

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

GENERAL ORDER #9

This Order is issued to inform petitioners that an additional piece of information will be required to support **Applications for Fees and Costs** filed under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

In some Program cases, **petitioners themselves**, rather than their counsel, have expended part or all of the costs of the Program proceeding. However, in a few of such cases, petitioners' counsel have submitted cost applications which inadvertently omitted the cost items paid by petitioners themselves. Under current case law, correcting such an omission is difficult and time-consuming.

In an effort to ensure that petitioners and counsel alike are fairly and fully compensated and to avoid unnecessary litigation in correcting oversights and errors, the court **shall** require in **all** future applications for fees and costs a statement signed by **petitioners and counsel** which clearly delineates which costs were borne by counsel and which costs were borne by petitioners, including the amount of any retainer that has been paid.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Gary J. Golkiewicz
Chief Special Master