

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF  
FLORIDA, FORT MYERS DIVISION

Christina Kang v. Commissioner of Social Security

Kang · No. 6:25-cv-528-DNF · Decided February 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida reviewed the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Christina Kang’s applications for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income. The court held that substantial evidence supported the administrative law judge’s decision, including the evaluation of fibromyalgia and Kang’s subjective statements about her limitations, and affirmed the Commissioner’s decision.

CASE DETAILS

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT              | United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| JURISDICTION       | United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DECIDED            | February 10, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DOCKET             | 6:25-cv-528-DNF                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DISPOSITION        | affirmed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | Judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) of the Commissioner's final decision denying disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income benefits.                                                                                                                                                  |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW | The Commissioner's factual findings are conclusive if supported by substantial evidence. The court may not reweigh the evidence or substitute its judgment for that of the ALJ. Legal conclusions are reviewed de novo, and failure to apply the correct law or provide sufficient reasoning requires reversal. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | Unknown; district court opinion with no published reporter citation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PARTIES            | Christina Kang v. Commissioner of Social Security                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ committed reversible error by failing to expressly discuss Kang's documented fibromyalgia at each step of the sequential evaluation.
2. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated Kang's subjective statements concerning the limiting effects of her pain and other symptoms.

## HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ's failure to mention fibromyalgia did not require remand because Kang did not identify record evidence showing that fibromyalgia caused work-related limitations or satisfied the criteria for a medically determinable impairment, and the ALJ otherwise considered the relevant limitations throughout the sequential evaluation.
2. The ALJ properly evaluated Kang's subjective statements and clearly articulated explicit and adequate reasons for finding that the alleged intensity, persistence, and limiting effects of her symptoms were not entirely consistent with the medical and other evidence.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“As for the claimant’s statements about the intensity, persistence, and limiting effects of her symptoms, they are inconsistent because the medical evidence fails to substantiate the asserted limitations or document a level of functional restriction incompatible with sustained work activity.” (Tr. 28)*

*“A court may not decide the facts anew, reweigh the evidence, or substitute its judgment for that of the Commissioner.” (Tr. 29)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Kang alleged disability based on spinal problems, osteoarthritis, migraines, carpal tunnel syndrome, peripheral neuropathy, irritable bowel syndrome, and related pain and functional limitations. The ALJ found several severe impairments, assessed an RFC for light work with additional postural, manipulative, environmental, and climbing restrictions, and found that Kang could perform past relevant work or alternatively other work existing in significant numbers in the national economy. The record reflected generally normal gait and strength, no need for assistive devices, some benefit from injections, controlled migraines, and the ability to perform a range of daily activities.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Kang applied for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income, alleging disability beginning May 1, 2020. The applications were denied initially and on reconsideration; following a July 11, 2024 hearing, the ALJ found her not disabled on September 4, 2024. The Appeals Council denied review on January 30, 2025, and Kang filed this action on March 25, 2025. The parties consented to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge.

## DISPOSITION

affirmed

## CASES CITED

- Crawford v. Commissioner of Social Security, 363 F.3d 1155, 1158 (11th Cir. 2004)
- Winschel v. Commissioner of Social Security, 631 F.3d 1176, 1178 (11th Cir. 2011)
- Foote v. Chater, 67 F.3d 1553, 1560 (11th Cir. 1995)
- Ted Martin v. Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Martin v. Sullivan, 894 F.2d 1520, 1529 (11th Cir. 1990)
- Keeton v. Department of Health & Human Services, 21 F.3d 1064, 1066 (11th Cir. 1994)
- Maldonado v. Commissioner of Social Security, No. 20-14331, 2021 WL 2838362, at \*2 (11th Cir. July 8, 2021)
- Phillips v. Barnhart, 357 F.3d 1232, 1239-40 (11th Cir. 2004)
- Atha v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration, 616 F. App'x 931, 933 (11th Cir. 2015)
- McCruter v. Bowen, 791 F.2d 1544, 1547 (11th Cir. 1986)
- O'Bier v. Commissioner of Social Security Administration, 338 F. App'x 796, 798 (11th Cir. 2009)
- Ball v. Commissioner of Social Security Administration, 714 F. App'x 991, 993 (11th Cir. 2018)
- Heatly v. Commissioner of Social Security, 382 F. App'x 823, 825 (11th Cir. 2010)
- Gray v. Commissioner of Social Security, 550 F. App'x 850, 852 (11th Cir. 2013)
- Jamison v. Bowen, 814 F.2d 585, 588 (11th Cir. 1987)
- Griffin v. Commissioner of Social Security, 560 F. App'x 837, 841-842 (11th Cir. 2014)
- Wind v. Barnhart, 133 F. App'x 684, 690 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Ross v. Commissioner of Social Security, 794 F. App'x 858, 867 (11th Cir. 2019)
- Dyer v. Barnhart, 395 F.3d 1206, 1210-1211 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Mitchell v. Commissioner of Social Security, 771 F.3d 780, 782 (11th Cir. 2014)
- Buckwalter v. Acting Commissioner of Social Security, 5 F.4th 1315, 1320 (11th Cir. 2021)