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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

8 In Re:

9 ACTIONS SEEKING REVIEW OF THE  
10 COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
11 SECURITY'S FINAL DECISION  
12 DENYING AN APPLICATION FOR  
13 BENEFITS

**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER  
04-15  
RE: PILOT PROGRAM FOR  
ELECTRONIC SERVICE  
IN SOCIAL SECURITY CASES**

13 A significant number of cases seeking review of the Commissioner of Social  
14 Security's ("Commissioner") decision denying an application for benefits are filed in this  
15 District. The Court and the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of  
16 Washington ("USAO-WDWA") share an interest in facilitating the efficient resolution of  
17 those complaints. To this end, on June 1, 2015, the Court issued General Order 04-15  
18 initiating a one-year Pilot Program for Electronic Service in Social Security Cases ("Pilot  
19 Program"). In May 2016, the USAO-WAWD agreed to extend the terms of the Pilot  
20 Program set forth in General Order 04-15 for an additional two year period. The Pilot  
21 Program is an on-going success. The USAO-WAWD has agreed to a second extension  
22 of two years as set forth in General Order 04-15.  
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1           **ACCORDINGLY, THE COURT AMENDS GENERAL ORDER 04-15 AND**  
2 **HEREBY ORDERS:**

3           (1)     The Pilot Program initiated in General Order 04-15 shall remain in effect  
4 through June 1, 2020. During this period, the USAO WDWA may unilaterally modify or  
5 terminate the Pilot Program.

6           (2)     The Pilot Program shall apply only to complaints instituted by a plaintiff  
7 against the Commissioner in which the only claim that is being brought is pursuant to 42  
8 U.S.C. § 405(g). It shall not apply to any other complaint. In particular, the Pilot  
9 Program does not apply to (a) complaints that include claims against the Commissioner  
10 in addition to, or other than, those brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); or (b)  
11 complaints that include defendants other than the Commissioner.  
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13           (3)     Plaintiffs who wish to avail themselves of the Pilot Program for electronic  
14 service shall:

15           A. Provide the USAO-WDWA with a copy of the summons and complaint by  
16 email to [USAWAW.SSAClerk@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAWAW.SSAClerk@usdoj.gov);

17           B. Provide the USAO-WDWA with the identifying information set forth in  
18 General Order 05-15 by email to [USAWAW.SSAClerk@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAWAW.SSAClerk@usdoj.gov); and

19           C. File a Certificate of Service through the Court's Electronic Court Filing  
20 ("ECF") system indicating when the summons and complaint and identifying information  
21 was sent to the USAO-WDWA's designated email address.  
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1 (4) Service of a summons and complaint under this Pilot Program will be  
2 considered complete only when all three steps in paragraph 3 above have been  
3 completed.

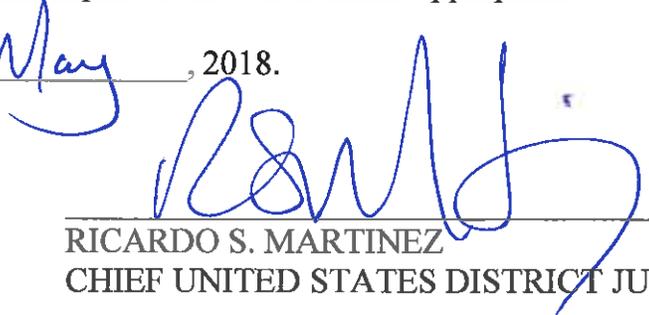
4 (5) If a plaintiff chooses to avail himself or herself of this Pilot Program and  
5 effectuates service in accordance with this Amended General Order, the government  
6 agrees not to raise insufficient service as a defense in its answer or other response to the  
7 complaint. However, nothing in this Amended General Order or the Pilot Program on  
8 electronic service shall be deemed to be a waiver of service pursuant to Federal Rule of  
9 Civil Procedure 4(d).  
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11 (6) This Amended General Order is effective June 1, 2018, and shall remain in  
12 effect through June 1, 2020. However, upon one month's notice, the USAO-WDWA  
13 may unilaterally modify or terminate the Pilot Program.

14 (7) The Court reserves the right to rescind this Amended General Order  
15 entirely as the Court determines necessary in light of experience.

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

18 DATED this 7 day of May, 2018.

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22 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
23 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE