

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

GENERAL ORDER REFERRING SOCIAL SECURITY CASES

Pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and (3) and Appendix B, the Local Rules of Court for the Assignment of Duties to U.S. Magistrate Judges, it is ORDERED that all civil proceedings that involve an appeal from the Commissioner of Social Security Administration shall be referred to a magistrate judge that serves in the division where the case was filed. This includes all pending social security cases. In divisions that have more than one magistrate judge, the magistrate judge shall be randomly selected by the U.S. District Clerk.

When parties consent to disposition of a Social Security case by a magistrate judge, the action shall be reassigned automatically to the referral magistrate judge, who shall conduct any and all proceedings and order entry of judgment in the case.

The referral magistrate judge is hereby DESIGNATED to conduct judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) and file a reasoned report recommending disposition of the action.

It is further ORDERED, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), that a copy of such report be sent to each party, and that any objections to the report by a party be filed with the court and served on all parties within ten (10) days of receipt of the report.

A judge may opt out of this general order by entering an order.

SIGNED this 22nd day of February, 2005.

FOR THE COURT:



Thad Heartfield, Chief Judge