

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 09-609 V

Filed: June 9, 2011

Not for Publication

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TONI ZERANGUE and JOHN \*  
JUMONVILLE, III, as Next Friends and \*  
Parents of the Minor Child, \*  
JULIA JUMONVILLE \*

Petitioners, \*

v. \*

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

Respondent. \*

\*\*\*\*\*

Lawrence S. Kullman, New Orleans, LA, for petitioners.

Lisa A. Watts, Washington, DC, for respondent.

Damages Decision Based on Stipulation;  
Comvax, DTaP, Prevar, IPV vaccines,  
seizure disorder

**MILLMAN, Special Master**

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

On June 9, 2011, the parties filed the attached stipulation, in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioners alleged that Julia suffered from a seizure disorder following Comvax, diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis, Prevnar, and inactivated polio vaccinations. Respondent denies that Julia's seizure disorder was caused in fact by any of the vaccines administered to her on October 19, 2007. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub.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.

matter informally.

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 **\$50,000.00** in the form of a check made payable to petitioners as guardians (tutrix/tutor) of Julia's estate; and
- b. an amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in paragraph 10 below, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased.

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>

Dated: June 9, 2011

/s/ Laura D. Millman

Laura D. Millman  
Special Master

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<sup>2</sup> 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.



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

6. Respondent denies that Julia's seizure disorder was caused by any of the vaccines administered to her on October 19, 2007, and denies that her current disabilities are sequelae of her alleged 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 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 \$50,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioners as guardians (tutrix/tutor) of Julia's estate;
- b. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in paragraph 10 below, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased (the "Life Insurance Company").

These amounts represent compensation for damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

9. The Life Insurance Company must have a minimum of \$250,000,000 capital and surplus, exclusive of any mandatory security valuation reserve. The Life Insurance Company must have one of the following ratings from two of the following rating organizations:

- a. A.M. Best Company: A++, A+, A+g, A+p, A+r, or A+s;

- b. Moody's Investor Service Claims Paying Rating: Aa3, Aa2, Aa1, or Aaa;
- c. Standard and Poor's Corporation Insurer Claims-Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA;
- d. Fitch Credit Rating Company, Insurance Company Claims Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA.

10. The Secretary of Health and Human Services agrees to purchase an annuity contract from the Life Insurance Company for the benefit of Julia, pursuant to which the Life Insurance Company will agree to make payments periodically to Julia Jumonville, or the guardian of her estate should one be declared necessary by a court of competent jurisdiction, once she reaches the age of majority, for all remaining damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a), as follows:

Beginning on December 5, 2024, \$2,647.49 per month for 30 years certain and life thereafter, increasing at 2% compounded annually from the date payments begin. The last certain payment is scheduled to be made on November 5, 2054.

The payments provided for in this paragraph 10 shall be made as set forth above. Should Julia Jumonville predecease the exhaustion of the certain payments during the 30 year certain period specified above, any remaining certain payments shall be made to her named beneficiary(ies) or otherwise shall be made to her estate. After the 30-year certain period described in paragraph 10(a), above, Julia Jumonville, or the guardian of her estate, will continue to receive the annuity payments from the Life Insurance Company only so long as Julia Jumonville is alive at the time that a particular payment is due. Written notice to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and to the Life Insurance Company shall be provided within twenty (20) days of Julia Jumonville's death.

11. The annuity contract will be owned solely and exclusively by the Secretary of Health

and Human Services and will be purchased as soon as practicable following the entry of a judgment in conformity with this Stipulation. The parties stipulate and agree that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America are not responsible for the payment of any sums other than the amounts set forth in paragraph 8 herein and the amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 12 herein, and that they do not guarantee or insure any of the future annuity payments. Upon the purchase of the annuity contract, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America are released from any and all obligations with respect to future annuity payments.

12. 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.

13. Petitioners and their 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.

14. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 12 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

15. 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 either immediately or as part of the annuity contract, will be used solely for the benefit of Julia 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).

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

17. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 12, petitioners, in their individual capacities and as legal representatives of Julia, on behalf of themselves, Julia, and her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, do 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. § 300aa-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 Julia resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Comvax, DTaP, IPV, and Prevnar vaccines administered on or about October 19, 2007, as alleged by petitioners in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about September 16, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-609V.

18. If Julia 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 12 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.

21. Petitioners hereby authorize respondent to disclose documents filed by petitioners in

this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

22. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that Julia's seizure disorder was caused by the vaccines administered to her on October 19, 2007, or that her current disabilities are sequelae of her alleged injury.

23. All rights and obligations of petitioners hereunder shall apply equally to petitioners' heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representatives of Julia Jumonville.

END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,

**PETITIONERS:**

  
TONI ZERANGUE

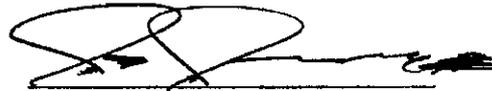
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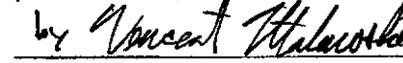
Dated: 09 JUNE 2011

  
JOHN JUMONVILLE, III

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