

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Barry Keith Riddick v. POAH Management Company, et al.

No. 25-cv-11913 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 24, 2025) · No. 25-cv-11913 · Decided December 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The court orders the U.S. Marshals Service to use reasonable efforts to locate and personally serve defendant Kellia Young after service by certified mail was not effective under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or Michigan law. The Marshals Service must report the results of its service attempt by February 23, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Elizabeth A. Stafford
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division
DECIDED	December 24, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-11913
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	In an action under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the pro se plaintiff proceeded in forma pauperis. After the U.S. Marshals Service attempted service on defendant Kellia Young by certified mail at her workplace, the magistrate judge determined that service was defective and directed the Marshals Service to make reasonable efforts to locate and personally serve Young.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(a), objections to the magistrate judge's nondispositive order may be sustained only if the order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential district-court order
PARTIES	Barry Keith Riddick v. POAH Management Company, Kellia Young, Jane Doe supervisor of Kellia Young

TOPICS

service of process

civil procedure

credit reporting

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil procedure

Service of process

Fair Credit Reporting Act

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether service on Kellia Young was valid under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4.
2. Whether service on Young was valid under Michigan Court Rule 2.105(A).
3. What further service efforts the U.S. Marshals Service was required to make for an in forma pauperis plaintiff.

HOLDINGS

1. Service was not valid under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(e) because Young was not personally served, the summons and complaint were not left at her dwelling or usual place of abode with a suitable resident, and Miranda White was not shown to be an agent authorized to accept service.
2. Service was not proper under Michigan Court Rule 2.105(A)(2) because the return receipt was not signed by Young, the addressee.
3. The U.S. Marshals Service was required to use reasonable efforts to locate and personally serve Young within 60 days and to report the results to the court by February 23, 2026.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Riddick brought a Fair Credit Reporting Act action against POAH Management Company, Kellia Young, and a Jane Doe supervisor. Proceeding in forma pauperis, he relied on the U.S. Marshals Service to serve Young. The Marshals Service sent certified mail, restricted delivery, to Young's workplace, but Miranda White signed the return receipt, and there was no indication that White was authorized to accept service for Young.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The district court granted Riddick leave to proceed in forma pauperis and ordered the U.S. Marshals Service to serve Young. The Marshals Service sent certified mail restricted to the addressee at Young's work address, but the return receipt was signed by Miranda White rather than Young. The matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Stafford for pretrial matters, and the magistrate judge issued this service-related order.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand was ordered. The U.S. Marshals Service was directed to use reasonable efforts to locate and personally serve Kellia Young within 60 days and to inform the court of the results by February 23, 2026.

CASES CITED

- Byrd v. Stone, 94 F.3d 217, 219 (6th Cir. 1996)
- Donaldson v. United States, 35 F. App'x 184, 185 (6th Cir. 2002)
- Dortch v. First Fidelity Mortgage Co. of Michigan, 8 F. App'x 542, 546 (6th Cir. 2001)
- Richard v. Bouchard, No. 12-12516, 2013 WL 4417440, at *2 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 15, 2013)
- Johnson v. Herren, No. 2:13-cv-583, 2013 WL 6410447, at *2-*4 (S.D. Ohio Dec. 9, 2013)
- Reed-Bey v. Pramstaller, No. 06-CV-10934, 2013 WL 1183301, at *2 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 21, 2013)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION BARRY KEITH RIDDICK, Case No. 25-cv-11913 Plaintiff, Honorable Linda V. Parker Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Stafford v. POAH MANAGEMENT COMPANY, et al., Defendants. ORDER DIRECTING U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE TO USE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO SERVE DEFENDANT Plaintiff Barry Keith Riddick, proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis, brings this action under the Fair Credit Reporting Act against POAH Management Company, Kellia Young, and a Jane Doe supervisor of Young.

ECF No. 1. The Honorable Linda V. Parker referred the case to the undersigned to resolve all pretrial matters under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). ECF No. 6. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d), officers of the court must “issue and serve process” when a plaintiff is proceeding in forma pauperis. And Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3) provides that the court appoint the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to serve process in these cases.

Together, Rule 4(c)(3) and 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d) “stand for the proposition that when a plaintiff is proceeding in forma pauperis the court is obligated to issue plaintiff’s process to a United States Marshal who must in turn effectuate service upon the defendants, thereby relieving a plaintiff of the burden to serve process.” Byrd v. Stone, 94 F.3d 217, 219 (6th Cir.

1996) (cleaned up); see also Donaldson v. United States, 35 F. App’x 184, 185 (6th Cir. 2002) (holding that the district court has a statutory responsibility to issue an in forma pauperis plaintiff’s service to the USMS).

The Court granted Riddick’s application to proceed in forma pauperis and ordered the USMS to serve Young. ECF No. 4; ECF No. 5. The USMS attempted to serve Young by certified mail, restricted delivery, sent to 8330 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan—Young’s work address at POAH Management. ECF No. 17. A return receipt was signed by Miranda White, not Young, on August 19, 2025.

Id. This attempt at service does not satisfy federal or state law. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(e)(2) permits serving an individual by: (A) delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the individual personally; (B) leaving a copy of each at the individual’s dwelling or

usual place of abode with someone of suitable age and discretion who resides there; or (C) delivering a copy of each to an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process.

The USMS did not personally serve Young or leave copies of the summons and complaint at her residence with a person of a suitable age, as required under Rule 4(e)(2)(A) or (B). Nor does it appear that the USMS served Young's agent under Rule 4(e)(2)(C), as there is no sign that Miranda White was appointed as Young's agent. Rule 4(e)(1) also permits serving an individual by following state law in the state where the action is pending or where service is made.

The USMS could have served Young under Michigan law by: (1) delivering a summons and a copy of the complaint to the defendant personally; or (2) sending a summons and a copy of the complaint by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and delivery restricted to the addressee. Service is made when the defendant acknowledges receipt of the mail.

A copy of the return receipt signed by the defendant must be attached to proof showing service under subrule (A)(2). Mich. Ct. R. 2.105(A) (emphasis added). The USMS did not personally serve Young, nor does the return receipt bear Young's signature.

Thus, service was not proper under Michigan law either. See *Dortch v. First Fid. Mortg. Co. of Mich.*, 8 F. App'x 542, 546 (6th Cir. 2001) (service was not perfected under Rule 2.105(A)(2) because the defendant did not sign the return receipt); *Richard v. Bouchard*, No. 12-12516, 2013 WL 4417440, at *2 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 15, 2013) (same).

The USMS must now use reasonable efforts to locate and personally serve Young within 60 days. See *Johnson v. Herren*, No. 2:13-cv-583, 2013 WL6410447, at *2-4 (S.D. Ohio Dec. 9, 2013) (ordering the USMS to take reasonable steps to locate the defendant's address through an internet search and by consulting defendant's former employer); *Reed-Bey v. Pramstaller*, No. 06-CV-10934, 2013 WL 1183301, at *2 (E.D.

Mich. Mar. 21, 2013) (USMS was ordered to personally serve the defendants after a fourth waiver request was returned unexecuted). The USMS must inform the Court of the results of its attempt to personally serve Young by February 23, 2026. s/Elizabeth A. Stafford ELIZABETH A. STAFFORD United States Magistrate Judge Dated: December 24, 2025 NOTICE TO PARTIES ABOUT OBJECTIONS Within 14 days of being served with this order, any party may file objections with the assigned district judge.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a). The district judge may sustain an objection only if the order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law. 28 U.S.C. § 636. "When an objection is filed to a magistrate judge's ruling on a non-dispositive motion, the ruling remains in full force and effect unless and until it is stayed by the magistrate judge or a district judge." E.D. Mich. LR 72.2.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE The undersigned certifies that this document was served on counsel of record and any unrepresented parties via the Court's ECF System to their email or First Class U.S. mail addresses disclosed on the Notice of Electronic Filing on December 24, 2025. s/Davon Allen DAVON ALLEN Case Manager

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