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

ACTIONS SEEKING REVIEW OF THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY'S FINAL DECISION DENYING AN APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS	)	GO-16-5
	)	RE: SOCIAL SECURITY CASES ELIMINATION OF FORMAL ANSWER

GENERAL ORDER

A significant number of cases seeking review of a decision by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to deny benefits are filed in this district. The Court is interested in facilitating the efficient resolution of those complaints. To this end, the Court has adopted the following rules pertaining to all complaints instituted by a plaintiff against the Commissioner in which the only claim that is being brought is pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS:

(1) No later than service of the summons and complaint, the plaintiff shall provide the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma ("USAO-EDOK") and the Denver Office of Regional Counsel for the Social Security Administration ("Denver ORC") with the full name and last four digits of the social security number of the individual whose benefits application was denied. This identifying information is necessary for the Commissioner to obtain and produce the certified administrative record. This information shall be provided to the USAO-EDOK and the Denver ORC by email at USAOKE.ECFCivil@usdoj.gov (or by delivery, by hand or mail, to "SSA Clerk Civil Division" at 520 Denison Avenue, Muskogee, OK 74401) and to OGC.DEN.Service.EDOK@ssa.gov (or by delivery, by hand or mail, to "SSA OGC" at 1961 Stout Street, Suite 4169, Denver, CO 80294).

(2) Within 91 days following service of the summons, complaint, and identifying information on the USAO-EDOK and the Denver ORC, the Commissioner shall file the certified administrative record in electronic format and serve it on the plaintiff. Taking such action shall serve as the Commissioner's Answer. No separate Answer need be filed.

(3) The effective date of this Order is December 1, 2016. The Court reserves the right to modify this order from time to time, or to rescind the order entirely, as the Court determines necessary in light of experience.

(4) The Court Clerk shall post a copy of this Order on the Court's website, and shall distribute copies as the Clerk deems appropriate.

DATED this 1st day of December 2016.

James H. Payne, Chief Judge
United States District Court

Ronald A. White, Judge
United States District Court

Frank H. Seay, Senior Judge
United States District Court

Kimberly E. West, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court

Steven P. Shreder, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court