

1 THE COURT: I'm going to make the following findings  
2 which will be incorporated into the order on this case:

3 Finding 1: The key issue in this case is  
4 whether Thomas meets listing 112.02.

5 Finding 2: The critical issue in this case is  
6 whether in one of the six domains -- that domain is  
7 interacting and relating to others -- the ALJ erred in finding  
8 him marked when he should have found Thomas extreme.

9 Finding 3: Thomas might also meet listing 11.02 if  
10 he is found to have marked impairment in two of the domains,  
11 and I find that two of the other domains, acquiring and using  
12 information and attending and completing tasks, are areas  
13 where the ALJ found less than marked conditions with respect  
14 to Thomas.

15 Finding 4: In reviewing the ALJ's opinion -- and I  
16 am looking specifically at pages 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of  
17 the record -- the ALJ specifically discusses various exhibits,  
18 but he does not explicitly discuss Exhibits 7, 12 or 14.

19 Finding 5: Exhibits 7 and 14 are Southwestern  
20 Indiana Mental Health notes.

21 Finding 6: These notes are from a physician, three  
22 licensed social workers and a case manager, and they're found  
23 at the record at 271 to 275, 333 to 335, 352 to 353, 441, 469  
24 and 530 and 532. The ALJ's opinion does not explicitly  
25 address these treatment records from Southwestern Mental

1 Health in 14 and 7. In looking at the regulations, I believe  
2 that the ALJ must evaluate and assign some level of weight to  
3 the opinions from acceptable medical sources. That's  
4 20 CFR 404.1527(a) through (c). There is a physician here who  
5 is an acceptable medical source, and I believe licensed  
6 clinical social workers would be another source, "other  
7 source" as defined at 404.1513(d), and that the case manager  
8 would be a non-medical source; but a "non-medical source"  
9 under SSR 06-03p must be evaluated.

10 Finding 7: In this case the records not reviewed  
11 from Exhibits 7 and 14 are not short-term or infrequent  
12 records but are a true longitudinal picture of Thomas through  
13 an extensive period of time by a number of different people.

14 Finding 8: Some of the treatment notes are material  
15 to the ultimate decisions about whether interacting should go  
16 from marked to extreme or whether acquiring or using  
17 information or attending and completing tasks should be less  
18 than marked or marked. Specifically, there are some treatment  
19 notes from Dr. Alley at the record at 274 and 275 that  
20 describe violent behaviors and attitudes. There are some  
21 records from Brenda Meyer, the licensed clinical social  
22 worker, at 333 to 335 that evaluate the plaintiff as unable or  
23 unwilling to complete tasks, follow instructions or pay  
24 attention. There are other issues concerning his difficulty  
25 following directions, difficulty getting along with others,

1 limited social skills. There's a progress note from Kate  
2 Durham at page 352 which indicates consistent absence and  
3 tardiness from school. There are some progress notes from  
4 Tracey Kelley at 353 that indicated the plaintiff has been  
5 refusing to attend school. There are also records in that  
6 case from Tina Evans Robinson, M.D., and Tracey Kelley that  
7 suggest that his diagnosis has a GF of 49 and describes  
8 Thomas' history that his performance has been below ability.

9           Finding 9: It's my conclusion that because these  
10 are extensive records and that they are material to the very  
11 close call the ALJ was faced with, that the ALJ's failure to  
12 discuss those records leaves me unable to trace the path of  
13 his reasoning or to be sure that he has not ignored this  
14 entire line of evidence which includes the number of people  
15 assessing him and the length of time Thomas was assessed, so I  
16 think he has failed to deal with that, and that issue requires  
17 a remand, which I would believe as under sentence four.

18           Finding 10: On the issue of whether there is new  
19 and material evidence, I noticed that the material submitted  
20 that may be new material includes an arrest record of the  
21 plaintiff that indicates he was issued a notice to appear in  
22 Juvenile Court on October 24th, 2011, two weeks following the  
23 hearing and four weeks before the issuance of the decision,  
24 and I also find that the IEP was dated October 10th, 2011, the  
25 day before the ALJ's hearing. While that may technically be

1 in existence, it's not certain that that was in existence in a  
2 form that could have been presented to the ALJ in that regard.

3           Finding 11: The issue of whether a sentence six  
4 request has been waived in this case is a close call. I do  
5 recognize what *Eads* has to say. I do find that *Farrell*,  
6 though, does suggest that remand can be allowed, and my sense  
7 in reading the issues about failing to raise an issue in the  
8 first brief, the courts are concerned that much like the  
9 *Chenery* doctrine. Plaintiffs not be able to raise issues  
10 clearly outside the evidence here. But on the other hand, the  
11 issue of whether a remand was required here because Thomas'  
12 condition was before the court and the language that the  
13 appeals counsel used and is before the court at record two is  
14 ambiguous as to whether they truly considered the evidence  
15 before them and evaluated it as to whether it was new and  
16 material or whether they did not do so, I cannot tell from  
17 that language whether they did or did not do that.

18           Finding 12: In light of the fact that a sentence  
19 four remand is required in this case because of the need to  
20 evaluate the records here, I'm going to also issue an order  
21 that in the event the *Eads* doctrine would purportedly prohibit  
22 the court from doing this, that under *Farrell* there is new and  
23 material evidence presented to this court. It is new because  
24 the dates that I describe are contemporaneous or after the  
25 hearing before the ALJ and material in that one of the key

1 findings of the ALJ in this case was that the plaintiff had  
2 never been subjected to an IEP and he now was, and he was very  
3 close in time -- in fact, perhaps the day of the hearing -- so  
4 it could impact his decision as to whether an IEP was prepared  
5 for the child on the date of the hearing. And the arrest does  
6 call into question whether his interacting and relating to  
7 others because of yet another arrest or threat should be moved  
8 from the marked to the extreme level that would allow a  
9 finding at that point in time. So I do find that the evidence  
10 is new and material and would remand this case both on the  
11 basis of sentence four and sentence six.

12           It's a really close call. I am very mindful of how  
13 hard a job ALJs have, how many cases they have, how difficult  
14 it is, and the ALJ's opinion in this case was certainly not a  
15 poor effort; it was a good effort, but it was an good effort  
16 at a very close call. I simply think when there is that much  
17 evidence over that long a period of time from that many people  
18 who are dealing with critical issues such as attending and  
19 completing tasks and interacting with others, not explicitly  
20 mentioning that or telling me that, requires a remand for an  
21 explanation. Whether the ALJ will come to the conclusion that  
22 that changes his or her mind remains to be determined.

23           So for those reasons I'm going to order both a  
24 sentence four and sentence six remand.

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