

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
OHIO, WESTERN DIVISION (DAYTON)

Jeffrey K. v. Commissioner of Social Security

Case No. 3:24-cv-00124 · No. 3:24-cv-00124 · Decided December 2, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio approved the parties’ joint stipulation awarding Plaintiff \$6,560.00 in attorney fees and no costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The order provides that the award may be offset against qualifying federal debt and may be paid directly to Plaintiff’s counsel if no such debt exists, and it leaves the case terminated.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division (Dayton)
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Caroline H. Gentry
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division (Dayton)
DECIDED	December 2, 2025
DOCKET	3:24-cv-00124
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly stipulated to an award of attorney fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act after the Social Security case was terminated.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential
PARTIES	Jeffrey K. v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Court should accept the parties' joint stipulation and award Plaintiff \$6,560.00 in attorney fees and \$0.00 in costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. Whether payment of the EAJA award should be subject to verification of any pre-existing debt owed by Plaintiff to the United States and, if none exists, made directly to Plaintiff's counsel pursuant to the assignment.

HOLDINGS

1. The Court accepted the parties' joint stipulation and ordered Defendant to pay Plaintiff \$6,560.00 in attorney fees and \$0.00 in costs, for a total award of \$6,560.00.
2. Counsel must verify within thirty days whether Plaintiff owes a pre-existing debt to the United States subject to offset; if no such debt exists, Defendant must pay the EAJA award directly to Plaintiff's counsel pursuant to the signed assignment.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the parties’ Joint Stipulation for an Award of Attorney’s Fees Under the EAJA (Doc. No. 14) is accepted and Defendant shall pay Plaintiff’s attorney fees of \$6,560.00, and \$0.00 in costs, for a total award of \$6,560.00;” (Order ¶ 1)

“Counsel for the parties shall verify, within thirty days of this Decision and Entry, whether Plaintiff owes a pre-existing debt to the United States subject to offset.” (Order ¶ 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

This was a Social Security case in which Plaintiff sought an award under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The parties agreed that Plaintiff should receive \$6,560.00 in attorney fees and no costs, subject to potential offset for any pre-existing debt owed to the United States.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Court considered the parties' Joint Stipulation for an Award of Attorney's Fees Under the EAJA. The Court accepted the stipulation, awarded Plaintiff \$6,560.00 in attorney fees and \$0.00 in costs, imposed a verification requirement concerning any pre-existing federal debt, and left the case terminated on the docket.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586 (2010)