

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON**

FELICIA D. BEAL,	:	
Plaintiff,	:	Case No. 3:15cv00429
vs.	:	District Judge Walter H. Rice Magistrate Judge Sharon L. Ovington
NANCY A. BERRYHILL, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration,	:	
Defendant.	:	

DECISION AND ENTRY

This case is before the Court upon the parties' Joint Stipulation And Assignment For An Award Of Attorney Fees Under The Equal Access To Justice Act (EAJA). (Doc. #15). The parties have stipulated to an award of attorney fees to Plaintiff under the EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, in the amount of \$5,100.00. The parties have further agreed this award will settle all claims for fees, costs, and expenses that may be payable in this case.

Under the parties' agreement, any EAJA fees paid belong to Plaintiff and can be offset to satisfy pre-existing debt she owes the United States. *See Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010). If counsel for the parties can verify that Plaintiff owes no pre-existing debt subject to offset, Defendant shall direct that this EAJA award be made payable to Plaintiff's attorney pursuant to an assignment duly signed by Plaintiff.

Accordingly, the Court hereby **ORDERS** that:

1. The parties' Joint Stipulation And Assignment For An Award Of Attorney Fees Under The Equal Access To Justice Act (Doc. #15) is ACCEPTED, and the Commissioner shall pay Plaintiff's attorney fees, costs, and expenses in the total amount of \$5,100.00;
2. Counsel for the parties shall verify, **within thirty days of this Decision and Order**, whether or not Plaintiff owes a pre-existing debt to the United States that is subject to offset. If no such pre-existing debt exists, the Commissioner shall direct that this EAJA award be made payable to Plaintiff's attorney; and
3. The case remains terminated on the docket of this Court.



Walter H. Rice
United States District Judge