

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
NORTHERN DIVISION

ROBERT WELCH,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	No. 2:15CV00052 AGF
)	
CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting Commissioner of Social Security,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

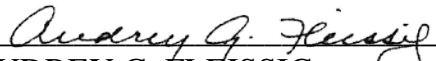
This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's application for attorney's fee, under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). Plaintiff is the prevailing party in his action challenging the Commissioner of Social Security's denial of his application for supplemental security income and disability insurance benefits. Plaintiff seeks \$4,696.88 in fees, to be paid to Plaintiff's counsel, pursuant to an assignment of fees executed by Plaintiff, in the event the award is not used to satisfy an outstanding debt. Plaintiff has submitted documentation supporting the requested amount of fees. The Commissioner responds that it does not object to the award of fees in the amount sought, but notes that *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), mandates that the fees are to be paid directly to Plaintiff.

The Court's review of the record indicates that the amount of fees sought is reasonable and properly supported. As Defendant asserts, *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), requires that the fees be paid directly to Plaintiff, even in light of the assignment

signed by Plaintiff. The Court is not in a position to provide otherwise.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's application for attorney's fees is **GRANTED** in the amount of \$4,696.88, payable directly to Plaintiff. (Doc. No. 19.)



AUDREY G. FLEISSIG
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2017