

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

MAURICE EDWARD STAPLES, JR.,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	NO. 3:13cv30047-KPN
	)	
CAROLYN W. COLVIN,	)	
Acting Commissioner of Social	)	
Security Administration,	)	
Defendant.	)	

**STIPULATION AS TO ATTORNEY'S FEES**

Now come the parties, by and through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, hereby stipulate and agree to a lump sum payment of said fees in the amount of \$5,141.17. The plaintiff waives any claim for costs.

Pursuant to an assignment agreement, the plaintiff has requested that these EAJA fees be paid directly to her attorney, Tricia M. Jacobs. The United States Supreme Court recently held that EAJA fees are payable to the prevailing party, not the prevailing party's attorney. See Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010). Additionally, the Supreme Court held that such fees are subject to offset, under the Treasury Offset Program, to satisfy any preexisting debt that the prevailing party might owe to the federal government. *Id.* As a convenience to Attorney Jacobs, the Commissioner will accept the EAJA fee assignment in this case and pay the fees directly to Attorney Jacobs if the defendant determines, at the time of

approval of this Stipulation, that the plaintiff owes no debt to the federal government that would require offset of those fees.

Respectfully submitted,

CARMEN M. ORTIZ  
United States Attorney

By:

/s/ Karen L. Goodwin  
KAREN L. GOODWIN  
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/s/ Tricia M. Jacobs  
TRICIA M. JACOBS  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
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Springfield, MA 01103  
(413) 731-5000

Dated:

THE FOREGOING STIPULATION IS HEREBY APPROVED THIS 29<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF April, 2014. SO ORDERED.

Kenneth P. Neiman  
KENNETH P. NEIMAN  
U.S. Magistrate Judge