

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Deshawn Thomas v. Charles Daniel, et al.

Thomas · No. 2:18-cv-00020-GMN-EJY · Decided January 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada dismissed Deshawn Thomas’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus without prejudice as moot after respondents reported that Thomas had died. The court directed the Clerk to close the case and enter judgment.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gloria M. Navarro
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
DECIDED	January 13, 2026
DOCKET	2:18-cv-00020-GMN-EJY
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 dismissed as moot after respondents notified the court that petitioner had died.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Deshawn Thomas v. Charles Daniel, et al.

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the petition for a writ of habeas corpus became moot upon petitioner’s death.
- Whether the court should dismiss the moot habeas petition without prejudice and close the case.

HOLDINGS

1. A petitioner’s death, which ends the detention challenged in a habeas action, renders the petition moot because the action no longer presents a live case or controversy.
2. The moot habeas petition should be dismissed without prejudice, the case closed, and judgment entered accordingly.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A petitioner’s death renders the habeas petition moot.” (at 1)

“Because petitioner’s death renders this case moot, the petition for a writ of habeas corpus should be dismissed as moot.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Deshawn Thomas was a state prisoner who filed a federal habeas petition challenging his state conviction. While the action was pending, respondents notified the court that Thomas died on January 12, 2026. Because his death ended his detention, the court concluded that the petition no longer presented a live case or controversy.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Thomas commenced a state-custody habeas action and filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The court appointed counsel and entered a scheduling order. Respondents filed a suggestion of death stating that Thomas died on January 12, 2026, and the court dismissed the petition without prejudice as moot and directed the clerk to close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Dove v. United States, 423 U.S. 325 (1976)
- Farmer v. McDaniel, 692 F.3d 1052 (9th Cir. 2012)
- Garceau v. Woodford, 399 F.3d 1101 (9th Cir. 2005)
- Griffey v. Lindsey, 349 F.3d 1157 (9th Cir. 2003)

OPINION

1 2 3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 4 DISTRICT OF NEVADA 5 DESHAWN THOMAS, Case No. 2:18-cv-00020-GMN-EJY 6 Petitioner, v. ORDER 7 CHARLES DANIEL, et al., 8 Respondents. 9 10 Petitioner Deshawn Thomas commenced this habeas action by filing a Petition for Writ 11 of Habeas Corpus. ECF No. 6.

The Court appointed counsel and entered a scheduling order. 12 ECF No. 9. Respondents have now filed a suggestion of death on the record indicating that 13 Thomas died on January 12, 2026. ECF No. 83. 14 The Court may entertain a state prisoner’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus only

on the 15 ground that he is “in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United 16 States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

A petitioner’s death renders the habeas petition moot. See *Dove v. 17 United States*, 423 U.S. 325 (1976) (per curiam) (dismissing petition for a writ of certiorari from 18 appellate decision in criminal proceedings upon petitioner’s death); *Farmer v. McDaniel*, 692 19 F.3d 1052 (9th Cir. 2012) (upon notice of petitioner’s death, appeal dismissed as moot and case 20 remanded to district court to dismiss habeas petition as moot); *Garceau v. Woodford*, 399 F.3d 21 1101 (9th Cir. 2005) (“Because petitioner’s death renders this case moot, the petition for a writ 22 of habeas corpus should be dismissed as moot.”); *Griffey v. Lindsey*, 349 F.3d 1157 (9th Cir. 23 2003) (same). 24 Thomas’s death constitutes an end to his detention; thus, this action no longer presents a 25 live case or controversy.

Accordingly, the Petition challenging his state conviction is now moot. 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///] It is therefore ordered that Petitioner Deshawn Thomas’s Petition for Writ of Habeas 2 || Corpus (ECF No. 6) is dismissed without prejudice as moot, on account of Thomas’s death. 3 The Clerk of the Court is kindly directed to close this case and enter judgment 4 || accordingly 5 DATED: — January 13, 2026 GLOR 4 M. NAVARRO g UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 9 10 1] 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28