

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
OHIO, WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON

Shawn Foster v. Springfield ALF, LLC et al.

Foster · No. 3:25-cv-418 · Decided January 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio granted the plaintiff’s motion to remand a personal injury action to the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio. The court held that complete diversity was lacking because the decedent, whose citizenship governed the estate representative’s citizenship, and the defendants were all citizens of Ohio.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division at Dayton
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Thomas M. Rose
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division at Dayton
DECIDED	January 29, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-418
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved to remand a removed personal-injury action for lack of subject matter jurisdiction based on incomplete diversity. Defendants consented to remand.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The removing party bears the burden of establishing federal subject matter jurisdiction. Removal is proper only when the federal district courts have original jurisdiction, including complete diversity of citizenship and an amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court remand order with no reporter citation.
PARTIES	Shawn Foster v. Springfield ALF, LLC, Angel Anthony

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- personal injury

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

personal injury

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the federal court had diversity subject matter jurisdiction over an action brought by an estate representative when the decedent and defendants were all citizens of Ohio.
2. Whether the action should be remanded to the Ohio Court of Common Pleas for lack of complete diversity.

HOLDINGS

1. Complete diversity did not exist because the estate representative is deemed to be a citizen of the same state as the decedent under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(2), and the decedent was an Ohio citizen while the defendants were also Ohio citizens.
2. The motion to remand was granted, and the case was remanded to the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio because the federal court lacked subject matter jurisdiction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction.” (Standard of Review)

“The burden of establishing jurisdiction falls on the removing party.” (Standard of Review)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Judith A. Foster allegedly sustained injuries when an unsecured wheelchair tipped over while she was riding in a medical transport van owned and operated by Defendants. She later died for reasons unrelated to the case, while domiciled in Ohio. Shawn Foster, a Wisconsin resident, sued as executor of her estate; Springfield ALF, LLC and Angel Anthony were Ohio citizens.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff brought the action as executor of Judith A. Foster's estate in the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio. Defendants removed the case to the Southern District of Ohio under diversity jurisdiction. The district court granted Plaintiff's motion to remand, remanded the case to the state court, and terminated the federal case.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The case is remanded to the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio. The federal case is terminated on the district court's docket.

CASES CITED

- Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994)
- Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. v. Jackson, 587 U.S. 435, 437 (2019)
- Insurance Corp. of Ireland v. Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee, 456 U.S. 694, 701 (1982)
- Eastman v. Marine Mechanical Corp., 438 F.3d 544, 549 (6th Cir.)
- Naji v. Lincoln, 665 F. App'x 397, 400 (6th Cir.)
- Varsity Brands, Inc. v. Star Athletica, LLC, 799 F.3d 468, 494 (6th Cir. 2015)
- Star Athletica, L.L.C. v. Varsity Brands, Inc., 580 U.S. 405 (2017)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON SHAWN FOSTER,: Plaintiff,: Case No. 3:25-cv-418 v.:
Judge Thomas M. Rose SPRINGFIELD ALF, LLC et al.,: Magistrate Judge Caroline H. Gentry
Defendants.:

ENTRY AND ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S MOTION TO REMAND (DOC.

NO.

10)

Presently before the Court is Plaintiff Shawn Foster’s (“Plaintiff”) Motion to Remand (the “Motion”) (Doc. No. 10), along with Defendants Springfield ALF, LLC and Angel Anthony’s (“Defendants”) (collectively, the “Parties”) Notice of Consent to Remand (Doc. No. 13).

As set forth below, because the Court agrees with the Parties that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction to hear this case, the Court GRANTS Plaintiff’s Motion to Remand (Doc. No. 10). I. BACKGROUND This matter stems from a personal injury dispute, wherein Judith A. Foster (“Ms. Foster”) sustained injuries while riding in a medical transport van owned and operated by Defendants.

(Doc. No. 2 at PageID 15–16.) Allegedly, Ms. Foster’s “unsecured wheelchair tipped over, causing [her] to be thrown from the chair and sustain injuries.” (Id. at PageID 16.) As a result, Ms. Foster was moved “from assisted self-sufficient living to skilled nursing.” (Id.)

For reasons unrelated to the instant case, Ms. Foster died on May 26, 2025. (Id.) At the time of her death, Ms. Foster was a resident of Clark County, Ohio. (Doc. No. 13 at PageID 85–86.) On November 24, 2025, Plaintiff, a Wisconsin resident, brought this suit as the executor of Ms. Foster’s estate in the Common Pleas Court of Clark County, Ohio. (Doc. No. 2 at PageID 15.)

On December 3, 2025, Defendants, both residents of Ohio, removed the case to this Court on the basis of diversity jurisdiction. (Doc. No. 1 at PageID 1.) On December 8, 2025, Plaintiff timely

moved to remand, arguing this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction due to a lack of complete diversity between the opposing parties. (Doc. No. 10 at PageID 50.)

In lieu of a response in opposition to Plaintiff's Motion, Defendants filed a Notice of Consent to Remand, therein agreeing with Plaintiff that the Court does not have jurisdiction to hear the case. (Doc. No. 13 at PageID 85–86.) Consequently, the instant matter is ripe for disposition. II. STANDARD OF REVIEW Under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), "any civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by defendant... to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending." "Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction." *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins.*

Co. of Am., 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994). Therefore, lower federal courts can adjudicate cases about only "those subjects encompassed within a statutory grant of jurisdiction." *Home Depot U. S. A., Inc. v. Jackson*, 587 U.S. 435, 437 (2019) (quoting *Ins. Corp. of Ireland v. Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee*, 456 U.S. 694, 701 (1982)). A court has diversity jurisdiction over a case where there is complete diversity of citizenship between the opposing parties, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

28 U.S.C. § 1332. The burden of establishing jurisdiction falls on the removing party. *Eastman v. Marine Mech. Corp.*, 438 F.3d 544, 549 (6th Cir. 2000). III. ANALYSIS As mentioned, Defendants' basis for removal is derived from diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. (Doc. No. 1 at PageID 1.) "The diversity of the parties is determined on the basis of their citizenship—that is to say their domiciles." *Naji v. Lincoln*, 665 F. App'x 397, 400 (6th Cir.

2016). Where a case is brought by a representative on behalf of an estate, "the legal representative of the estate of a decedent shall be deemed to be a citizen only of the same State as the decedent." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(2). An LLC's domicile is determined by "the citizenship of each of its members." *Varsity Brands, Inc. v. Star Athletica, LLC*, 799 F.3d 468, 494 (6th Cir.

2015) (citation and quotation marks omitted), *aff'd sub nom., Star Athletica, L.L.C. v. Varsity Brands, Inc.*, 580 U.S. 405 (2017). Here, the domiciles of the parties are undisputed. (See Doc. No. 13.) At the time of her death, Ms. Foster—whose residence determines Plaintiff's domicile—was a resident of Ohio. (Id. at PageID 85–86.) Eamon Burgess, the sole member of Springfield ALF, LLC, is a citizen of Ohio, as is his co-defendant, Angel Anthony.

(Doc. Nos. 13 at PageID 86; 2 at PageID 15.) Consequently, there is no complete diversity, and the Court thus lacks subject matter jurisdiction to hear the case. IV. CONCLUSION For the reasons stated above, the Court hereby ORDERS that: (1) Plaintiff's Motion to Remand (Doc. No. 10) is GRANTED; (2) This case shall be REMANDED to the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio; and (3) This case is TERMINATED on the Court's docket.

DONE and ORDERED in Dayton, Ohio, this Thursday, January 29, 2026. s/Thomas M. Rose

THOMAS M. ROSE UNITED STATES DISTRICT
JUDGE

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