

## National Vaccine Information Center

Your Health. Your Family. Your Choice. (<https://www.nvic.org/>)

# National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986

NVIC's co-founders worked with Congress on the **National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986** (<https://www.nvic.org/injury-compensation.aspx>), which acknowledged that vaccine injuries and deaths are real and that the vaccine injured and their families should be financially supported and that vaccine safety protections were needed in the mass vaccination system.

The law established the **National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program** (<http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/>) (NVICP), which was created to ensure vaccine supply, stabilize vaccine costs, and establish a no-fault compensation alternative for those injured by vaccines. Currently the U. S. Court of Federal Claims decides vaccine injury claims and three Federal government offices jointly work to administer in the NVICP:

- the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS);
- the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ); and
- the U.S. Court of Federal Claims (the Court).

The law preserved the right for vaccine injured persons to bring a lawsuit in the court system if federal compensation is denied or is not sufficient. By 2018, the U.S. Court of Claims had awarded nearly \$4 billion dollars to vaccine victims for their catastrophic vaccine injuries, although two out of three applicants have been denied compensation. The law also included legal requirements for vaccine providers to:

- give parents vaccine benefit and risk information before their children are vaccinated;
- keep written records of vaccine manufacturer names and lot numbers for each vaccination given;
- enter serious health problems following vaccination into a child's permanent medical record; and
- report serious health problems following vaccination to the federal **Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)** (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/esub/index>).

The law also established the following federal advisory committees, that also play a role in shaping vaccination policy in the U.S. The public may make public comment and/or attend these committee meetings and minutes and updates of tasks undertaken by these committees are posted on their websites. For more information on these committees, click the links below.

- **Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines** (<http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/commissionchildvaccines.html>) (ACCV)
- **National Vaccine Advisory Committee** (<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/index.html>) (NVAC) - **public meeting schedule** (<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/upcomingmeetings/index.html>);

Other committees shaping vaccination policy in the U.S. that were not established by the 1986 law include:

- **Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices** (<http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/commissionchildvaccines.html>)(ACIP) - **public meeting schedule** (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>);
- **Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee** (<http://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/CommitteesMeetingMaterials/BloodVaccinesandOtherBiologics/VaccinesandRelatedBiologicalProductsAdvisoryCon> VRBPAC) - **public meeting schedule** (<http://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/Calendar/default.htm>);

« [Return to Vaccine Requirements, Recommendations & Exemptions \(https://www.nvic.org/vaccine-laws.aspx\)](https://www.nvic.org/vaccine-laws.aspx)

---

Copyright 1982-2020 **National Vaccine Information Center**. All Rights Reserved.  
21525 Ridgeway Circle, Suite 100 Sterling, VA 20166