

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION

James Robert Hall v. Commissioner of Social Security

James Robert Hall v. Commissioner of Social Security · No. 1:25-CV-01147 · Decided February 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio adopted the magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation without objection. The court affirmed the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of James Robert Hall’s claims for Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income, concluding that the Administrative Law Judge properly evaluated his impairments, symptoms, and residual functional capacity and that substantial evidence supported the decision.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Donald C. Nugent
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
DECIDED	February 4, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-CV-01147
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a Social Security claimant's objections-free challenge to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation concerning the Commissioner's denial of benefits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation de novo and affirmed the Commissioner's decision because it was supported by substantial evidence and applied the applicable Social Security rulings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	James Robert Hall v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- agency adjudication
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

administrative law

social security disability

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ properly applied Social Security Ruling 96-8p in considering Hall's impairments and limitations when determining his residual functional capacity.
2. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated Hall's symptoms under Social Security Ruling 16-3p.
3. Whether substantial evidence supported the ALJ's finding that Hall could perform light work with specified limitations.
4. Whether the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation should be adopted and the Commissioner's denial of benefits affirmed.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ properly considered Hall's impairments and related limitations when formulating the residual functional capacity determination, and substantial evidence supported that determination.
2. The ALJ evaluated Hall's symptom allegations in accordance with SSR 16-3p, and substantial evidence supported the ALJ's conclusions.
3. Substantial evidence supported the ALJ's finding that Hall retained the residual functional capacity to perform light work with specified limitations.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the ALJ’s decision properly applied SSR 96-8p, as it indicated that he considered all of Mr.-Hall’s impairments in crafting the residual functioning capacity determination, and that substantial evidence supported the ALJ’s decision” (ECF No. 14 at 10-11)

“the ALJ’s decision considered Mr. Hall’s symptom allegations in accordance with SSR 16-3p, and that substantial evidence supports the ALJ’s conclusions” (ECF No. 14 at 13-14)

“the ALJ’s decision considered all of Mr. Hall’s impairments in formulating the residual functional capacity determination, and that substantial evidence supported the ALJ’s decision” (ECF No. 14 at 15)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Hall sought Disability Insurance Benefits under the Social Security Act. Although the ALJ found that Hall had several severe impairments, the ALJ concluded that none met or medically equaled a listed impairment and that Hall retained the residual functional capacity to perform light work subject to specified limitations. Hall challenged the ALJ's consideration of his impairments, symptoms, and ability to perform light work, but the magistrate judge found that the ALJ properly applied the governing standards and that substantial evidence supported the decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Hall applied for Disability Insurance Benefits on April 3, 2022. The application was denied initially and on reconsideration; following a February 14, 2024 hearing, the ALJ issued a decision on March 13, 2024, finding Hall not disabled and capable of performing light work with limitations. The Appeals Council declined review on April 7, 2025. Hall then filed this action, and the magistrate judge recommended affirmance. Because Hall filed no objections, the district court reviewed the Report and Recommendation de novo and adopted it in full.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Ohio Citizen Action v. City of Seven Hills, 35 F. Supp. 2d 575, 577 (N.D. Ohio 1999)

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