

costs, and expenses incurred in connection with disputing the Commissioner's decision. This award is without prejudice to the rights of Plaintiff's counsel to seek attorney fees under section 206(b) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA.

Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2528–29 (2010), the EAJA fees awarded by this court belong to Plaintiff and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). In the event Plaintiff has no present debt subject to offset and Plaintiff has executed a proper assignment to her counsel, Defendant is directed to make the payment due herein to Plaintiff's counsel. If Plaintiff has no present debt subject to offset and no proper assignment has been made by Plaintiff to her counsel, Defendant is directed to make the check payable to Plaintiff and to deliver the check to Plaintiff's counsel.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

September 25, 2014
Columbia, South Carolina



Shiva V. Hodges
United States Magistrate Judge