

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

Melvin A. Prince v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

Prince · No. 24-370-MU · Decided November 21, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama reviews the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Melvin A. Prince’s claims for Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income. The court holds that the Administrative Law Judge’s residual functional capacity assessment was supported by substantial evidence, including the evaluation of medical opinions, seizure-related records, and migraine limitations. The court affirms 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 21, 2025
DOCKET	24-370-MU
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) of the Commissioner's final decision denying his claims for Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income. The parties consented to final jurisdiction before a United States Magistrate Judge.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviews the Commissioner's decision to determine whether it 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PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Melvin A. Prince v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

exhaustion of remedies

disability definition

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

Administrative law

Disability benefits

Judicial review of agency action

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated the consultative examining physician's medical opinion under the applicable supportability and consistency factors.
2. Whether the ALJ adequately considered medical records from 2021 through 2023 in formulating Prince's residual functional capacity.
3. Whether the ALJ's residual functional capacity determination was supported by substantial evidence despite Prince's migraine headache disorder.
4. Whether the Commissioner's denial of DIB and SSI was supported by substantial evidence and based on proper legal standards.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ properly found Dr. Chromiak's opinion unpersuasive because the opinion was speculative, broadly addressed seizure frequency, was inconsistent with the record, and was not well supported.
2. The ALJ adequately considered the relevant medical evidence, including seizure treatment records from 2021 through 2023, and the RFC determination was supported by substantial evidence.
3. The ALJ did not err by failing to identify separate migraine-specific restrictions because the decision expressly considered the headache disorder and explained that the RFC's restrictions addressed its documented impact.
4. The Commissioner's decision denying benefits must be affirmed when supported by substantial evidence and based on proper legal standards, even if the evidence could support a different conclusion.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court cannot reweigh the evidence or substitute its judgment for that of the ALJ.” (PageID.650)

“The RFC assessment is based on “all of the relevant medical and other evidence.”” (PageID.649)

“The Court finds that, even though there may be some contrary evidence concerning the severity of his impairment due to his seizures, the ALJ’s RFC determination is supported by substantial evidence and based on proper legal standards.” (PageID.650)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Prince alleged disability beginning September 1, 2019, based on seizures, migraine headaches, diabetes, obesity, and hearing loss. The ALJ found severe impairments but determined that Prince retained the residual functional capacity for a restricted range of medium work, with restrictions concerning ladders, loud noise, heights,

hazards, and operation of automotive equipment. The ALJ relied on evidence showing infrequent seizures, negative continuous EEG testing, reduced seizure medication, and limitations addressing his headaches and hearing loss. The court concluded that the RFC determination was supported by substantial evidence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Prince applied for DIB and SSI in 2019, and an ALJ denied his claims in 2020. The district court reversed and remanded in 2022. After additional administrative proceedings, including two further unfavorable ALJ decisions and Appeals Council remands, ALJ Laura Robinson issued an unfavorable decision on June 21, 2024. Prince withdrew his exceptions before the Appeals Council and sought review in district court. The court affirmed the Commissioner's decision.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Moore v. Barnhart, 405 F.3d 1208, 1211 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Watkins v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 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. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 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)
- Green v. Soc. Sec. Admin., 223 F. App'x 915, 923 (11th Cir. 2007)
- Pritchett v. Colvin, CA 12-0768-M, 2013 WL 3894960, at *5 (S.D. Ala. July 29, 2013)
- Jones v. Colvin, CA 14-00247-C, 2015 WL 5737156, at *23 (S.D. Ala. Sept. 30, 2015)
- Ricks v. Astrue, No. 3:10-cv-975-TEM, 2012 WL 1020428, at *9 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 27, 2012)
- Mitchell v. Comm'r, Soc. Sec. Admin., 771 F.3d 780, 782 (11th Cir. 2014)