

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, TAMPA DIVISION

Gabrielle Chatham v. Chinle Development, Inc. and Todd Holender

Chatham · No. 8:25-cv-3017-MSS-NHA · Decided January 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida adopted a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation granting Chinle Development, Inc.’s unopposed motion to compel arbitration. The court ordered the parties to arbitrate their claims and defenses, stayed the proceeding pending arbitration, and administratively closed the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mary S. Scriven
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
DECIDED	January 5, 2026
DOCKET	8:25-cv-3017-MSS-NHA
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending that an unopposed motion to compel arbitration be granted and the proceedings stayed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), the district judge may accept, reject, or modify a magistrate judge's report and recommendation after careful review. Specific objections require de novo review of the challenged portions; absent specific objections, de novo review of factual findings is not required, while legal conclusions are reviewed de novo even without an objection.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; nonprecedential

TOPICS

arbitration

civil procedure

commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

arbitration

commercial litigation

contracts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending that the unopposed motion to compel arbitration be granted.
2. Whether the proceeding should be stayed pending resolution of the parties' claims and defenses in arbitration.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court may adopt, confirm, and approve the Report and Recommendation after reviewing the record when no party has filed a specific objection.
2. The motion to compel arbitration is granted, and the parties must advance the claims and defenses asserted in the lawsuit through binding arbitration as provided in their agreement.
3. The proceeding must be stayed pending resolution of the arbitration.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The parties shall advance the claims and defenses asserted in this lawsuit via binding arbitration as provided in the parties' agreement."

"This proceeding is STAYED pending resolution in arbitration."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Gabrielle Chatham asserted claims and defenses against Chinle Development, Inc. and Todd Holender. The parties' agreement contained an arbitration provision, and Defendant Chinle moved without opposition to compel arbitration and stay the case. The district court ordered the parties to advance the claims and defenses through binding arbitration under that agreement.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Defendant Chinle Development, Inc. filed an unopposed motion to compel arbitration and stay the proceedings. Magistrate Judge Natalie Hirt Adams recommended granting the motion and ordering the parties to submit all claims in the complaint to arbitration. With no objections filed, the district court independently reviewed the record, adopted and approved the Report and Recommendation, compelled arbitration, stayed the case, and administratively closed it.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Williams v. Wainwright, 681 F.2d 732, 732 (11th Cir. 1982)
- Jeffrey S. v. State Bd. of Educ., 896 F.2d 507, 512 (11th Cir. 1990)
- Garvey v. Vaughn, 993 F.2d 776, 779 n.9 (11th Cir. 1993)
- Cooper-Houston v. Southern Ry., 37 F.3d 603, 604 (11th Cir. 1994)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA TAMPA DIVISION
GABRIELLE CHATHAM, Plaintiff, v. Case No: 8:25-cv-3017-MSS-NHA CHINLE
DEVELOPMENT, INC., and TODD HOLENDER, Defendants. ORDER THIS CAUSE comes
before the Court for consideration of Defendant Chinle Development, Inc.’s Unopposed Motion to
Compel Arbitration and Stay Proceedings. (Dkt. 6) On December 17, 2025, United States
Magistrate Judge Natalie Hirt Adams issued a Report and Recommendation.

(Dkt. 9) Judge Adams recommended that the Motion be granted, the parties be ordered to submit
all claims in Plaintiff’s Complaint to arbitration, and the case be stayed pending the outcome of
arbitration. (Id.) No Party has objected to the Report and Recommendation as the motion was
unopposed.

In the Eleventh Circuit, a district judge may accept, reject, or modify the magistrate judge’s report
and recommendation after conducting a careful and complete review of the findings and
recommendations. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Williams v. Wainwright, 681 F.2d 732, 732 (11th Cir.
1982). A district judge “shall make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or
specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made.” 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)
(1)(C).

This requires that the district judge “give fresh consideration to those issues to which specific
objection has been made by a party.” Jeffrey S. v. State Bd. of Educ., 896 F.2d 507, 512 (11th
Cir.1990) (quoting H.R. 1609, 94th Cong. § 2 (1976)).

In the absence of specific objections, there is no requirement that a district judge review factual
findings de novo, Garvey v. Vaughn, 993 F.2d 776, 779 n.9 (11th Cir. 1993), and the court may
accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings and recommendations. 28 U.S.C. §
636(b)(1)(C).

The district judge reviews legal conclusions de novo, even in the absence of an objection. See
Cooper-Houston v. Southern Ry., 37 F.3d 603, 604 (11th Cir. 1994). Upon consideration of the
Report and Recommendation, in conjunction with an independent examination of the file, the
Court finds that the Report and Recommendation should be adopted, confirmed, and approved in
all respects.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that: 1. The Report and Recommendation, (Dkt. 9), is CONFIRMED and ADOPTED as part of this Order. 2. Defendants' Unopposed Motion to Compel Arbitration, (Dkt. 6), is GRANTED. 3. The parties shall advance the claims and defenses asserted in this lawsuit via binding arbitration as provided in the parties' agreement. (Dkt. 6-1) 4. This proceeding is STAYED pending resolution in arbitration.

5. The parties shall have fourteen (14) days after the completion of arbitration to file a notice or appropriate motion advising the Court how and whether this case should proceed. 6. The Clerk is directed to Administratively CLOSE THIS CASE. DONE and ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, this 5th day of January 2026. MARYS: SCRIVEN UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE Copies furnished to: Counsel of Record Any Unrepresented Person