



MAGISTRATE JUDGE MARIA VALDEZ
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STANDING ORDER IN SOCIAL SECURITY CASES

For cases coming before the Court for review of the decision of the Commissioner of Social Security denying benefits pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), the Court hereby adopts the following procedures:

A. BRIEFING SCHEDULE

If a briefing schedule has not already been set by the District Judge, one will be set in a minute order after the case is reassigned. The opening brief will generally be due within 60 days of the filing of the administrative record; the responsive brief will be due 45 days thereafter; and the reply, if any, will be due 14 days thereafter.

B. BRIEFING GUIDELINES

1. Plaintiff's Opening Brief. In preparing a Social Security brief, Plaintiff should consider the following:

- a. Include only those facts that relate to the issues presented. It is not necessary to include Plaintiff's entire medical history if it is not relevant to the issues raised.
- b. It is not necessary to spend several pages repeating the well-recognized standards for the five-part test. Cite cases that you believe

accurately state the legal principles you wish the Court to apply. Make the Court aware of any relevant contrary authority.

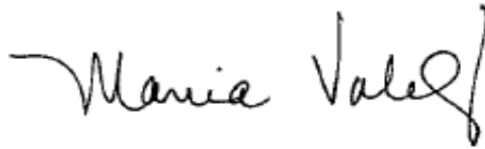
- c. Attach a copy of the ALJ's decision as an exhibit to the brief.

2. Commissioner's Response Brief. In responding to Plaintiff's brief, the Commissioner should do the following:

- a. Consider whether a voluntary remand is appropriate under the law of this district and circuit. If so, please contact Plaintiff's counsel and prepare the necessary stipulation.
- b. Supplement Plaintiff's facts where needed for the issues presented. Do not feel compelled to repeat the facts.
- c. Cite to those portions of the record that constitute substantial evidence in support of the ALJ's decision.

SO ORDERED.

ENTERED:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Valdez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" and last name "Valdez" clearly distinguishable.

DATE: September 3, 2024

HON. MARIA VALDEZ
United States Magistrate Judge

