Klein v. Commissioner of Social Security Administration Doc. 36

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ROCK HILL DIVISION

Norma Jean Klein, Plaintiff, v. Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, Defendant.	)))))))))))	Civil Action No.: 0:16-cv-01999-RBH **ORDER**

On December 6, 2017, Plaintiff filed a motion for attorney's fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act,[1] asserting the position taken by Defendant in this action was not substantially justified. *See* ECF No. 33. On December 20, 2017, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to an award of $4,600.00 in attorney's fees and $23.00 in expenses. *See* ECF No. 34. The joint stipulation provides that the attorney's fees award should be paid to the claimant (not her attorney) and is subject to the Treasury Offset Program[2] if the claimant owes an outstanding debt to the federal government.

After careful consideration, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to pay Plaintiff attorney's fees in the amount of $4,600.00, subject to the Treasury Offset Program provision in the joint stipulation, and expenses in the amount of $23.00. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), the attorney's fees will be paid directly to the claimant and mailed to her attorney, with a copy sent to the claimant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

December 21, 2017
Florence, South Carolina

s/ R. Bryan Harwell
R. Bryan Harwell
United States District Judge

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[1] 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

[2] 31 U.S.C. § 3716.

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