

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Gohre v. Hoy

Gohre · No. 24-cv-448-jdp · Decided January 9, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin granted defendant Jared Hoy’s motion for summary judgment in Demetrius Gohre’s religious-liberty action. The court held that Gohre’s claims for injunctive and declaratory relief under the First Amendment and RLUIPA were moot because prison medical staff offered alternative medications whenever he expressed concern about pork-derived ingredients, and there was no evidence of an ongoing violation or need for the challenged medications. The court directed the clerk to enter judgment and close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James D. Peterson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	January 9, 2026
DOCKET	24-cv-448-jdp
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant moved for summary judgment on the ground that plaintiff's claims for injunctive and declaratory relief were moot and failed on the merits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is appropriate when the undisputed facts show that there is no ongoing violation supporting the requested injunctive or declaratory relief; such claims are moot when the threat of the challenged conduct is no longer present and no damages claim remains.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- free exercise clause
- prisoners rights
- summary judgment
- constitutional law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Gohre's First Amendment Free Exercise Clause and RLUIPA claims for injunctive and declaratory relief were moot because prison officials were no longer requiring him to choose between effective medical treatment and consuming possible pork byproducts.
2. Whether summary judgment should be granted where the undisputed facts showed no ongoing religious-liberty violation and no damages claim remained.

HOLDINGS

1. The claims were moot because the undisputed facts showed no ongoing violation or realistic probability that Gohre would be forced to choose between maintaining his health and consuming medication that might contain pork byproducts.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The basic rule is that if the plaintiff seeks injunctive and declaratory relief, but the threat of the conduct that he seeks to enjoin is no longer present, the suit must be dismissed as moot, unless a claim for damages remains.” (Analysis)

“On this record, there’s no realistic probability that Gohre will have to choose between maintaining his health and risk violating the tenets of his faith by consuming pork products.” (Analysis)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Gohre alleged that medications prescribed to him could contain pork-derived gelatin, causing him to stop taking them to comply with Islam. When he expressed concerns about diphenhydramine, verapamil, and prazosin, medical providers offered alternative medications or formulations without gelatin or pork byproducts. The undisputed record showed no evidence that officials withheld effective non-pork medication or that Gohre currently required any of the challenged medications.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Demetrius Gohre, proceeding pro se, brought First Amendment Free Exercise Clause and RLUIPA claims against Wisconsin Department of Corrections Secretary Jared Hoy based on alleged pork byproducts in prescribed medications. Hoy moved for summary judgment. The court granted the motion, directed entry of judgment, and ordered the case closed.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Brown v. Bartholomew Consol. Sch. Corp.*, 442 F.3d 588, 596 (7th Cir. 2006)

- *Stevens v. Hous. Auth. of S. Bend*, 720 F. Supp. 2d 1013, 1025 (N.D. Ind. 2010)
- *Stanford v. Wenzel*, No. 23-cv-604-jdp, 2024 WL 4039801, at *2 (W.D. Wis. Sept. 4, 2024)
- *Maddox v. Love*, 655 F.3d 709, 716 (7th Cir. 2011)
- *Chicago United Indus., Ltd. v. City of Chicago*, 445 F.3d 940, 947 (7th Cir. 2006)

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