

Department of Justice

§ 104.33

claim was deemed filed, notify the claimant in writing of the eligibility determination, the amount of the presumed award, and the right to request a hearing before the Special Master or his designee under § 104.33 of this part. After an eligible claimant has been notified of the presumed award, the claimant may either accept the presumed compensation determination as the final determination and request payment, or may instead request a review before the Special Master or his designee pursuant to § 104.33. Claimants found to be ineligible may appeal pursuant to § 104.32.

(2) *Procedure for Track B.* The Claims Evaluator shall determine eligibility within 45 days of the date the claim was deemed filed, but shall not determine the claimant's presumed award; the Claims Evaluator shall notify the claimant in writing of the eligibility determination. Upon notification of eligibility, the claimant will proceed to a hearing pursuant to § 104.33. At such hearing, the Special Master or his designee shall utilize the presumptive award methodology as set forth in §§ 104.43 to 104.46 of this part, but may modify or vary the award if the claimant presents extraordinary circumstances not adequately addressed by the presumptive award methodology. There shall be no review or appeal from this determination.

(c) *Multiple claims from the same family.* The Special Master may treat claims brought by or on behalf of two or more members of the same immediate family as related or consolidated claims for purposes of determining the amount of any award.

§ 104.32 Eligibility review.

Any claimant deemed ineligible by the Claims Evaluator may appeal that decision to the Special Master or his designee by filing an eligibility appeal on forms created by the office of the Special Master.

§ 104.33 Hearing.

(a) *Supplemental submissions.* The claimant may prepare and file Supplemental Submissions within 21 calendar days from notification of either the presumed award (Track A) or eligibility (Track B). The Special Master

shall develop forms appropriate for Supplemental Submissions.

(b) *Conduct of hearings.* Hearings shall be before the Special Master or his designee. The objective of hearings shall be to permit the claimant to present information or evidence that the claimant believes is necessary to a full understanding of the claim. The claimant may request that the Special Master or his designee review any evidence relevant to the determination of the award, including without limitation: Factors and variables used in calculating economic loss; the identity of the victim's spouse and dependents; the financial needs of the claimant; facts affecting noneconomic loss; and any factual or legal arguments that the claimant contends should affect the award. Claimants shall be entitled to submit any statements or reports in writing. The Special Master or his designee may require authentication of documents, including medical records and reports, and may request and consider information regarding the financial resources and expenses of the victim's family or other material that the Special Master or his designee deems relevant.

(c) *Location and duration of hearings.* The hearings shall, to the extent practicable, be scheduled at times and in locations convenient to the claimant or his or her representative. The hearings shall be limited in length to a time period determined by the Special Master or his designee.

(d) *Witnesses, counsel, and experts.* Claimants shall be permitted, but not required, to present witnesses, including expert witnesses. The Special Master or his designee shall be permitted to question witnesses and examine the credentials of experts. The claimant shall be entitled to be represented by an attorney in good standing, but it is not necessary that the claimant be represented by an attorney.

(e) *Waivers.* The Special Master shall have authority and discretion to require any waivers necessary to obtain more individualized information on specific claimants.

(f) *Track A review of presumed award.* For proceedings under Track A, the Special Master or his designee shall make a determination whether:

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(1) There was an error in determining the presumptive award, either because the claimant's individual criteria were misapplied or for another reason; or

(2) The claimant presents extraordinary circumstances not adequately addressed by the presumptive award.

(g) *Determination.* The Special Master shall notify the claimant in writing of the final amount of the award, but need not create or provide any written record of the deliberations that resulted in that determination. There shall be no further review or appeal of the Special Master's determination. In notifying the claimant of the final amount of the award, the Special Master may designate the portions or percentages of the final award that are attributable to economic loss and non-economic loss, respectively, and may provide such other information as appropriate to provide adequate guidance for a court of competent jurisdiction and a personal representative.

[66 FR 66282, Dec. 21, 2001, as amended at 67 FR 11246, Mar. 13, 2002]

§ 104.34 Publication of awards.

In order to assist potential claimants in evaluating their options of either filing a claim with the Special Master or filing a lawsuit in tort, the Special Master reserves the right to publicize the amounts of some or all of the awards, but shall not publish the name of the claimants or victims that received each award. If published, these decisions would be intended by the Special Master as general guides for potential claimants and should not be viewed as precedent binding on the Special Master or his staff.

§ 104.35 Claims deemed abandoned by claimants.

The Special Master and his staff will endeavor to evaluate promptly any information submitted by claimants. Nonetheless, it is the responsibility of the claimant to keep the Special Master informed of his or her current address and to respond within the duration of this two-year program to requests for additional information. Claims outstanding at the end of this program because of a claimant's failure to complete his or her filings shall be deemed abandoned.

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Subpart D—Amount of Compensation for Eligible Claimants.

§ 104.41 Amount of compensation.

As provided in section 405(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act, in determining the amount of compensation to which a claimant is entitled, the Special Master shall take into consideration the harm to the claimant, the facts of the claim, and the individual circumstances of the claimant. The individual circumstances of the claimant may include the financial needs or financial resources of the claimant or the victim's dependents and beneficiaries. As provided in section 405(b)(6) of the Act, the Special Master shall reduce the amount of compensation by the amount of collateral source compensation the claimant (or, in the case of a Personal Representative, the victim's beneficiaries) has received or is entitled to receive as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. In no event shall an award (before collateral source compensation has been deducted) be less than \$500,000 in any case brought on behalf of a deceased victim with a spouse or dependent, or \$300,000 in any case brought on behalf of a deceased victim who was single with no dependents.

§ 104.42 Applicable state law.

The phrase "to the extent recovery for such loss is allowed under applicable state law," as used in the statute's definition of economic loss in section 402(5) of the Act, is interpreted to mean that the Special Master is not permitted to compensate claimants for those categories or types of economic losses that would not be compensable under the law of the state that would be applicable to any tort claims brought by or on behalf of the victim.

§ 104.43 Determination of presumed economic loss for decedents.

In reaching presumed determinations for economic loss for Personal Representatives bringing claims on behalf of decedents, the Special Master shall consider sums corresponding to the following: