

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA, WESTERN DIVISION

William Lamm v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

Lamm · No. No. 5:24-CV-617-D · Decided February 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina adopts a magistrate judge’s memorandum and recommendation in a Social Security case. Because neither party objected and the court found no clear error, it remands the matter to the Commissioner of Social Security for further proceedings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	J. C. Dever III
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division
DECIDED	February 6, 2026
DOCKET	No. 5:24-CV-617-D
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of a Social Security decision. After a magistrate judge recommended remand, neither party objected, and the district court reviewed the memorandum and recommendation for clear error.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Clear-error review of an unobjected-to magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	William Lamm v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should review the magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation for clear error when neither party objected.
2. Whether the memorandum and recommendation recommending remand should be adopted.

HOLDINGS

1. When neither party timely objects to a magistrate judge's memorandum and recommendation, the district court reviews the recommendation for clear error rather than conducting de novo review.
2. The district court found no clear error in the memorandum and recommendation, adopted its conclusions, and remanded the case for further proceedings.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Absent a timely objection, "a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.""

(unpaginated)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

William Lamm filed an action against the Commissioner of Social Security seeking review of a Social Security matter. The magistrate judge reviewed the record and recommended remand for further consideration. The district court found no clear error on the face of the record.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lamm filed the complaint on October 31, 2024, and the parties submitted their Social Security briefs. The matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Robert B. Jones, Jr., who issued a memorandum and recommendation on January 5, 2026, recommending remand for further consideration. Neither party objected, so the district court conducted clear-error review, adopted the memorandum and recommendation, and remanded the case for further proceedings.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The case was remanded for further proceedings consistent with the adopted memorandum and recommendation.

CASES CITED

- *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)
- *Martin v. Duffy*, 858 F.3d 239, 245 (4th Cir. 2017)
- *United States v. Midgette*, 478 F.3d 616, 622 (4th Cir. 2007)

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