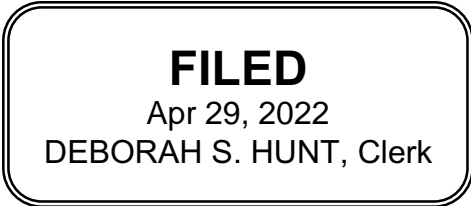


No. 21-4069

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**



DUSTIN L. BOWERS, )  
 )  
Plaintiff-Appellant, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY, )  
 )  
Defendant-Appellee. )

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED  
STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF  
OHIO

OPINION

Before: KETHLEDGE, STRANCH, and NALBANDIAN, Circuit Judges.

**JANE B. STRANCH, Circuit Judge.** Dustin Bowers appeals the district court’s opinion affirming the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Social Security disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income benefits for a closed period of August 30, 2009 to September 21, 2014. On appeal, Bowers makes the same argument that he presented in district court: that the Administrative Law Judge erred in determining that he did not require a job coach during the relevant period.

We review district court decisions regarding social security benefits determinations de novo. *Gentry v. Comm’r of Soc. Sec.*, 741 F.3d 708, 722 (6th Cir. 2014). When reviewing the Commissioner’s determination of whether a claimant is disabled and entitled to benefits, we are “limited to determining whether it is supported by substantial evidence and was made pursuant to proper legal standards.” *Rogers v. Comm’r of Soc. Sec.*, 486 F.3d 234, 241 (6th Cir. 2007). Substantial evidence means “more than a scintilla of evidence but less than a preponderance; it is

such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.” *Id.* (quoting *Cutlip v. Sec’y of Health & Human Servs.*, 25 F.3d 284, 286 (6th Cir. 1994)). “An ALJ’s failure to follow agency rules and regulations ‘denotes a lack of substantial evidence, even where the conclusion of the ALJ may be justified based upon the record.’” *Cole v. Astrue*, 661 F.3d 931, 937 (6th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Blakley v. Comm’r of Soc. Sec.*, 581 F.3d 399, 407 (6th Cir. 2009)). Finally, at issue in social security cases is not whether we would have reached the same decision on this record. When determining whether to affirm the Commissioner’s decision, we need not “agree with the Commissioner’s finding”; we instead ask whether the decision followed legal standards and “is substantially supported in the record.” *Rogers*, 486 F.3d at 241. The district court’s decision establishes that the applicable standard was satisfied here.

After considering the record and the parties’ briefs, we find that the district court’s Opinion & Order of September 16, 2021 sufficiently articulates the relevant facts, governing law, and the reasoning underlying its decision. Issuing a full opinion would be duplicative and serve no other purpose. We therefore **AFFIRM** the judgment and adopt the district court’s decision as this court’s opinion.