

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)