

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF  
TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE DIVISION

Renada Bridges v. Frank Bisignano

Case No. 3:25-cv-000324 · No. 3:25-cv-000324 · Decided March 12, 2026

SUMMARY

This Report and Recommendation concerns Renada Bridges’s action under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) seeking review of the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of her application for a closed period of disability insurance benefits. The Magistrate Judge evaluates challenges to the ALJ’s treatment of Bridges’s mental impairments, residual functional capacity, medical opinions, and subjective symptoms, and recommends denying her motion for judgment on the administrative record.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Luke A. Evans; Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DECIDED               | March 12, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DOCKET                | 3:25-cv-000324                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Report and recommendation on Plaintiff's motion for judgment on the administrative record in an action under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) seeking review of the Commissioner's denial of disability insurance benefits.                                                                                  |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court reviews whether the ALJ applied the correct legal standards and whether the ALJ's findings are supported by substantial evidence. The court must defer to an ALJ's supported findings even when the record contains substantial evidence that could support the opposite conclusion. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Unknown; report and recommendation in a district-court Social Security case with no reporter citation.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PARTIES               | Renada Bridges v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

agency adjudication

administrative law

disability definition

## PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

disability benefits

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ erred by finding that Bridges's anxiety and depression were non-severe impairments.
2. Whether the ALJ properly considered all medically determinable impairments and the medical-opinion evidence when formulating Bridges's residual functional capacity.
3. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated Bridges's subjective complaints concerning pain, fatigue, and other disabling symptoms.
4. Whether the ALJ's decision was supported by substantial evidence and applied the correct legal standards.

## HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ's determination that Bridges's anxiety and depression were non-severe impairments was supported by substantial evidence and did not warrant reversal.
2. The ALJ adequately considered Bridges's severe and non-severe impairments and reasonably evaluated Nurse Urell's medical opinion; the residual functional capacity determination was supported by substantial evidence.
3. The ALJ did not err in finding that Bridges's statements concerning the intensity, persistence, and limiting effects of her symptoms were not entirely consistent with the medical and other evidence.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*"After careful consideration of the evidence, the undersigned finds that the claimant's medically determinable impairments could reasonably be expected to cause the alleged symptoms; however, the claimant's statements concerning the intensity, persistence and limiting effects of these symptoms are not entirely consistent with the medical evidence and other evidence in the record for the reasons explained in this decision."* (AR 24)

*"The Court finds that the ALJ not only considered Plaintiff's severe and non-severe medically determinable impairments in formulating her RFC, the ALJ also explained in detail how each impairment affects Plaintiff's RFC."* (AR 23)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bridges alleged disability based on multiple physical and mental conditions, including spinal disorders, obesity, fibromyalgia, anxiety, depression, carpal tunnel syndrome, arthritis, and leg swelling. Her insured status expired on March 31, 2023. The ALJ found that she had severe impairments of a spine disorder and obesity, non-severe anxiety and depression, and a residual functional capacity for light work with specified postural and environmental limitations. The ALJ concluded that Bridges could perform her past relevant work as a receptionist and administrative clerk.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Bridges applied for disability insurance benefits, alleging disability beginning September 15, 2019. The SSA denied the application initially and on reconsideration. After a telephonic hearing, an ALJ denied benefits on May 8, 2024, finding that Bridges could perform light work and past relevant work. The Appeals Council denied review on February 19, 2025. Bridges filed this action on March 21, 2025, and moved for judgment on the administrative record. The magistrate judge recommended denying the motion and affirming the Commissioner's decision, subject to review by the district judge after any objections.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- *Miller v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 811 F.3d 825, 833–34 & n.6 (6th Cir. 2016)
- *Blakley v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 581 F.3d 399, 405–06 (6th Cir. 2009)
- *Biestek v. Berryhill*, 587 U.S. 97, 102–03 (2019)
- *Consolidated Edison Co. v. NLRB*, 305 U.S. 197, 229 (1938)
- *Gentry v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 741 F.3d 708, 722–23 (6th Cir. 2014)
- *Bowen v. Galbreath*, 485 U.S. 74, 75 (1988)
- *Combs v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 459 F.3d 640, 643 (6th Cir. 2006)
- *Walker v. Berryhill*, No. 3:16-1231, 2017 WL 6492621, at \*3 (M.D. Tenn. Dec. 19, 2017), report and recommendation adopted, 2018 WL 305748 (M.D. Tenn. Jan. 5, 2018)
- *Johnson v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 652 F.3d 646, 651 (6th Cir. 2011)
- *Shelton v. Commissioner of Social Security*, Case No. 2:18-cv-00093, 2020 WL 707586, at \*9 (M.D. Tenn. Feb. 12, 2020), report and recommendation adopted sub nom. *Shelton v. Saul*, 2020 WL 1284628 (M.D. Tenn. Mar. 18, 2020)
- *Key v. Callahan*, 109 F.3d 270, 273 (6th Cir. 1997)
- *Mullen v. Bowen*, 800 F.2d 535, 545 (6th Cir. 1986)
- *Noto v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 632 F. App'x 243, 250 (6th Cir. 2015)
- *Loral Defense Systems-Akron v. N.L.R.B.*, 200 F.3d 436, 453 (6th Cir. 1999)
- *Big Branch Resources, Inc. v. Ogle*, 737 F.3d 1063, 1072 (6th Cir. 2013)
- *Baker v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 21 F. App'x 313, 315 (6th Cir. 2001)
- *Smith v. Berryhill*, No. 3:15-cv-00600, 2017 WL 3237794, at \*2 (M.D. Tenn. July 31, 2017)
- *Hernandez v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 644 F. App'x 468, 473, 476 (6th Cir. 2016)
- *Gibson v. Kijakazi*, No. 1:20-0082, 2022 WL 1086501, at \*7 (M.D. Tenn. Apr. 11, 2022), report and recommendation adopted, 2022 WL 1432537 (M.D. Tenn. May 5, 2022)
- *Boles v. Saul*, No. 2:15-cv-00029, 2020 WL 57959, at \*2 (M.D. Tenn. Jan. 6, 2020)
- *Walters v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 127 F.3d 525, 531 (6th Cir. 1997)
- *Morr v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 616 F. App'x 210, 212 (6th Cir. 2015)

- *Dollinger v. Commissioner of Social Security*, Case No. 22-3359, 2023 WL 1777386, at \*1 n.1 (6th Cir. Feb. 6, 2023)
- *McPherson v. Kelsey*, 125 F.3d 989, 995–96 (6th Cir. 1997)
- *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 155 (1985)
- *Cowherd v. Million*, 380 F.3d 909, 912 (6th Cir. 2004)

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