

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 09-754V

Filed: June 5, 2012

_____)	
FRED COLLETT,)	
)	NOT TO BE PUBLISHED
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Stipulation; Trivalent influenza (flu)
)	vaccine; Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)
SECRETARY OF)	
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

Benjamin S. Barnes, Hall and Butler, Bowie, MD, for Petitioner;
Ryan D. Pyles, United States Dep't of Justice, Washington, D.C., for Respondent.

DECISION¹

LORD, Special Master.

On June 5, 2012, the parties in the above-captioned case filed a Stipulation memorializing their agreement as to the appropriate amount of compensation in this case. Fred Collett ("Petitioner") alleges that he suffered injuries related to his receipt of the trivalent influenza ("flu") vaccine on or about November 9, 2006, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table, 42 C.F.R § 100.3(a). Specifically, Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") or a neuromuscular condition similar to GBS and that he experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months as a result of the November 9, 2006, flu immunization. Petitioner seeks compensation related to these injuries pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34.

Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused Petitioner's alleged GBS, neuromuscular condition, and/or any other injury. Nonetheless, the parties have agreed informally to resolve this matter.

¹ In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to file a proper motion seeking redaction of medical or other information that satisfies the criteria in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Redactions ordered by the special master, if any, will appear in the document as posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website.

The Court 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 \$75,000.00, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner, Fred Collett, which 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/Dee Lord
Dee Lord
Special Master

² 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 the flu immunization is the cause of petitioner's alleged GBS, neuromuscular condition, and/or 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 \$75,000.00 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 his 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 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. 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 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, on behalf of himself and his heirs, executors, administrators, successors and/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 flu vaccination administered on November 9, 2006, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about November 5, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-754V.

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 flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other 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

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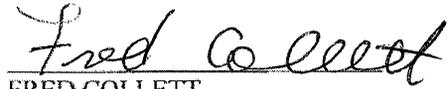
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Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:


FRED COLLETT

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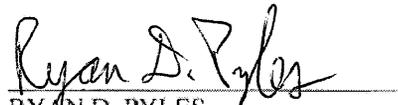
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Dated: June 5, 2012