

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

JOHNNIE W. BARNES,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0541-WS-N
	)	
MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,	)	
Commissioner of Social Security,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This matter is before the court on defendant’s motion and memorandum for entry of judgment pursuant to sentence four of § 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), with remand to defendant for further proceedings. (Doc. 24). This motion has been referred to the undersigned for a report and recommendation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 72.2(c)(3).

Defendant Michael J. Astrue (“Commissioner”) proposes a remand for further administrative proceedings with specific instructions that the Appeals Council “refer the case to an Administrative Law Judge who will be directed to (1) further evaluate Plaintiff’s level of mental functions, with the assistance of a medical expert; (2) with the assistance of a medical expert, evaluate whether Plaintiff’s impairments, either singularly or in combination, meets or equals any listed impairment, particularly Listing 12.05; (3) further evaluate Plaintiff’s hypertension in order to determine whether it results in any work related limitations and thus would constitute a severe impairment; (4) properly consider and weigh all medical opinions of record, including those of Drs. Houston and Sherman; (5) further consider

Plaintiff's work history to determine whether he has any past relevant work; and (6) if necessary, obtain supplemental vocational expert testimony, based on an accurate presentation of Plaintiff's vocational history and credible physical and mental capabilities and limitations." ( Id. at 1-2)

The motion to remand reveals that counsel for the defendant notified plaintiff's counsel, Wendy A. Pierce, Esquire, of the contents of the motion and was advised by plaintiff's counsel that the plaintiff would interpose no objection to the motion to remand. ( Id. at 2)

In light of the foregoing, and the plain language of sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) empowering this 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[.]" the Magistrate Judge recommends that this cause be reversed and remanded pursuant to sentence four of § 405(g), see Melkonyan v. Sullivan, 501 U.S. 89 (1991), for further proceedings. The remand pursuant to sentence four of § 405(g) makes the plaintiff a prevailing party for purposes of the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, Shalala v. Schaefer, 509 U.S. 292 (1993), and terminates this Court's jurisdiction over this matter.

The instructions which follow the undersigned's signature contain important information regarding objections to the report and recommendation of the Magistrate Judge.

**DONE** this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

/s/ Katherine P. Nelson  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION  
AND FINDINGS CONCERNING NEED FOR TRANSCRIPT

1. **Objection.** Any party who objects to this recommendation or anything in it must, within ten days of the date of service of this document, file specific written objections with the clerk of court. Failure to do so will bar a de novo determination by the district judge of anything in the recommendation and will bar an attack, on appeal, of the factual findings of the magistrate judge. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); *Lewis v. Smith*, 855 F.2d 736, 738 (11th Cir. 1988); *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. Unit B, 1982)(en banc). The procedure for challenging the findings and recommendations of the magistrate judge is set out in more detail in SD ALA LR 72.4 (June 1, 1997), which provides that:

A party may object to a recommendation entered by a magistrate judge in a dispositive matter, that is, a matter excepted by 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), by filing a "Statement of Objection to Magistrate Judge's Recommendation" within ten days after being served with a copy of the recommendation, unless a different time is established by order. The statement of objection shall specify those portions of the recommendation to which objection is made and the basis for the objection. The objecting party shall submit to the district judge, at the time of filing the objection, a brief setting forth the party's arguments that the magistrate judge's recommendation should be reviewed de novo and a different disposition made. It is insufficient to submit only a copy of the original brief submitted to the magistrate judge, although a copy of the original brief may be submitted or referred to and incorporated into the brief in support of the objection. Failure to submit a brief in support of the objection may be deemed an abandonment of the objection.

A magistrate judge's recommendation cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals; only the district judge's order or judgment can be appealed.

2. **Transcript (applicable where proceedings tape recorded).** Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(b), the magistrate judge finds that the tapes and original records in this action are adequate for purposes of review. Any party planning to object to this recommendation, but unable to pay the fee for a transcript, is advised that a judicial determination that transcription is necessary is required before the United States will pay the cost of the transcript.