

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
ARKANSAS

Matthew Stephen Snow v. Social Security Administration,
Commissioner

Snow · No. 4:25-CV-00423-JM-ERE · Decided January 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas affirmed the Social Security Administration Commissioner’s denial of Matthew Snow’s application for disability benefits. The court held that the ALJ properly evaluated the opinions of treating therapist APRN Danielle Jenkins and that the decision was supported by substantial evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas
DECIDED	January 20, 2026
DOCKET	4:25-CV-00423-JM-ERE
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Judicial review of the Commissioner of Social Security's final decision denying an application for disability benefits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the Commissioner's decision for legal error and determined whether it was supported by substantial evidence on the record as a whole. Substantial evidence means enough evidence that a reasonable mind would find adequate to support the ALJ's decision.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Matthew Stephen Snow v. Social Security Administration, Commissioner

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security disability
- administrative law
- federal judicial review

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated and explained the reasons for finding Danielle Jenkins's opinions regarding Snow's mental limitations unpersuasive.
2. Whether substantial evidence supported the Commissioner's final decision denying disability benefits.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ did not err in finding Jenkins's opinions unpersuasive because the ALJ identified adequate support in the record, including inconsistencies with Jenkins's treatment notes and examinations, Snow's reported improvement, and Snow's activities of daily living.
2. The Commissioner's decision denying benefits was supported by substantial evidence and applied proper legal standards.

KEY QUOTATIONS

““Substantial evidence” in this context means “enough that a reasonable mind would find [the evidence] adequate to support the ALJ’s decision.”” (2/7)

“The Court will not reverse the Commissioner’s decision “merely because substantial evidence exists for the opposite decision.”” (2/7)

“The ALJ applied proper legal standards in evaluating Mr. Snow’s claims, and substantial evidence supports the decision to deny benefits.” (2/7)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Snow alleged disability based on depression, attention deficit disorder, bipolar disorder, autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, and a nervous breakdown. The ALJ found severe impairments including generalized anxiety disorder, PTSD, depression, autism, and agoraphobia, but determined that Snow retained the residual functional capacity for work at all exertional levels subject to mental and social limitations. A vocational expert identified jobs available in significant numbers that Snow could perform. The ALJ discounted treating provider Danielle Jenkins's marked-limitations opinions as unsupported, inconsistent with treatment notes and examinations, and inconsistent with Snow's activities of daily living.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Snow applied for disability benefits in 2022. His claim was denied initially and on reconsideration; following a hearing on April 10, 2024, an administrative law judge found that he was not disabled. The Appeals Council denied review, making the ALJ's decision the Commissioner's final decision. Snow appealed to the district court, challenging the ALJ's evaluation of treating provider Danielle Jenkins's opinions.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Brown v. Colvin, 825 F.3d 936, 939
- Halverson v. Astrue, 600 F.3d 922, 929
- Slusser v. Astrue, 557 F.3d 923, 925
- Milam v. Colvin, 794 F.3d 978, 983
- Long v. Chater, 108 F.3d 185, 187
- Prosch v. Apfel, 201 F.3d 1010, 1013-14
- House v. Astrue, 500 F.3d 741, 744
- Duvall v. Bisignano, No. 4:25-cv-00120 KGB-PSH, 2025 WL 1812626, n.6 (E.D. Ark. July 1, 2025)
- Locher v. Sullivan, 968 F.2d 725, 728

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