

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
HARRISON DIVISION

JOSEPH DEAN FALCONBURG

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL NO. 10-3077

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, Commissioner
Social Security Administration

DEFENDANT

ORDER

Plaintiff, Joseph Dean Falconburg, 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 his applications for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income pursuant to Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act. ECF No. 1. Defendant filed an answer to Plaintiff’s action on October 18, 2010, asserting that the findings of the Commissioner were supported by substantial evidence. ECF No. 6.

On January 3, 2011, 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. ECF No. 9. Specifically, the Commissioner seeks remand to allow the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) to further evaluate treating physician and other medical source opinions and to re-assess Plaintiff’s residual functional capacity. Def.’s Br. in Support 2, ECF No. 10.

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 to allow the ALJ to further evaluate the evidence as addressed above, appropriate. Therefore, the Commissioner's motion is granted and the case will be remanded to the Commissioner for further administrative action pursuant to sentence four of section 405(g).

IT IS SO ORDERED this 6th day of January 2011.

/s/ J. Marschewski

HON. JAMES R. MARSCHEWSKI
CHIEF U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE