

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Antonia Estorga Coleman v. Commissioner of Social Security

No. 1:25-cv-00031-HBK, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (April 22, 2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted the parties’ stipulated motion to remand under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) and reversed the Commissioner of Social Security’s final decision. The case was remanded for further administrative proceedings, including reevaluation of the plaintiff’s subjective complaints and residual functional capacity and issuance of a new decision.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Helena M. Barch-Kuchta
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	April 22, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00031-HBK
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly moved to remand the Social Security case for further administrative proceedings under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action administrative law remedies civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security administrative law civil procedure judicial review remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should grant the parties' stipulated motion to remand under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

2. What proceedings the Commissioner must undertake on remand.

HOLDINGS

1. The court may remand a Social Security case under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) in conjunction with a judgment reversing the Commissioner's final decision.
2. On remand, the Commissioner must reevaluate Plaintiff's subjective complaints and residual functional capacity, further develop the record as necessary, provide an opportunity for a hearing, continue the sequential evaluation process and obtain vocational-expert testimony if warranted, and issue a new decision.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A sentence four remand authorizes a court to enter “a judgment affirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Secretary, with or without resetting the cause for a rehearing.”” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion provides no substantive facts concerning Plaintiff's underlying disability claim. The parties agreed that further administrative proceedings were necessary, including reevaluation of Plaintiff's subjective complaints and residual functional capacity and possible additional vocational-expert testimony.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Commissioner of Social Security's final decision. The parties stipulated to remand, and the court granted the joint motion, reversed the Commissioner's decision, remanded for further administrative proceedings, directed entry of judgment for Plaintiff, and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Commissioner must reevaluate Plaintiff's subjective complaints and residual functional capacity; continue the sequential evaluation process and obtain vocational-expert testimony if warranted; further develop the record as necessary; offer Plaintiff the opportunity for a hearing; and issue a new decision.

CASES CITED

- Melkonyan v. Sullivan, 501 U.S. 89, 97-98 (1991)

OPINION

(SS) Estorga Coleman v. Commissioner of Social Security

PER CURIAM.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 ANTONIA ESTORGA COLEMAN, Case No. 1:25-cv-00031-HBK 12 Plaintiff, ORDER
GRANTING PARTIES'

STIPULATED MOTION TO REMAND

13 v. UNDER SENTENCE FOUR OF 42 U.S.C. §

405(g), REVERSING FINAL DECISION AND

14 COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL REMANDING CASE1

SECURITY,

15 (Doc. No. 11) Defendant. 16 17 18 19 Pending before the Court is the parties' joint motion to
remand filed April 22, 2025. 20 (Doc. No. 11). Plaintiff Antonia Estorga Coleman and the
Commissioner of Social Security agree 21 that this case should be remanded for further
administrative proceedings under sentence four of 22 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). (Id.). 23 The United
States Supreme Court held that the Social Security Act permits remand in 24 conjunction with a
judgment either affirming, reversing, or modifying the Secretary's decision. 25 See *Melkonyan v.*
Sullivan, 501 U.S. 89, 97-98 (1991) (addressing issue of attorney's fees under 26 1 Both parties
have consented to the jurisdiction of a magistrate judge in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 27 §636(c)
(1). (Doc. No. 9). 28 1 | the Equal Access to Justice Act and calculating deadline using date of final
judgment). The 2 | *Melkonyan* court recognized 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) contemplates only two types
of remand — 3 || sentence four or sentence six. /d. at 98. A sentence four remand authorizes a court
to enter "a 4 | judgment affirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Secretary, with or
without 5 || resetting the cause for a rehearing." *Jd.* (other citations omitted). 6 The Court grants
the parties' motion to remand under sentence four and reverses the 7 | Commissioner's final
decision. As agreed upon by the parties, upon remand, the Commissioner 8 | will reevaluate
Plaintiffs subjective complaints; reevaluate Plaintiffs residual functional 9 | capacity; as needed,
continue the sequential evaluation process and obtain vocational expert 10 | testimony, if
warranted; take action to further develop the record, as necessary; offer Plaintiff the 11 |
opportunity for a hearing; and issue a new decision. 12 Accordingly, it is ORDERED: 13 1.
Pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), the Court grants the joint motion to 14 remand
(Doc. No. 11) and REVERSES the Commissioner's decision. This case is 15 REMANDED to the
Commissioner of Social Security for further proceedings 16 consistent with this Order. 17 2. A
motion for attorney fees may be filed within thirty (30) days. 18 3. The Clerk shall enter judgment
in favor of Plaintiff, terminate any deadlines, and close 19 this case. 20 | Dated: __April 22, 2025
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22 HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA

33 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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