

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
KENTUCKY, LOUISVILLE DIVISION

Jack A. F. v. Commissioner of Social Security

Civil Action No. 3:25-CV-128-CHB (W.D. Ky. Mar. 31, 2026) · No. 3:25-CV-128-CHB · Decided March 31,
2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky reviewed the denial of Jack A. F.'s applications for Child's Supplemental Security Income and Disability Insurance Benefits. The court adopted the magistrate judge's recommendation, overruled the plaintiff's objections, and affirmed the Commissioner's final decision. The court held that the administrative law judge adequately evaluated the evidence concerning the claimant's childhood and adult disability determinations and that the decision was supported by substantial evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Louisville Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Louisville Division
DECIDED	March 31, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-CV-128-CHB
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review under the Social Security Act of the Commissioner's final decision denying Child's Supplemental Security Income and Disability Insurance Benefits. The court reviewed de novo the portions of the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation challenged by plaintiff's objections.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviews challenged portions of the magistrate judge's recommendation de novo under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). Judicial review of the Commissioner's decision is limited to whether it was supported by substantial evidence and made under the proper legal standards. The court may not conduct de novo review, resolve evidentiary conflicts, or make credibility determinations.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

PARTIES

Jack A. F. v. Commissioner of Social Security

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ's childhood disability determination was supported by substantial evidence despite not discussing Dr. Scott's opinion in the specific analysis of the interacting-and-relating-with-others domain.
2. Whether the ALJ impermissibly cherry-picked evidence from a teacher's questionnaire and a neuropsychological evaluation in finding that plaintiff was not markedly limited in interacting and relating with others before age eighteen.
3. Whether the ALJ adequately explained the supportability and consistency of Dr. Scott's medical opinion when finding it only partially persuasive in determining plaintiff's adult residual functional capacity.
4. Whether the Commissioner's final decision was supported by substantial evidence and complied with applicable law and regulations.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ did not err by failing to discuss Dr. Scott's opinion in the specific section addressing the childhood interacting-and-relating-with-others domain because the decision considered the opinion elsewhere and evaluated it under the adult standard applicable to the post-eighteen determination.
2. The ALJ's finding that plaintiff had less-than-marked limitation in interacting and relating with others before age eighteen was supported by substantial evidence.
3. The ALJ did not impermissibly cherry-pick evidence from the teacher's questionnaire or Dr. Stilp's neuropsychological evaluation.
4. The ALJ adequately articulated the supportability and consistency of Dr. Scott's opinion and reasonably found it only partially persuasive.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Judicial review of the Commissioner’s decision is restricted to determining whether it is supported by substantial evidence and was made pursuant to proper legal standards.” (at 4)

“The ALJ comprehensively explained why he did not find a marked limitation in the area of interacting and relating with others, and he built a clear and logical bridge for how he considered Dr. Scott’s opinion in that assessment.” (at 26)

“The Court finds that substantial evidence supports ALJ Pickett’s finding that Dr. Scott’s assessment is “only partially persuasive.”” (at 36)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jack A. F. alleged disability based principally on a CACNA1A gene abnormality, epilepsy, and anxiety. Because he was under eighteen when he filed his applications but turned eighteen before the ALJ's decision, the ALJ evaluated both childhood and adult disability standards. The ALJ found less-than-marked limitations in the relevant childhood domains and determined that, as an adult, plaintiff retained the residual functional capacity for a full range of work at all exertional levels subject to specified non-exertional limitations. The ALJ therefore found plaintiff not disabled, and the district court upheld that determination.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed applications for Child's Disability Insurance Benefits and Child's Supplemental Security Income Benefits on August 9, 2022. The Social Security Administration denied the applications initially and on reconsideration. After a January 8, 2024 hearing, the ALJ issued an unfavorable decision on March 4, 2024, and the Appeals Council denied review on January 22, 2025. Plaintiff filed this action on March 3, 2025. The magistrate judge recommended affirmance, plaintiff objected, and this court adopted the recommendation, overruled the objections, and affirmed the Commissioner's decision.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985)
- Colvin v. Barnhart, 475 F.3d 727, 729-30 (6th Cir. 2007)
- Cutlip v. Secretary of Health & Human Services, 25 F.3d 284, 286 (6th Cir. 1994)
- McClanahan v. Commissioner of Social Security, 474 F.3d 830, 833 (6th Cir. 2006)
- Foltz o/b/o R.B.K.F. v. Commissioner of Social Security, No. 23-3362, 2023 WL 7391701, at *3 (6th Cir. 2023)
- Walters v. Commissioner of Social Security, 127 F.3d 525, 529 (6th Cir. 1997)
- Jordan v. Commissioner of Social Security, 548 F.3d 417, 423 (6th Cir. 2008)
- Her v. Commissioner of Social Security, 203 F.3d 388, 392 (6th Cir. 1999)
- Kornecky v. Commissioner of Social Security, 167 F. App'x 496, 507-08 (6th Cir. 2006)
- Loral Defense Systems-Akron v. NLRB, 200 F.3d 436, 453 (6th Cir. 1999)
- Bayes v. Commissioner of Social Security, 757 F. App'x 436, 445 (6th Cir. 2018)
- Heston v. Commissioner of Social Security, 245 F.3d 528, 535 (6th Cir. 2001)
- Keeton v. Commissioner of Social Security, 583 F. App'x 515, 529 & n.5 (6th Cir. 2014)
- Logsdon v. Kijakazi, No. 1:20-CV-00177-GNS, 2022 WL 812416, at *5 (W.D. Ky. Mar. 16, 2022)
- Hill v. Commissioner of Social Security, 560 F. App'x 547, 551 (6th Cir. 2014)
- Lillian A. v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-CV-4-CRS-HBB, 2024 WL 987571, at *2 (W.D. Ky. Mar. 7, 2024)

- *Booker R. v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 3:22-CV-170, 2023 WL 4247312, at *4-5 (S.D. Ohio June 29, 2023)
- *Crum v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 660 F. App'x 449, 457 (6th Cir. 2016)
- *Forrest v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 591 F. App'x 359, 366 (6th Cir. 2014)
- *Ray A. v. Saul*, No. GLS 20-01103, 2021 WL 4225749, at *6 (D. Md. Sept. 15, 2021)
- *Coppage v. Berryhill*, No. 1:16-CV-00144-GNS, 2017 WL 8640926, at *4 (W.D. Ky. Aug. 10, 2017)
- *Smith v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 1:11-CV-2313, 2013 WL 943874, at *6 (N.D. Ohio Mar. 11, 2013)
- *White v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 572 F.3d 272, 284 (6th Cir. 2009)
- *DeLong v. Commissioner of Social Security Administration*, 748 F.3d 723, 726 (6th Cir. 2014)
- *Marika G. v. O'Malley*, No. 3:24-CV-00105-CRS-RSE, 2024 WL 5465207, at *4 (W.D. Ky. Dec. 20, 2024)
- *Terhune v. Kijakazi*, No. 3:21-37-KKC, 2022 WL 2910002, at *3 (E.D. Ky. July 22, 2022)
- *Wroblesky v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 1:23-CV-232-JEG, 2023 WL 7131807, at *9 (N.D. Ohio Oct. 30, 2023)
- *Toennies v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 1:19-CV-02261-JDG, 2020 WL 2841379, at *14 (N.D. Ohio June 1, 2020)
- *Newman v. Kijakazi*, No. 5:22-59-KKC, 2023 WL 2700700, at *2 (E.D. Ky. Mar. 29, 2023)
- *Childers v. Kijakazi*, Civil No. 5:21-285-JMH, 2022 WL 2706150, at *5 (E.D. Ky. July 12, 2022)
- *Fisk v. O'Malley*, No. 5:23-CV-00261-MAS, 2024 WL 4194307, at *4 (E.D. Ky. Sept. 13, 2024)
- *Benson v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 2:24-CV-00908-LK, 2025 WL 3033949, at *9 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 30, 2025)
- *Hayman v. Massanari*, No. Civ.A. 00-515-SLR, 2001 WL 1180465, at *12 (D. Del. Oct. 1, 2001)

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