

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. [redacted] V

Originally issued: February 9, 2009

Reissued redacted: January 5, 2010

Not for Publication

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CHILD DOE 53, \*  
by and through JOHN and JANE DOE 53, \*  
as parents and natural guardians, \*

Petitioners, \*

v. \*

SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT \*  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, \*

Respondent. \*

\*\*\*\*\*

Anne C. Toale, Sarasota, FL, for petitioners.  
Darryl R. Wishard, Washington, DC, for respondent.

Damages decision based on stipulation;  
Transverse Myelitis following tetanus-  
diphtheria, polio, MMR, and hepatitis B  
vaccinations

**MILLMAN, Special Master**

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

On February 9, 2009, the parties filed the attached stipulation, in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioners alleged that Child Doe 53 suffered

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Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this 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. Petitioners moved to redact the decision on January 5, 2010, and the undersigned has granted petitioners' motion.

from transverse myelitis caused-in-fact by her receipt of tetanus-diphtheria, polio, measles-mumps-rubella, and hepatitis B vaccinations. Respondent denies that Child Doe 53's transverse myelitis and her current condition were caused-in-fact by receipt of the vaccines. Nonetheless, the parties agree that a decision should be entered awarded compensation described in paragraph 8 of the attached stipulation.

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:

- a. a lump sum of \$15,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioners for past unreimbursable expenses; and
- b. a lump sum of \$285,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioners on behalf of and for the benefit of Child Doe 53. This lump sum amount represents compensation for all remaining damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

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: February 9, 2009

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

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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.



of the vaccines.

5. Petitioners represent that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of [REDACTED] as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that [REDACTED] transverse myelitis and her current condition were caused-in-fact by receipt of the vaccines.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless agree 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 payments:

a. A lump sum of \$15,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioners for past unreimbursable expenses; and

b. A lump sum of \$285,000.00, in the form of a check, payable to petitioners on behalf of and for the benefit of [REDACTED]. This lump sum amount represents compensation for all remaining 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. 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.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of [REDACTED] 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).

12. Petitioners represent that they presently are, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardians/conservators of [REDACTED]'s estate under the laws of the State of Florida. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioners provide the Secretary with documentation establishing their appointment as guardians/conservators of [REDACTED]'s estate. If petitioners are not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardians/conservators of [REDACTED]'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 guardians/conservators of [REDACTED]'s estate upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

13. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioners, in their individual capacities and as legal representatives of [REDACTED], on behalf of themselves, [REDACTED], her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, do forever fully and expressly release, acquit and discharge the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America from any and all actions, causes of action, agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown personal injuries to or death of [REDACTED] resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the vaccines administered on September 13, 2006, as alleged by petitioners in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about February 11, 2008,

in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. [REDACTED].

14. If [REDACTED] should die prior to receiving the payments described in paragraph 8, this agreement shall be considered 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 null and void at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete 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.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioners hereunder shall apply equally to petitioners' successors and assigns as legal representatives of [REDACTED].

**END OF STIPULATION**

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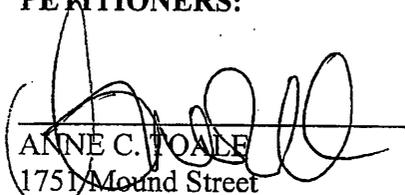
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Respectfully submitted,

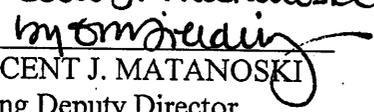
**PETITIONERS:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

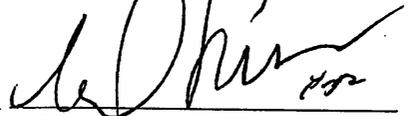
**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONERS:**

  
ANNE C. POALE  
1751 Mound Street  
Suite 201  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(941) 952-5242

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

Vincent J. Matanoski  
  
VINCENT J. MATANOSKI  
Acting 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, Stop 11C-26  
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
RESPONDENT:**

  
DARRYL R. WISHARD  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
(202) 616-4357

Dated: 2/9/09