

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**  
**E-Filed: June 29, 2012**

\* \* \* \* \*  
\*  
ELIZABETH SHAPIRO,  
\*  
\*  
          Petitioner,  
\*  
\*  
v.  
\*  
\*  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
\*  
\*  
          Respondent.  
\*  
\*  
\* \* \* \* \*

UNPUBLISHED  
No. 10-136V  
Chief Special Master  
Campbell-Smith  
Joint Stipulation on Damages;  
Hepatitis B Vaccines;  
Peripheral Neuropathy

Michael Dworkin, Michael L. Dworkin & Associates, San Francisco, CA, for petitioner.  
Julia McInerney, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

**DECISION**<sup>1</sup>

On March 2, 2010, Elizabeth Shapiro (“petitioner”) filed a petition seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“Vaccine Program”).<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s 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, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, “the entire” decision will be available to the public. Id.

<sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in 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-1 to -34 (2006) (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

In the petition, petitioner alleges that she received hepatitis B vaccines on August 8, 2007, September 11, 2007, and February 5, 2008, and thereafter suffered from peripheral neuropathy and the residual effects of this condition for more than six months. Pet. at 1.

Respondent denies that the hepatitis B vaccines caused petitioner to suffer from peripheral neuropathy or any other injury, and further denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequella of her alleged vaccine-related injury. Stip. at ¶ 6.

Nevertheless, on June 28, 2012, counsel for the parties filed a joint stipulation, which is attached to this decision, stating that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. The parties stipulated that petitioner should receive the following compensation payment:

A lump sum of **\$10,000.00**, 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). Stip. at ¶ 8.

The parties further stipulated that they had not yet reached an agreement with respect to attorneys' fees and costs, but that they will submit to further proceedings to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition. Stip. at ¶ 9.

The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable, adopts it as the decision of the court on damages, and approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation.

Accordingly, an award should be made in the form of a check payable to petitioner in the amount of **\$10,000.00**. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Patricia E. Campbell-Smith  
Patricia Campbell-Smith  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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

<hr/>	)	
<b>ELIZABETH SHAPIRO,</b>	)	
	)	ECF
Petitioner,	)	<b>No. 10-136V</b>
	)	<b>Chief Special Master Campbell-Smith</b>
v.	)	
	)	
<b>SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND</b>	)	
<b>HUMAN SERVICES,</b>	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
<hr/>	)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Elizabeth Shapiro (“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 hepatitis B vaccinations, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received her hepatitis B vaccines on August 8, 2007, September 11, 2007, and February 5, 2008.
3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered vaccine-related injuries to include peripheral neuropathy, as a consequence of her hepatitis B vaccinations, and further alleges that she experienced residual effects of her vaccine-related injuries 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 condition.

6. Respondent denies that the hepatitis B vaccines caused petitioner's alleged injuries to include peripheral neuropathy, or any other injury, and denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequella of her alleged 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 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 payment:

A lump sum of \$10,000.00 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).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has 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. 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.

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

12. 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).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, on behalf of herself, and 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. § 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 petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the hepatitis B vaccinations administered on August 8, 2007, September 11, 2007, and February 5, 2008, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about March 2, 2010, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 10-136V.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the hepatitis B vaccines caused petitioner's peripheral neuropathy, or any other injury, or that petitioner's current disabilities are sequella of her alleged vaccine-related injury.

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

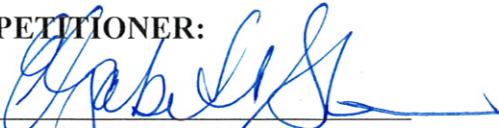
END OF STIPULATION

/

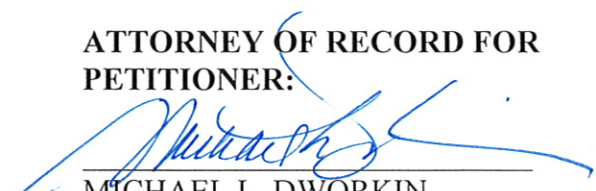
/

Respectfully submitted,

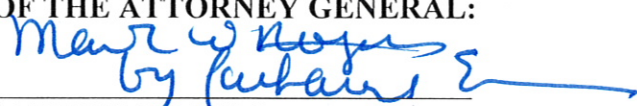
**PETITIONER:**

  
ELIZABETH SHAPIRO

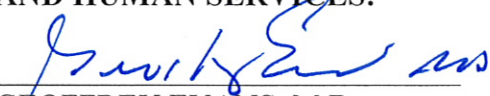
**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**

  
MICHAEL L. DWORKIN  
MICHAEL L. DWORKIN &  
ASSOCIATES  
465 California Street, Suite 210  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 421-2500

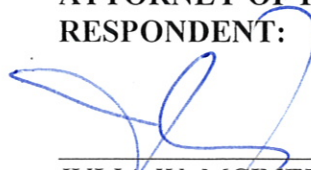
**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

  
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:**

  
JULIA W. MCINERNY  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
(202) 353-3919

Dated: 6/28/12