

ORIGINAL
In the United States Court of Federal Claims

FILED
OCT 29 2003
U.S. COURT OF
FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: October 29, 2003)

IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES
RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER OR A SIMILAR
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER

AUTISM MASTER FILE

VARIOUS PETITIONERS,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

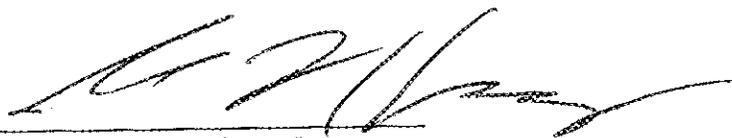
**NOTICE CONCERNING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS
INCURRED IN OMNIBUS AUTISM PROCEEDING**

As noted in previous documents contained in the Autism Master File, the Petitioners' Steering Committee (the Committee) is engaged in developing the "causation" case for the petitioners in this Omnibus Autism Proceeding. To ensure that counsel participating in that case-development process are appropriately compensated for their time and expenses incurred in that effort, the Committee has devised a procedure for keeping track of attorney time and costs, in anticipation of eventually submitting to me a combined application for attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the Omnibus Autism Proceeding. The Committee has recently circulated among participating counsel a memorandum concerning procedures for keeping track of hours and expenses

and for submitting documentation to the Committee. I have attached a copy of that memorandum to this Notice.¹

I have reviewed the memorandum, and I conclude that it presents a reasonable and appropriate method for accounting for attorney time and expenses incurred in the Omnibus Autism Proceeding. I urge participating counsel to strictly adhere to the procedures set forth in the memorandum. I also stress that the statute mandates that I compensate only time and expenses that were "reasonably" incurred.

I note, further, that, as pointed out in the Committee's memorandum, any attorney participating in the Omnibus Autism Proceeding should be careful to distinguish in his or her record-keeping between (1) time and costs expended concerning the *general causation issue* in the course of Omnibus Autism Proceeding, and (2) time and costs relating to *an individual autism case*. Expenditures relating to an individual autism case will be compensated at the conclusion of that case, *separately* from compensation related to the Omnibus Autism Proceeding.



George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master

¹ Attached to the six-page memorandum were ten additional pages, consisting of reporting forms. Copies of those forms should be obtained directly from the Committee. Contact information for the Committee and its Liaison Counsel, Ghada Anis, is as follows:

Petitioners' Steering Committee
733 15th Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: (202) 393-6411
Email: Ghada@AutismPSC.com
Fax: (202) 318-7518