

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

**FILED**

IN RE: SOCIAL SECURITY CASES ) GO-16-4

DEC 06 2016

CARMELITA REEDER SHINN, CLERK  
U.S. DIST. COURT, WESTERN DIST. OKLA.  
BY AS DEPUTY

**GENERAL ORDER**

This order establishes the procedure for the assignment of cases appealing decisions of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (“Social Security cases”):

1. Effective January 1, 2017, all Social Security cases will be randomly assigned, upon filing, to a U. S. Magistrate Judge of this District. The Clerk of Court shall make the assignment in such manner that each Magistrate Judge receives an equal number of such cases over time.

2. The assigned Magistrate Judge will conduct all proceedings in the case unless and until a District Judge is assigned to the case pursuant to this order. In the event of an appeal from a Magistrate Judge’s order prior to the assignment of a District Judge or resolution of the consent process, the appeal shall be to the grand jury/duty District Judge.

3. Upon the filing of an answer to the complaint, the Clerk of Court will provide each party with a copy of this General Order and a consent form. The consent form shall contain a space to indicate whether the party does or does not consent to the disposition of the case, for all purposes, by a U. S. Magistrate Judge. The consent form shall clearly state that no adverse consequences will result from a party’s decision to withhold consent. The order and form shall be distributed through the Court’s CM/ECF system or, as to a party not

represented by counsel, by mailing. The Clerk shall file a notice indicating that the documents have been sent and the manner of distribution.

4. Each party shall file the consent form, either consenting or not consenting, within 30 days from the date the Clerk's notice is filed. If a party fails to file the form within the referenced period, the Clerk shall advise the party of the requirement of this order that the form be filed. Thereafter, the party will have an additional 10 days from the date of the Clerk's notice to file the consent form.

5. If both parties consent to the disposition of the case by a Magistrate Judge, the case shall thereafter be heard and determined, for all purposes, by the assigned Magistrate Judge. By this order, the Court specially designates the U. S. Magistrate Judges of this Court to exercise such jurisdiction, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

6. If either party does not consent to disposition by a Magistrate Judge, the Clerk shall then randomly assign the case to a District Judge for further proceedings. Unless the assigned District Judge otherwise orders, the case will then be referred by the District Judge to the Magistrate Judge originally assigned, for a Report and Recommendation in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B).

The process established by this order is intended to encourage the prompt and expeditious resolution of Social Security cases, consistent with the efficient use of the judicial resources of this District.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

ENTERED FOR THE COURT:

  
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JOE HEATON  
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE