UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION

# Benjamin Lucas v. Commissioner of Social Security

Lucas · No. 4:25-cv-00968 · Decided February 13, 2026

## SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio accepts the magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation because no clear error appears on the record. The court vacates the Commissioner of Social Security’s decision and remands the case for further consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell’s opinion.

## CASE DETAILS

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| COURT | United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Patricia A. Gaughan |
| JURISDICTION | United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division |
| DECIDED | February 13, 2026 |
| DOCKET | 4:25-cv-00968 |
| DISPOSITION | reversed_and_remanded |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's unobjected-to Report and Recommendation in a Social Security case. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW | When no timely objection is filed to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, the district court need only determine whether there is clear error on the face of the record. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | Unknown; memorandum opinion and order with no reported citation |
| PARTIES | Benjamin Lucas v. Commissioner of Social Security |

## TOPICS

judicial review of agency action · administrative law · civil procedure

## PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security · administrative law · civil procedure

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What standard of review applies when no party objects to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation?
2. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation to vacate the Commissioner's final decision and remand for further consideration of Dr. Worrell's opinion should be accepted.

## HOLDINGS

1. When no timely objection is filed to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, the district court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record before accepting the recommendation.
2. The Report and Recommendation was accepted, the Commissioner's final decision was vacated, and the case was remanded for further consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell's opinion.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

> *"When no timely objection is filed, the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation."* (Standard of Review)

> *"This Court, having reviewed the R&R and finding no clear error, hereby ACCEPTS the Magistrate Judge's R&R. In accordance with that recommendation, the decision of the Commissioner is VACATED and REMANDED for further consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell, Ph.D.'s opinion."* (Decision)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Commissioner of Social Security issued a final decision in a claim involving consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell, Ph.D.'s opinion. The magistrate judge concluded that the Commissioner's decision should be vacated and remanded for further consideration of that opinion. The district court adopted that recommendation after finding no clear error.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Magistrate Judge Reuben J. Sheperd recommended that the district court vacate the Commissioner's final decision and remand for further consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell's opinion. Neither party filed objections. The district court reviewed the record for clear error, accepted the Report and Recommendation, vacated the Commissioner's decision, and remanded the case.

## DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

## REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Commissioner must give further consideration to Dr. Karin Worrell, Ph.D.'s opinion.

## CASES CITED

- Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985)

**OPINION**

Lucas
PER CURIAM.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION
Benjamin Lucas, ) CASE NO. 4:25 CV 968 ) Plaintiff, ) JUDGE PATRICIA A. GAUGHAN ) vs. ) ) Commissioner of Social Security, ) ) Memorandum of Opinion and Order ) Defendant. )
INTRODUCTION
This matter is before the Court on the Report and Recommendation ("R&R") of Magistrate Judge Reuben J. Sheperd (Doc. 12), recommending that the Court vacate the Commissioner's final decision and remand this case for further consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell, Ph.D.'s opinion. No objections have been filed. For the reasons that follow, the R&R is ACCEPTED, and the decision of the Commissioner is VACATED and REMANDED.
STANDARD OF REVIEW
When objections are made to a Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, the district court reviews the case de novo. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(3) provides that: "The district judge must determine de novo any part of the magistrate judge's disposition that has been properly objected to." As stated in the Advisory Committee Notes, "When no timely objection is filed, the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation." In Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985), the Court held that "[i]t does not appear that Congress intended to require district court review of a magistrate judge's factual or legal conclusions, under a de novo or any other standard, when neither party objects to those findings."
DECISION
This Court, having reviewed the R&R and finding no clear error, hereby ACCEPTS the Magistrate Judge's R&R. In accordance with that recommendation, the decision of the Commissioner is VACATED and REMANDED for further consideration of Dr. Karin Worrell, Ph.D.'s opinion. IT IS SO ORDERED.
PATRICIA A. GAUGHAN
United States District Judge Date: 2/13/26 2

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