

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 11-197V

Filed: August 23, 2013

SHIRLEY T. WOOD,
as Personal Representative,
of the Estate of JOHN TATE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

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NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

Special Master Zane

Stipulation; influenza (flu) vaccine;
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”)

Diana Stadelnikas, Maglio, Christopher, and Toale, Sarasota, FL, for Petitioner
Alexis Babcock, United States Dep’t of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent

UNPUBLISHED DECISION¹

On August 22, 2013, the parties in the above-captioned case filed a Stipulation memorializing their agreement as to the appropriate amount of compensation in this case. Petitioner seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to Dr. John Tate’s (“Dr. Tate”) receipt of the influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which is a vaccine contained in the Vaccine Injury Table, 42 C.F.R § 100.3(a), and which he received on or about October 1, 2008. Petitioner alleged that Dr. Tate suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) and that he experienced the residual

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master’s action in this case, the special master intends to post it on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, § 205, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 (2006). The decisions of the special master will be made available to the public with the exception of those portions that contain trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would clearly be an unwarranted invasion of privacy. As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days to file a motion requesting the redaction from this decision of any such alleged material. In the absence of a timely request, which includes a proposed redacted decision, the entire document will be made publicly available. If the special master, upon review of a timely filed motion to redact, agrees that the identified material fits within the categories listed above, the special master shall redact such material from the decision made available to the public. 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4); Vaccine Rule 18(b).

effects of this injury for more than six months. Petitioner also represents that there have been no prior awards or settlement of a civil action for these damages. Petitioner seeks compensation related to Dr. Tate's injuries pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34.

Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused Dr. Tate's GBS or any other injury. Nonetheless, the parties have agreed informally to resolve this matter. Stipulation, Appendix A hereto.

The undersigned hereby ADOPTS the parties' said Stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. Specifically, Petitioner is awarded:

a lump sum of \$100,000.00, 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).

The Court thanks the parties for their cooperative efforts in resolving this matter. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the Clerk is directed to enter judgment accordingly.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Daria J. Zane
Daria J. Zane
Special Master

² This document constitutes a final "decision" in this case pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(3)(A). Unless a motion for review of this decision is filed within 30 days, the Clerk of the Court shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision. Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

6. Respondent denies that Dr. Tate's alleged GBS was caused-in-fact by his influenza vaccination, and denies that the vaccine caused any other 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 \$100,000.00 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 attorney's 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. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded to 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. Petitioner represents that she presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardian/conservator of Dr. Tate's estate under the laws of the State of Florida. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing her appointment as guardian/conservator of Dr. Tate's estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of Dr. Tate 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/conservator of the estate of Dr. Tate upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of Dr. Tate's 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 Dr. Tate resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the influenza vaccination administered on October 1, 2008 as alleged in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about March 30, 2011, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 11-197V.

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. 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.

16. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the influenza vaccine caused Dr. Tate's alleged GBS, or any other injury.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as personal representative of Dr. Tate's estate.

END OF STIPULATION

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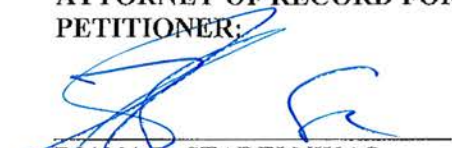
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Respectfully submitted,

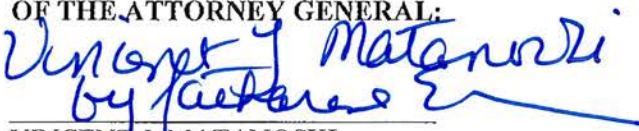
PETITIONER:


SHIRLEY T. WOOD

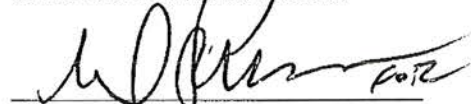
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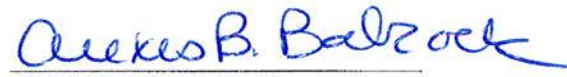
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Dated: 8/22/13