

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Ashleigh Tindle Cassity v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

Cassity · No. Civil Action No. 25-14-MU; 1:25-cv-00014 · Decided November 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama reviewed the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Ashleigh Tindle Cassity’s claims for Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income. The court held that the Administrative Law Judge’s residual functional capacity determination and evaluation of medical opinions were supported by substantial evidence and proper legal standards. The court affirmed the Commissioner’s decision denying benefits.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	P. Bradley Murray
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, Southern Division
DECIDED	November 24, 2025
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 25-14-MU; 1:25-cv-00014
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review under 42 U.S.C. §§ 405(g) and 1383(c) (3) of the Commissioner's final decision denying her claims for Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income. The parties consented to disposition by a United States Magistrate Judge.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviews whether the Commissioner's decision is supported by substantial evidence and based on proper legal standards. The court may not decide facts anew, reweigh the evidence, or substitute its judgment for that of the Commissioner.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district-court memorandum opinion with no reporter citation

PARTIES

Ashleigh Tindle Cassity v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

agency adjudication

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

disability benefits

judicial review of agency action

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ's residual functional capacity determination was supported by substantial evidence and proper legal standards.
2. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated the medical opinions of psychologist Brian McIntyre and therapist Jane Larrimore-Cooke under 20 C.F.R. § 404.1520c.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ properly evaluated the medical opinions under 20 C.F.R. § 404.1520c by addressing their supportability and consistency with the treatment record, examination findings, and Cassity's reported activities.
2. The Commissioner's decision denying Cassity's DIB and SSI claims was supported by substantial evidence and based on proper legal standards.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The reviewing court “may not decide the facts anew, reweigh the evidence, or substitute [its] judgment for that of the [Commissioner].”” (Discussion)

“The ALJ found some opinions persuasive, some unpersuasive, and some partially persuasive, and he sufficiently explained his reasoning for such findings, making Plaintiff's complaint without merit.” (Discussion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Cassity alleged disability from seizures, migraines, neck disorder, anxiety, depression, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar symptoms, panic disorder, and related conditions. The ALJ found severe impairments including seizure disorder, migraines, neck disorder, anxiety, depression, and schizoaffective disorder, but determined that Cassity retained the residual functional capacity for a restricted range of light work with mental, environmental, and interactional limitations. The ALJ found she could not perform past relevant work but could perform jobs existing in significant numbers in the national economy. Cassity challenged the RFC determination, principally arguing that the ALJ improperly evaluated medical opinions.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Cassity applied for DIB and SSI alleging disability beginning July 27, 2021. The claims were denied initially and on reconsideration; following an administrative hearing, the ALJ issued an unfavorable decision on September 13, 2023. The Appeals Council denied review on November 13, 2024, making the ALJ's decision the Commissioner's final decision. After Cassity filed this action, the parties submitted briefs and presented oral argument, and the court affirmed the denial of benefits.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Moore v. Barnhart, 405 F.3d 1208, 1211 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Watkins v. Commissioner of Social Security, 457 F. App'x 868, 870 (11th Cir. 2012) (per curiam)
- Phillips v. Barnhart, 357 F.3d 1232, 1237 (11th Cir. 2004)
- Jones v. Apfel, 190 F.3d 1224, 1228 (11th Cir. 1999)
- Winschel v. Commissioner of Social Security, 631 F.3d 1176, 1178 (11th Cir. 2011)
- Chester v. Bowen, 792 F.2d 129, 131 (11th Cir. 1986)
- MacGregor v. Bowen, 786 F.2d 1050, 1053 (11th Cir. 1986)

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