



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

The parties are directed to review N.D. Ill. Local Rule 16.4 governing Scheduling of Social Security Cases. The Court will not enter an order setting dates for a briefing schedule.

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.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Valdez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

MARIA VALDEZ

United States Magistrate Judge

Date: October 16, 2012