

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
HOT SPRINGS DIVISION

GLEND A ESTELL

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL NO. 09-6050

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, Commissioner
Social Security Administration

DEFENDANT

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Plaintiff, Glenda Estell, 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) benefits under the provisions of Titles XVI of the Social Security Act. (Doc. 1). The Defendant filed an answer to Plaintiff's action on September 14, 2009, asserting that the findings of the Commissioner were supported by substantial evidence and were conclusive. (Doc. 7). Plaintiff filed an appeal brief on September 30, 2009. (Doc. 8).

On October 26, 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. 9). The Defendant states that upon remand, the ALJ will reassess Plaintiff's mental residual functional capacity; provide a proper rationale for the weight given to the examining physicians' opinions; perform a proper analysis of Plaintiff's drug and alcohol abuse under 20 C.F.R. § 416.935; determine whether Plaintiff has past relevant work as a convenience store clerk and a housekeeper; and determine whether Plaintiff's earnings statement should be revised to reflect her 2004 and 2005 earnings.

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.

Based on the foregoing, we find remand appropriate and grant the Commissioner's motion to remand this case to the Commissioner for further administrative action pursuant to "sentence four" of section 405(g).

DATED this 9th day of December 2009.

/s/ Erin L. Setser

HON. ERIN L. SETSER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE