

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
OKLAHOMA

Randi L. Organ v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of the Social
Security Administration

Organ · No. CIV-24-420-GLJ · Decided January 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma reviewed Randi L. Organ’s challenge to the denial of supplemental security income benefits under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). The court held that the Administrative Law Judge applied the correct legal standards and that the residual functional capacity assessment and step-five vocational findings were supported by substantial evidence. The court affirmed the Commissioner of Social Security’s decision.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gerald L. Jackson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
DECIDED	January 15, 2026
DOCKET	CIV-24-420-GLJ
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Claimant sought judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) of the Commissioner's denial of supplemental security income benefits. The court affirmed the Commissioner's final decision denying benefits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), the court reviews whether the Commissioner's decision is supported by substantial evidence and whether correct legal standards were applied. The court may not reweigh the evidence or substitute its judgment for the Commissioner's, but must review the record as a whole, including evidence detracting from the decision.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Randi L. Organ v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration

TOPICS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ adequately explained and supported Organ's residual functional capacity assessment under Social Security Ruling 96-8p.
2. Whether the ALJ was required to include additional limitations based on Organ's nonsevere anxiety and depression.
3. Whether the ALJ met the step-five burden by relying on vocational-expert testimony concerning jobs compatible with the limitation against overhead reaching with the left upper extremity.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ's residual functional capacity assessment complied with Social Security Ruling 96-8p and was supported by substantial evidence because the ALJ discussed the medical evidence, objective findings, testimony, and reasons for the limitations imposed.
2. The ALJ was not required to include additional RFC limitations for Organ's anxiety and depression because Organ identified no record evidence, apart from her own assertions, establishing functional limitations attributable to those impairments.
3. The ALJ properly relied on the vocational expert's testimony that Organ could perform the identified jobs despite the restriction against overhead reaching with the left upper extremity.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The ALJ provided an extensive discussion of the medical record and the testimony in support of his RFC finding. We do not require an ALJ to point to ‘specific, affirmative, medical evidence on the record as to each requirement of an exertional work level before [he] can determine RFC within that category.’” (at Review section)

“it is not the ALJ's duty to be the claimant’s advocate” (at Review section)

“The final responsibility for determining RFC rests with the Commissioner, and because the assessment is made based upon all the evidence in the record, not only the relevant medical evidence, it is well within the province of the ALJ.” (at Review section)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Organ, twenty-four years old at the time of the administrative hearing, had a GED and no past relevant work. She alleged disability based on anxiety, depression, mitral valve prolapse, hypermobility or Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and related physical symptoms. The ALJ found mitral valve prolapse and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome severe, depression and anxiety nonsevere, and determined that Organ retained the residual functional capacity

for restricted light work, including no overhead reaching with the left upper extremity. The ALJ found that she could perform jobs such as merchandise marker, photocopy machine operator, and screwdriver operator.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Organ filed an application for Title XVI supplemental security income benefits on June 14, 2021. After the application was denied, an administrative law judge held a hearing and issued a written decision on May 21, 2024, finding Organ not disabled at step five of the sequential evaluation. The Appeals Council denied review, making the ALJ's decision the Commissioner's final decision. Organ then sought review in the district court, which affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Hawkins v. Chater, 113 F.3d 1162, 1164 (10th Cir. 1997)
- Richardson v. Perales, 402 U.S. 389, 401 (1971)
- Consolidated Edison Co. v. NLRB, 305 U.S. 197, 229 (1938)
- Clifton v. Chater, 79 F.3d 1007, 1009 (10th Cir. 1996)
- Casias v. Secretary of Health & Human Services, 933 F.2d 799, 800-01 (10th Cir. 1991)
- Williams v. Bowen, 844 F.2d 748, 750-51 (10th Cir. 1988)
- Hill v. Astrue, 289 Fed. Appx. 289, 293 (10th Cir. 2008)
- Howard v. Barnhart, 379 F.3d 945, 949 (10th Cir. 2004)
- Garcia v. Astrue, 2012 WL 4754919, at *8 (W.D. Okla. Aug. 29, 2012)
- Henrie v. United States Department of Health & Human Services, 13 F.3d 359, 360-61 (10th Cir. 1993)
- Musgrave v. Sullivan, 966 F.2d 1371, 1374 (10th Cir. 1992)
- Segovia v. Astrue, 226 Fed. Appx. 801, 804 (10th Cir. 2007)
- Qualls v. Apfel, 206 F.3d 1368, 1372-73 (10th Cir. 2000)
- Adams v. Colvin, 553 Fed. Appx. 811, 815 (10th Cir. 2014)
- Corber v. Massanari, 20 Fed. Appx. 816, 822 (10th Cir. 2001)

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