

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

No. 07-0289

Filed: October 12, 2011

Not to be Published

BETH SHERMAN, as parent and natural*
guardian, on behalf of her minor son, *
JUSTIN SHERMAN, a minor, *

Petitioner, *

Autism; Attorneys' Fees and Costs

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND *
HUMAN SERVICES, *

Respondent. *

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

Vowell, Special Master:

Petitioner has filed an unopposed motion for an award of attorneys' fees and costs in this case. Petitioner is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to §§ 15(b) and (e)(1). Respondent has reviewed the motion and does not object. Petitioner seeks attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$10,727.00. In lieu of filing a Vaccine General Order 9 statement, the firm agrees to reimburse petitioners any costs that petitioners personally incurred that are compensable under § 15 (e)(1).

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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

I find that this petition was brought in good faith and upon a reasonable basis. Therefore, an award for fees and costs is appropriate, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(b) and (e)(1). Further, the proposed amount seems reasonable and appropriate. **Accordingly, I hereby award the total \$10,727.00² in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Sheila A. Bjorklund, Lommen Abdo Law Firm.**

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.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Denise K. Vowell
Denise K. Vowell
Special Master

² 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, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-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, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

³ 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).