

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

No.02-2062V

Filed: August 15, 2013

Not to be Published

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SANDRA BRYANT, legal representative \*  
of a minor child LAURA ELIZABETH \*  
BRYANT, \*

Petitioner, \*

v. \*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND \*  
HUMAN SERVICES \*

Respondent. \*

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Autism; Attorneys' Fees and Costs

## DECISION AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS <sup>1</sup>

On August 3, 2012, petitioner filed a motion for award of final attorneys' fees and reimbursement of costs in this case.<sup>2</sup> Respondent failed to file any response to petitioner's motion. Petitioner is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to §§ 15(b) and (e)(1). Petitioner seeks attorneys' fees in the amount of \$5,912.50 for her attorney, Michael L. Cave, and an additional \$150.00 for costs borne directly by petitioner, Sandra Bryant.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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.

<sup>2</sup> Due to an administrative error petitioner's motion for attorneys' fees and costs was not acted upon immediately after respondent's time period to file a response had elapsed. I apologize for this inadvertent delay.

**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.

**Pursuant to §15(e), I award a sum of \$5912.50 to be paid in the form of a check payable jointly to the petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Michael L. Cave, and a sum of \$150.00 to be paid directly to petitioner, Sandra Bryant.**<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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

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<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> 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).