectfully submitted,

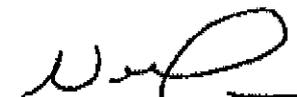
**PETITIONERS:**

  
JOHN VALUCKAS

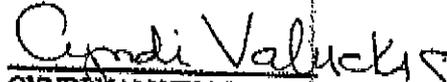
**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
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 by Joseph Kepper  
Rule 83.1(c)(2)  
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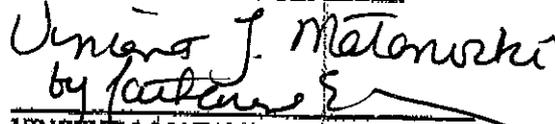
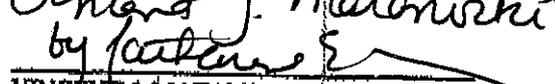
**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES:**

  
VITO CASERTA, M.D., M.P.H.  
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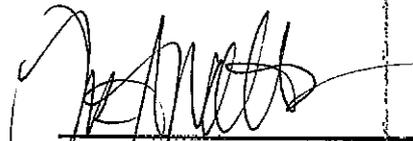
DATE: 1-29-2013

  
CYNDI VALUCKAS

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