

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

David P. Mick v. Commissioner of Social Security

Mick · No. 5:25-CV-01614-CEH · Decided January 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio reviewed the denial of David P. Mick’s applications for Supplemental Security Income and Disability Insurance Benefits. The court held that substantial evidence supported the ALJ’s finding that Mick’s cerebrovascular accident with left-sided weakness was not a severe impairment at step two of the sequential evaluation. The court affirmed the Commissioner’s decision and dismissed the complaint.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Carmen E. Henderson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
DECIDED	January 26, 2026
DOCKET	5:25-CV-01614-CEH
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) of the Commissioner's final decision denying his applications for Supplemental Security Income and Disability Insurance Benefits. The parties consented to disposition by a United States magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 73.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviews whether the Commissioner's decision is supported by substantial evidence and was made pursuant to proper legal standards. A decision supported by substantial evidence must be affirmed even if the reviewing court would have reached a different conclusion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court memorandum opinion and order with no reporter or neutral citation identified
PARTIES	David P. Mick v. Commissioner of Social Security

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ erred at step two of the Social Security sequential evaluation by finding that Mick did not have a severe impairment or combination of impairments.
2. Whether substantial evidence supported the Commissioner's finding that Mick's cerebrovascular accident with left-sided weakness did not significantly limit his ability to perform basic work activities for at least twelve consecutive months.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ properly concluded that Mick did not have a severe impairment or combination of impairments because the evidence did not show a significant limitation in his ability to perform basic work activities for twelve consecutive months.
2. The Commissioner's nondisability determination was supported by substantial evidence and was affirmed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court’s review “is limited to determining whether the Commissioner’s decision is supported by substantial evidence and was made pursuant to proper legal standards.”” (V.A)

““[S]ubstantial evidence is defined as ‘more than a scintilla of evidence but less than a preponderance; it is such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.’”” (V.A)

“At step two of the sequential evaluation, an ALJ considers whether a claimant has “a severe medically determinable physical or mental impairment that [has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months or result in death], or a combination of impairments that is severe and meets the duration requirement.”” (V.C)

“Based on the foregoing, the Court AFFIRMS the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration’s final decision denying Plaintiff benefits. Plaintiff’s Complaint is DISMISSED.” (VI)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Mick alleged disability based on shoulder and balance problems, a stroke, left-sided weakness, and a learning disorder. He reported difficulty using his left hand, but also stated that he lived alone, could walk one mile with a short rest, played guitar, read the Bible, and watched television. A consultative examination found limited sitting due to low back pain and occasional limitations in grasping, handling, fingering, and feeling attributable to left-hand weakness, while September 2022 and March 2023 primary-care examinations documented normal strength, reflexes, range of motion, and no observed stroke residuals.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Mick applied for DIB and SSI on January 16, 2023, alleging disability beginning September 21, 2022. The applications were denied initially and on reconsideration; after a May 14, 2024 hearing, an ALJ found Mick not disabled on August 27, 2024. The Appeals Council denied further review on June 10, 2025, making the ALJ's decision final. Mick filed this action on August 4, 2025, asserting that the ALJ erred at step two by failing to find a severe impairment related to his cerebrovascular accident and left-sided weakness.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Winn v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 615 F. App'x 315, 320 (6th Cir. 2015)
- Rogers v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 486 F.3d 234, 241 (6th Cir. 2007)
- Cutlip v. Sec'y of HHS, 25 F.3d 284, 286 (6th Cir. 1994)
- Olive v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., No. 3:06 CV 1597, 2007 WL 5403416, at *2 (N.D. Ohio Sept. 19, 2007)
- Abbott v. Sullivan, 905 F.2d 918, 922 (6th Cir. 1990)
- Mullen v. Bowen, 800 F.2d 535, 538 (6th Cir. 1986) (en banc)
- Kinsella v. Schweiker, 708 F.2d 1058, 1059–60 (6th Cir. 1983)
- Combs v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 459 F.3d 640, 642–43 (6th Cir. 2006)
- Walters v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 127 F.3d 525, 529 (6th Cir. 1997)
- Seeley v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 600 F. App'x 387, 390-91 (6th Cir. 2015)
- Higgs v. Bown, 880 F.3d 860, 863 (6th Cir. 1988)
- Wright v. Massanari, 321 F.3d 611, 614 (6th Cir. 2003)

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