

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

LAURA AND MATTHEW SOKALSKI, on
behalf of and as parents and
natural guardians of SABRINA
SOKALSKI, a minor,

Petitioners,

vs.

Case No. 15-0654N

FLORIDA BIRTH-RELATED
NEUROLOGICAL INJURY COMPENSATION
ASSOCIATION,

Respondent,

and

GALENCARE, INC., d/b/a BRANDON
REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND NATASHA
CHAMPION, M.D.,

Intervenors.

_____ /

FINAL ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF AWARD

This cause came on for consideration pursuant to sections 766.304 and 766.305(7), Florida Statutes, upon the Stipulation and Joint Petition for Compensation of Claim Arising Out of Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Pursuant to Chapter 766, Florida Statutes (Stipulation), filed October 27, 2015, and an Addendum to the Stipulation, filed November 3, 2015, with the Division of Administrative Hearings, for the entry of an order approving the resolution of a claim for compensation benefits

filed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 766 and a resolution of the exclusive remedy otherwise available as outlined in chapter 766.

By the terms of their Stipulation, Petitioners, Laura and Matthew Sokalski, as parents and natural guardians of Sabrina Sokalski, a minor, and Respondent, the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA), have agreed that Laura and Matthew Sokalski are the parents and legal guardians of Sabrina Sokalski (Sabrina), a minor; that Sabrina was born a live infant on or about December 12, 2013, at Brandon Regional Hospital, a "hospital" as defined by section 766.302(6) located in Brandon, Florida; and that Sabrina's birth weight exceeded 2,500 grams. The Parties have further agreed that Natasha Champion, M.D., provided obstetrical services at Sabrina's delivery and was a "participating physician" in the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Plan, as defined by section 766.302(7). The Parties have agreed that Sabrina suffered a "birth-related neurological injury," as that term is defined by section 766.302(2), which was the sole and proximate cause of Sabrina's current medical condition.

It is ORDERED:

1. The Stipulation and Joint Petition filed on October 27, 2015 (and Addendum filed November 3, 2015), is hereby approved,

and the Parties are directed to comply with the provisions of the Stipulation and Joint Petition.

2. Petitioners, Laura and Matthew Sokalski, as the parents and legal guardians of Sabrina Sokalski, a minor, is awarded one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), pursuant to section 766.31(1)(b)1., to be paid as lump sum to the parents; payment of benefits up to and including the effective date of the Stipulation and Joint Petition pursuant to section 766.31(1)(a), subject to the provisions of paragraph 19 of the Stipulation and Joint Petition; and payments of future expenses, as incurred.

3. NICA will reimburse Joshua M. Drechsel, Esquire, attorney for Petitioners, an agreed-upon attorney's fee of \$10,000.00 and expenses of \$851.99, totaling \$10,851.99 in full for services rendered in the filing of this claim.

4. Upon the payment of the award of \$100,000.00, past benefit/expenses, and \$10,851.99 for attorney's fees and costs, the claims of Petitioners shall be deemed fully satisfied and extinguished, except for Respondent's continuing obligation under section 766.31(2) to pay future expenses, as incurred.

5. The Division of Administrative Hearings retains jurisdiction over this matter to resolve any disputes, should they arise, regarding the Parties' compliance with the terms of this Order.

DONE AND ORDERED this 4th day of November, 2015, in
Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



BARBARA J. STAROS
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Administrative Hearings
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Filed with the Clerk of the
Division of Administrative Hearings
this 4th day of November, 2015.

COPIES FURNISHED:
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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Review of a final order of an administrative law judge shall be by appeal to the District Court of Appeal pursuant to section 766.311(1), Florida Statutes. Review proceedings are governed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing the original notice of administrative appeal with the agency clerk of the Division of Administrative Hearings within 30 days of rendition of the order to be reviewed, and a copy, accompanied by filing fees prescribed by law, with the clerk of the appropriate District Court of Appeal. See § 766.311(1), Fla. Stat., and Fla. Birth-Related Neurological Injury Comp. Ass'n v. Carreras, 598 So. 2d 299 (Fla. 1st DCA 1992).