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LAW 34

How important is it to vaccinate our children?

Vaccinations in the United States today are heavily criticized and scrutinized and for many parents this can be a confusing and scary issue with many different opinions and information with and without factual backup. Vaccines are extremely important for our society and although there are few children that have small side effect and the very few who develop major side effects we should vaccinate our children. Not vaccinating our children against potential deadly diseases is not smart and could lead to catastrophic outbreaks of serious diseases being spread in the United States.

The CDC that is “Center for Disease Control” regulate the vaccinations in the United States and is in charge of overseeing and updating all information in regards to what ingredients are included in vaccines and when and if they need to be changed.¹ Currently the CDC has posted on their website the common ingredients in vaccines and what are the possible side effects are to these vaccines because of ingredients. Some of the common ingredients included in vaccines are Aluminum, Formaldehyde, and Thimerosal which is a mercury containing derivative, after 2001 the uses for Thimerosal has been stopped², as these ingredients are dangerous and sound extremely scary with technology and modern medicine they are needed and required for the vaccine to be effective.

Vaccines could have possibly life changing side effects for some children, like all medications there could be a chance that your child could have a side effect reaction to a vaccine but there is not a way of foreseeing if this could happen, but the seriousness of children contracting a serious illness because they were not vaccinated is far greater. In the first six months of 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and

1 <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>

2 <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/additives.htm>

Prevention recorded 10 measles outbreaks—the largest of which (21 cases) occurred in a Minnesota county, where many children were unvaccinated because of parental concerns about the safety of the standard MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella.³ When the Ebola outbreak effected the United States this last year the reality of serious infection disease and the very real possibility that we could have an outbreak became a reality for my research that without vaccinations we could face an epidemic of an infectious disease.

The United States Court of Special Claims also known as Vaccine Court was formed with The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("Vaccine Program") comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 ("Vaccine Act"). See Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755 (1986) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34).⁴ On October 1, 1988, the vaccine act was established and set up a no- fault petitions for monetary compensation. In short meaning that if you or your child suffered from a side effect from a vaccine, large or small you cannot go after the manufacture legally, you would file your claim with the vaccination court and you have the burden of proof to prove your case that the vaccine was at fault for the suffering. In the following case **Bruesewitz v. WYETH LLC, 131 S. Ct. 1068 - Supreme Court 2011** it is stated that in the last 66 years, vaccines have been subject to the same federal premarket approval process as prescription drugs, and compensation for vaccine-related injuries has been left largely to the States. Under that regime, the elimination of communicable diseases through vaccination became "one of the greatest achievements" of public health in the 20th century. But in the 1970's and 1980's vaccines became, one might say, victims of their own success. They had been so effective in preventing infectious diseases that the public became much less alarmed at the threat of those diseases and much more concerned with the risk of injury from the vaccines themselves.⁵ For example if your child were to suffer from a vaccine related disease or side effect that was serious enough for you to file a claim with the special court, for example the worst being your child died from a vaccination you would follow the guidelines set forth by the government, the federal government

3. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/straight-talk-about-vaccination/>

4. <http://www.usfc.uscourts.gov/vaccine-programoffice-special-masters>

5. **Bruesewitz v. WYETH LLC, 131 S. Ct. 1068 - Supreme Court 2011**

set these guidelines to stabilize the vaccine market and facilitate compensation, Congress enacted the NCVIA in 1986. The Act establishes a no-fault compensation program "designed to work faster and with greater ease than the civil tort system." **Shalala v. Whitecotton, 514 U.S. 268, 269, 115 S.Ct. 1477, 131 L.Ed.2d 374 (1995)**. A person injured by a vaccine, or his legal guardian, may file a petition for compensation in the United States Court of Federal Claims, naming the Secretary of Health and Human Services as the respondent. A special master then makes an informal adjudication of the petition within (except for two limited exceptions) 240 days.⁶ The burden of showing proof, when in such cases brought to the special court in showing vaccine related side effects amounting to seizures and brain damage, in the following case a 4 month old child had received her vaccinations to date 36 hours after her vaccination shot she suffered multiple seizures her mother filed on the basis of the Child vaccination injury act and through her petition was denied also through her appeal was denied, the reasoning behind the denials are that there is not sufficient evidence to prove the vaccines caused these seizures and all though a couple different doctors had expertly testified with their opinions being that the vaccinations might have caused these side effects there was no direct relation to the seizures. **Moberly v. SEC. Health and Human Services No 2009-5057 United States Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit Jan 13, 2010.**⁷ Causation must be provided in each case, petitioners must prove actual causation in fact by a preponderance of the evidence, in which the above case could not provide. To prove causation, a petitioner in a Vaccine Act case must show that the vaccine was "not only a but for cause of the injury but also a substantial factor in bringing about the injury" **Shyface v. Sec'y of Health and Human Services. 165F.3d1344. 1352-53(fed Cir 1999)**⁸

6. **Shalala v. Whitecotton, 514 U.S. 268, 269, 115 S.Ct. 1477, 131 L.Ed.2d 374 (1995)**

7. **Moberly v. SEC. Health and Human Services No 2009-5057 United States Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit Jan 13, 2010.**

8. **Shyface v. Sec'y of Health and Human Services. 165F.3d1344. 1352-53(fed Cir 1999)**

