

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA, CHARLOTTE DIVISION

Stefanie Pickard v. Commissioner of Social Security

Pickard · No. 3:25-CV-00121-MEO-WCM · Decided April 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The court reviews and adopts a magistrate judge’s Memorandum and Recommendation recommending affirmance of the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Plaintiff’s disability benefits. Because no party objected, the court applied clear-error review, adopted the recommendation, affirmed the Commissioner’s decision, and directed the clerk to close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte Division
DECIDED	April 8, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-CV-00121-MEO-WCM
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff appealed the denial of Social Security disability benefits. The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation, to which no party objected, and affirmed the Commissioner's decision.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	When no timely objection is filed to a magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation, the district court need only determine whether there is clear error on the face of the record before adopting the recommendation; de novo review is required for portions to which a timely objection is made.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; persuasive rather than precedential authority.
PARTIES	Stefanie Pickard v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

social security

administrative law

federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What standard of review applies when no party timely objects to a magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation?
2. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation to affirm the Commissioner's denial of Social Security disability benefits contained clear error.

HOLDINGS

1. When no timely objection is filed, the district court need not conduct de novo review and instead must satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record before accepting the recommendation.
2. The magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation was adopted, and the Commissioner's decision denying Social Security disability benefits was affirmed because the district court found no clear error in the M&R.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation’”

“After reviewing the record, the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge or recommit the matter with instructions.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion adopts the factual background stated in the magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation because no party objected to it. The underlying dispute concerns the Commissioner's denial of Plaintiff's claim for Social Security disability benefits. The district court's order does not independently recite the material medical or vocational facts.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Commissioner denied Plaintiff's application for Social Security disability benefits. Plaintiff appealed to the district court, and the matter was referred to a magistrate judge, whose memorandum and recommendation advised affirmance. Because no party filed objections, the district court reviewed the record for clear error, adopted the M&R, affirmed the Commissioner's decision, and directed the Clerk to close the matter.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)
- *Camby v. Davis*, 718 F.2d 198, 199-200 (4th Cir. 1983)

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