

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, TYLER DIVISION

John Lamaster v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration

Lamaster · No. 6:25-cv-308-JDK-KNM · Decided March 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas adopts a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation in a Social Security disability benefits appeal. The court grants the Commissioner’s motion to reverse and remand, reverses the final administrative decision, and remands the matter for further administrative proceedings under the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jeremy D. Kernodle
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division
DECIDED	March 16, 2026
DOCKET	6:25-cv-308-JDK-KNM
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Commissioner's final administrative decision denying disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income. The Commissioner moved to reverse and remand, and the district court considered the magistrate judge's report and recommendation after no party filed objections.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	When no objections are filed to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, the district court reviews factual findings for clear error or abuse of discretion and reviews legal conclusions to determine whether they are contrary to law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	John Lamaster v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

civil procedure

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

civil procedure

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What standard of review applies when no party objects to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation?
2. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation to reverse the Commissioner's final administrative decision and remand for further administrative proceedings should be adopted.

HOLDINGS

1. When no objections are filed within the prescribed period, the district court reviews the magistrate judge's factual findings for clear error or abuse of discretion and reviews legal conclusions to determine whether they are contrary to law.
2. The court adopted the magistrate judge's report and recommendation, granted the Commissioner's motion to reverse and remand, reversed the Commissioner's final administrative decision, and remanded for further administrative proceedings under the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Commissioner’s final administrative decision is REVERSED and the matter is REMANDED to the Commissioner for further administrative proceedings pursuant to the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

John Lamaster applied for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income. The Commissioner issued a final administrative decision denying his application, which Lamaster challenged in the district court.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case was referred to United States Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell, who recommended granting the Commissioner's motion to reverse and remand. Because no written objections were filed within the prescribed period, the district court reviewed the magistrate judge's factual findings for clear error or abuse of discretion and the legal conclusions for consistency with law, adopted the report and recommendation, reversed the Commissioner's decision, and remanded for further administrative proceedings.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter is remanded to the Commissioner for further administrative proceedings pursuant to the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

CASES CITED

- *Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Assn*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1430 (5th Cir. 1996)
- *United States v. Wilson*, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (5th Cir. 1989)

OPINION

Lamaster

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

TYLER DIVISION

JOHN LAMASTER, §

§ Plaintiff, § § v. § Case No. 6:25-cv-308-JDK-KNM §

COMMISSIONER, SOCIAL §

SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, §

§ Defendant. §

ORDER ADOPTING THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Plaintiff John Lamaster filed this appeal from a final administrative decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration denying his application for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income. The case was referred to United States Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for disposition. Before the Court is the Commissioner's motion to reverse and remand. Docket No. 14. On February 27, 2026, Judge Mitchell issued a Report recommending that the Court grant the motion. Docket No. 15. The Report recommends that the Court reverse the Commissioner's final administrative decision and remand this matter to the Commissioner for further administrative proceedings. No written objections have been filed. This Court reviews the findings and conclusions of the Magistrate Judge de novo only if a party objects within fourteen days of service of the Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). In conducting a de novo review, the Court examines the entire record and makes an independent assessment under the law. *Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Assn*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1430 (5th Cir. 1996) (en bane), superseded on other grounds by statute, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (extending the time to file objections from ten to fourteen days). The parties did not object in the prescribed period. The Court therefore reviews the Magistrate Judge's findings for clear error or abuse of discretion and reviews the legal conclusions to determine whether they are contrary to law. See *United States v. Wilson*, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (5th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, 492 U.S. 916 (1989) (holding that the standard of review is "clearly erroneous, abuse of discretion and contrary to law" if no objections to a Magistrate Judge's Report are filed). Having

reviewed the Magistrate Judge's Report and the record in this case, the Court finds no clear error or abuse of discretion and no conclusions contrary to law. Accordingly, the Court hereby ADOPTS the Report and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge (Docket No. 15) as the findings of this Court. The motion to reverse and remand (Docket No. 14) is GRANTED. The Commissioner's final administrative decision is REVERSED and the matter is REMANDED to the Commissioner for further administrative proceedings pursuant to the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). So ORDERED and SIGNED this 16th day of March, 2026.

JHREMYJD. KERN DLE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE