

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
OKLAHOMA

William E. Liebel v. Terri Robertson, et al.

No. CIV-24-894-SLP, United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma (May 28, 2026)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma strikes a scheduled status conference in William E. Liebel v. Terri Robertson, et al. The court finds the conference futile because Defendant Theresa Framel, proceeding pro se, repeatedly failed to comply with court-ordered obligations and did not participate in preparing the joint status report and discovery plan.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Scott L. Palk
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
DECIDED	May 28, 2026
DOCKET	CIV-24-894-SLP
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered a Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan filed by all parties except Defendant Theresa Framel.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- discovery

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the scheduled status conference should be stricken because Defendant Framel repeatedly refused to participate in the court-ordered conferral and Joint Status Report process.

HOLDINGS

1. A pro se litigant proceeding in an individual capacity must comply with the same rules and procedures governing other litigants.
2. The court may strike a scheduled status conference when a party's continued failure to participate makes the conference futile.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“follow the same rules and procedures that govern other litigants.” (1277)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties other than Defendant Theresa Framel filed a Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan. The court had repeatedly advised Framel that her pro se status did not relieve her of compliance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the court's Local Rules, or orders requiring her to confer with the other parties. Plaintiff's counsel emailed and called Framel multiple times regarding the report, but Framel did not respond during the sixteen-day period provided for her response.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties submitted a Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan in ongoing federal litigation. Defendant Framel, proceeding pro se in her individual capacity, did not participate despite repeated court directives and multiple attempts by plaintiff's counsel to contact her. The court concluded that the previously scheduled status conference would be futile and struck it.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Nielsen v. Price, 17 F.3d 1276, 1277 (10th Cir. 1994)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA WILLIAM E. LIEBEL,)) Plaintiff,)) v.) Case No. CIV-24-894-SLP) TERRI ROBERTSON, et al.,)) Defendants.) O R D E R Before the Court is the Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan (JSR) filed by all parties, aside from Defendant Theresa Framel, in this matter.

Having reviewed the JSR the Court STRIKES the status conference scheduled for June 3, 2026. The Court has repeatedly advised Ms. Framel that, although she is proceeding pro se in her individual capacity, she is nevertheless required to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court. See e.g., Orders [Doc Nos. 55, 59, 62, 65, 72, 85, 108, 109, 124]; see also Nielsen v. Price, 17 F.3d 1276, 1277 (10th Cir.

1994) (a pro se litigant must “follow the same rules and procedures that govern other litigants.”). The Court has further informed Ms. Framel that she is required to confer with the other parties when this Court orders her to do so. [Doc. No. 85]. Despite this, Ms. Framel continues to refuse to engage.

The parties report in their JSR that they attempted to contact Ms. Framel multiple times to no avail. On May 11, 2026, Plaintiff’s counsel began contacting Ms. Framel regarding the JSR. Plaintiff’s counsel emailed the JSR to Ms. Framel several times, at several of her known email addresses. Plaintiff’s counsel further called and left voice messages for Ms. Framel regarding the JSR.

Ms. Framel had sixteen (16) days to respond to Plaintiff’s counsel regarding the JSR but failed to do so. Given Ms. Framel’s history, and her continued failure to properly engage in this litigation, the Court deems a status conference futile. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the status conference scheduled for June 3, 2026 is STRICKEN. IT IS SO ORDERED this 28th day of May, 2026 SCOTL.PALKs— CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE