

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Tiffani Rinzel v. Martin O'Malley, Commissioner of Social Security

Rinzel · No. 1:22-CV-00143-DJC-GSA · Decided February 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California reviewed objections to a magistrate judge’s findings and recommendations in a Social Security disability case. The court adopted the findings and recommendations in full, granted Plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment, denied Defendant’s cross-motion, and remanded the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Daniel J. Calabretta
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	February 24, 2025
DOCKET	1:22-CV-00143-DJC-GSA
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Commissioner's final decision denying her application for Supplemental Security Income. After a Magistrate Judge recommended granting Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment and remanding the matter, Defendant objected. The District Court reviewed the objections and adopted the findings and recommendations in full.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The District Court reviews de novo those portions of a Magistrate Judge's proposed findings of fact to which a party objects and reviews the Magistrate Judge's conclusions of law de novo. Portions to which no objection is made are accepted as correct subject to applicable law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district-court order; precedential status not stated
PARTIES	Tiffani Rinzel v. Martin O'Malley, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

summary judgment

remedies

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

civil procedure

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Magistrate Judge's findings and recommendations should be adopted after de novo review of Defendant's objections.
2. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to summary judgment and remand of the Commissioner's decision under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

HOLDINGS

1. The District Court must review de novo the portions of the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to which a party objects, while portions not challenged by objection may be accepted as correct subject to applicable law.
2. The Magistrate Judge's findings and recommendations were adopted in full; Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment was granted, Defendant's cross-motion was denied, and the matter was remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The matter is remanded to the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) for further proceedings consistent with this order and with the findings and recommendations;” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Tiffani Rinzel applied for Supplemental Security Income under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. The Commissioner issued a final decision denying the application. The District Court found the Magistrate Judge's recommendation to grant summary judgment for Plaintiff and remand the matter to the Commissioner supported by the record and proper analysis.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Rinzel filed an action under the Social Security Act seeking review of the denial of her Title XVI Supplemental Security Income application. The matter was referred to a Magistrate Judge, who recommended granting Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment, denying Defendant's cross-motion, and remanding under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). After Defendant objected, the District Court reviewed the challenged portions de novo, adopted the findings and recommendations in full, granted Plaintiff's motion, denied Defendant's cross-motion, remanded for further proceedings, and directed entry of judgment for Plaintiff.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter is remanded to the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) for further proceedings consistent with the order and the Magistrate Judge's findings and recommendations.

CASES CITED

- McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Business Machines, 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981)
- Dawson v. Marshall, 561 F.3d 930, 932 (9th Cir. 2009)
- Orand v. United States, 602 F.2d 207, 208 (9th Cir. 1979)
- Britt v. Simi Valley Unified School District, 708 F.2d 452, 454 (9th Cir. 1983)

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