

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA

Amy H. v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

No. 1:25-cv-621-SMD, United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama (April 7, 2026)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama grants the Commissioner of Social Security’s unopposed motion for entry of judgment with remand. The court reverses the Commissioner’s decision and remands the case under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) for further administrative proceedings, including vocational-expert evidence and a new decision.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stephen M. Doyle
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama
DECIDED	April 7, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-621-SMD
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Commissioner of Social Security's decision. The Commissioner filed an unopposed motion for entry of judgment reversing the administrative decision and remanding under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A district court may remand under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) when the Commissioner's decision is not supported by substantial evidence or when the Commissioner or ALJ incorrectly applied the law relevant to the disability claim.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- administrative law
- remedies
- attorney fees
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security law
- administrative law
- federal civil procedure
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should grant the Commissioner's unopposed motion for a sentence-four remand under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).
2. Whether Plaintiff should be permitted to seek attorney's fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) within ninety days after receiving notice of any past-due benefits awarded on remand.

HOLDINGS

1. A sentence-four remand was warranted because the Commissioner conceded that reconsideration and further administrative action were necessary, and Plaintiff did not oppose the motion.
2. Plaintiff must seek attorney's fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) within ninety days after receiving notice of any amount of past-due benefits awarded.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) authorizes the district court to “enter, upon the pleadings and transcript of the record, a judgment affirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Commissioner of Social Security, with or without remanding the cause for a rehearing.””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Commissioner determined Plaintiff's Social Security disability claim and assessed limitations affecting Plaintiff's occupational base. The Commissioner later conceded that additional administrative consideration was necessary, including obtaining evidence from a vocational expert concerning the effect of the assessed limitations. The Commissioner also represented that Plaintiff would be offered an opportunity for a hearing and that the administrative record would be completed as necessary.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Commissioner moved for a sentence-four remand, conceding that reconsideration and further administrative proceedings were necessary. Plaintiff did not oppose the motion. The district court granted the motion, reversed the Commissioner's decision, and remanded for further proceedings; a separate judgment was to issue.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Commissioner must conduct further proceedings under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), including instructing the ALJ to obtain vocational-expert evidence clarifying the effect of the assessed limitations on Plaintiff's occupational base, offering Plaintiff an opportunity for a hearing, taking any further action necessary to complete the administrative record, and issuing a new decision.

CASES CITED

- Jackson v. Chater, 99 F.3d 1086, 1092 (11th Cir. 1996)
- Bergen v. Commissioner of Social Security, 454 F.3d 1273, 1278 n.2 (11th Cir. 2006)
- Blitch v. Astrue, 261 F. App'x 241, 241 n.1 (11th Cir. 2008)

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