

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FORT SMITH DIVISION

SANDRA K. PHILLIPS

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL NO. 09-2009

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, Commissioner
Social Security Administration

DEFENDANT

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Sandra Phillips ("plaintiff") brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) seeking judicial review of a decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (Commissioner) denying her application for supplemental security income ("SSI"). (Doc. # 3). The defendant filed an answer to plaintiff's action on April 27, 2009, asserting that the findings of the Commissioner were supported by substantial evidence and were conclusive. (Doc. # 8).

On June 22, 2009, the Commissioner, having changed positions, filed a motion requesting that plaintiff's case be remanded pursuant to "sentence four" of section 405(g) in order to conduct further administrative proceedings. (Doc. # 10). The defendant states that reconsideration of the severity of plaintiff's physical impairments is necessary. Further, the defendant requests that, on remand, the ALJ update the medical records and associate plaintiff's pending application with this case.

The exclusive methods by which a district court may remand a social security case to the Commissioner are set forth in "sentence four" and "sentence six" of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). A remand pursuant to "sentence six" is limited to two situations: where the Commissioner requests a remand before answering the complaint, or where the court orders the Commissioner to consider new, material evidence that was for good cause not presented before the agency. The Fourth sentence of

the statute provides that "[t]he court shall have power 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." 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); *Shalala v. Schaefer*, 509 U.S. 292, 296, 113 S.Ct. 2625 (1993).

Here, we find remand for the purpose of the ALJ to further evaluate the evidence as addressed above, appropriate. Therefore, the Commissioner's motion to remand is hereby **GRANTED** and the case is remanded to the Commissioner for further administrative action pursuant to "sentence four" of section 405(g).

DATED this 22nd day of June 2009.

/s/ J. Marschewski

HON. JAMES R. MARSCHEWSKI
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE