

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
KENTUCKY

Nigel S. v. Bisignano

No. 3:25-CV-00375-RSE (W.D. Ky. Dec. 18, 2025) · No. 3:25-CV-00375-RSE · Decided December 18, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky reviewed the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Nigel S.’s applications for supplemental security income and disability insurance benefits. The court held that the Administrative Law Judge properly evaluated the claimant’s subjective symptoms under applicable regulations and Social Security Ruling 16-3p, and that the decision was supported by substantial evidence. The court affirmed the Commissioner’s final decision.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Regina S. Edwards
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
DECIDED	December 18, 2025
DOCKET	3:25-CV-00375-RSE
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Judicial review of final decision of Commissioner of Social Security denying disability benefits
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Substantial evidence; whether the ALJ employed proper legal standards
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Nigel S. v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- disability definition
- ada / disability
- administrative law

PRACTICE AREAS

- social security
- administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ properly considered Claimant's subjective complaints of pain and limitations in accordance with SSR 16-3p

HOLDINGS

1. An ALJ's failure to discuss a claimant's specific hearing testimony is not per se error where the ALJ considered the evidence as a whole and provided specific reasons for discounting subjective symptoms that align with SSR 16-3p factors.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"There is a difference between what the ALJ must consider versus what he must discuss."

"An ALJ's failure to discuss a claimant's hearing testimony, accordingly, is not per se error, as Claimant alleges."

"To the contrary, it is axiomatic that the ALJ considered all of the [p]laintiff's hearing testimony, as he is the ALJ that presided over the administrative hearing."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Claimant Nigel S. alleged disability since September 2015 due to back/neck problems, restless leg syndrome, anxiety, stomach ulcers, and blood clots. He testified to daily numbness/tingling, limited ability to stand/walk (25 minutes) or sit (40 minutes), spending most days in bed, and limited daily activities. The ALJ found severe impairments of degenerative disc disease, kidney cancer, stomach ulcers, anxiety, and depression, but determined Claimant retained the RFC for light work with additional limitations and was not disabled.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Claimant applied for SSI and DIB benefits, which were denied at initial and reconsideration levels. After an administrative hearing, the ALJ issued an unfavorable decision. The Appeals Council declined review, making the ALJ's decision the final decision of the Commissioner. Claimant sought judicial review in federal district court.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Vance v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 260 F. App'x 801 (6th Cir. 2008)
- Abbott v. Sullivan, 905 F.2d 918 (6th Cir. 1990)
- Wilson v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 378 F.3d 541 (6th Cir. 2004)
- Cutlip v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs., 25 F.3d 284 (6th Cir. 1994)
- Foster v. Halter, 279 F.3d 348 (6th Cir. 2001)
- Landsaw v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs., 803 F.2d 211 (6th Cir. 1986)

- Cotton v. Sullivan, 2 F.3d 692 (6th Cir. 1993)
- Biestek v. Berryhill, 139 S. Ct. 1148 (2019)
- Cross v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 373 F. Supp. 2d 724 (N.D. Ohio 2005)
- Lloyd v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., No. 5:23-CV-01166-SL, 2024 WL 2278251 (N.D. Ohio Apr. 30, 2024)
- Ulman v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 693 F.3d 709 (6th Cir. 2012)
- Felisky v. Bowen, 35 F.3d 1027 (6th Cir. 1994)
- Kornecky v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 167 F. App'x 496 (6th Cir. 2006)
- Henman v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., No. 18-cv-10940, 2019 WL 4866146 (E.D. Mich. July 8, 2019)
- Escobar v. Kijakazi, No. 3:21-cv-372, 2023 WL 2769090 (E.D. Tenn. Mar. 31, 2023)

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