

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Corrine B. v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security Administration

Corrine B. v. Bisignano, C.A. No. 1:25-cv-00291-AEM (D.R.I. Feb. 5, 2026) · No. 1:25-cv-00291-AEM · Decided February 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island denied Corrine B.’s motion to reverse the denial of her claims for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance and granted the Commissioner’s motion to affirm. The court held that substantial evidence supported the Administrative Law Judge’s residual functional capacity assessment, including the absence of a specific supervisor-interaction limitation and the assessment of the claimant’s ability to sustain a normal workday and workweek. Final judgment was ordered in favor of the Commissioner.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Amy E. Moses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DECIDED               | February 5, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DOCKET                | 1:25-cv-00291-AEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DISPOSITION           | affirmed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Plaintiff sought judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) of the Commissioner's denial of her applications for SSI and SSDI. The parties filed cross-motions, with Plaintiff moving to reverse or remand and the Commissioner moving to affirm.                                            |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court reviews the Commissioner's factual findings for substantial evidence and does not reweigh the evidence, resolve conflicts in the evidence, or substitute its judgment for that of the Commissioner. If the decision is supported by substantial evidence, the court must affirm. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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## PARTIES

Corrine B. v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security Administration

## TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

disability definition

## PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security disability

administrative law

judicial review of agency action

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ adequately supported the RFC by omitting a specific limitation on Corrine's ability to interact with supervisors.
2. Whether the ALJ was required to make a separate express finding concerning Corrine's ability to complete a normal workday and workweek.

## HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ adequately supported the RFC's absence of a supervisor-interaction limitation because the state-agency psychological consultants found Corrine not significantly limited in accepting instructions and responding appropriately to criticism from supervisors, and Corrine reported getting along very well with authority figures.
2. The ALJ adequately accounted for Corrine's ability to sustain work over a normal workday and workweek by relying on the state-agency psychological consultants' findings that she could carry out simple tasks for two-hour periods over a normal workday and workweek and was not significantly limited in sustaining an ordinary routine without special supervision.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“The Court does not reinterpret or reweigh the evidence or otherwise substitute its own judgment for that of the Commissioner.”* (at 2)

*“The ALJ’s RFC finding that Corrine was not limited in her ability to interact with supervisors is adequately supported by the consulting opinions as well as Corrine’s own representations and as such, must be affirmed.”* (at 5)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Corrine is a 30-year-old high school graduate with major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorder. The ALJ found that these conditions were severe impairments but determined that they did not meet or medically equal a listed impairment. The ALJ assessed an RFC for work at all exertional levels with specified physical and mental limitations, including limited public contact and superficial coworker contact, and found that Corrine could perform jobs existing in significant numbers in the national economy.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Corrine filed applications for SSDI and SSI on May 3, 2023. The applications were denied initially and on reconsideration. After an administrative hearing, the ALJ issued an unfavorable decision on May 1, 2024, and the Appeals Council denied review on April 14, 2025. Corrine filed this action on June 18, 2025. The court denied her motion to reverse and granted the Commissioner's motion to affirm.

## DISPOSITION

affirmed

## CASES CITED

- *Biestek v. Berryhill*, 587 U.S. 97, 103 (2019)
- *Consol. Edison Co. v. NLRB*, 305 U.S. 197, 229 (1938)
- *Frustaglia v. Sec'y Health & Hum. Servs.*, 829 F.2d 192, 195 (1st Cir. 1987) (per curiam)
- *Brown v. Apfel*, 71 F. Supp. 2d 28, 30 (D.R.I. 1999)
- *Brown v. Apfel*, 71 F. Supp. 2d 28, 30 (D.R.I. 1999), aff'd, 230 F.3d 1347 (1st Cir. 2000) (per curiam)
- *Thomas P. v. Kijakazi*, C.A. No. 21-00020-WES, 2022 WL 92651, at \*8 (D.R.I. Jan. 10, 2022)
- *Tegan S. v. Saul*, 546 F. Supp. 3d 162, 168 (D.R.I. 2021)
- *Rodriguez Pagan v. Sec'y Health & Hum. Servs.*, 819 F.2d 1, 3 (1st Cir. 1987) (per curiam)
- *Wells v. Barnhart*, 267 F. Supp. 2d 138, 144 (D. Mass. 2003)
- *Thomas L. v. O'Malley*, C.A. No. 24-00195-WES, 2024 WL 4948805, at \*7 (D.R.I. Dec. 3, 2024)
- *Emily C. v. Dudek*, C.A. No. 24-00324-LDA, 2025 WL 1263715, at \*7 (D.R.I. May 1, 2025)