

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

Alisha Z. v. Commissioner of Social Security

Alisha Z. · No. 2:25-cv-00396 · Decided December 15, 2025

SUMMARY

The court approved the parties’ joint stipulation awarding Plaintiff \$4,389.00 in attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The decision explains that the award belongs to Plaintiff, may be offset against qualifying pre-existing federal debt, and may be paid directly to counsel if no such debt exists.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Caroline H. Gentry
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
DECIDED	December 15, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-00396
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly stipulated to an award of attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act and moved for entry of that award.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court decision addressing an agreed EAJA fee award
PARTIES	Alisha Z. v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative law
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- administrative law
- attorney fees
- costs
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should accept the parties' joint stipulation and award Plaintiff \$4,389.00 in attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. Whether payment of the EAJA award should be subject to verification and offset for any pre-existing debt owed by Plaintiff to the United States.

HOLDINGS

1. The court accepted the parties' joint stipulation and ordered Defendant to pay Plaintiff \$4,389.00 in attorney fees under the EAJA, satisfying Plaintiff's claims for fees, costs, and expenses under 28 U.S.C. § 2412 in this case.
2. The EAJA award may be offset to satisfy any pre-existing debt Plaintiff owes the United States. If counsel verify within thirty days that no such debt exists, Defendant must pay the award directly to Plaintiff's counsel pursuant to any valid EAJA assignment signed by Plaintiff.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties agreed that Plaintiff should receive \$4,389.00 in attorney fees in full satisfaction of her claims for fees, costs, and expenses under 28 U.S.C. § 2412. The parties further agreed that the award belonged to Plaintiff, could be offset against any pre-existing debt owed to the United States, and would be paid directly to Plaintiff's attorney if no offset-eligible debt existed and a valid EAJA assignment had been signed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was before the court on the parties' Joint Stipulation for an Award of Attorney's Fees under the EAJA. The court accepted the stipulation, awarded \$4,389.00 in fees, ordered verification of any pre-existing federal debt subject to offset, and left the case terminated on the docket.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586 (2010)