

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE, GREENEVILLE DIVISION

Rachel L. Kuntz, et al. v. Andrea Lewis, et al.

No. 2:26-CV-00012-DCLC-CRW (E.D. Tenn. May 12, 2026) · No. 2:26-CV-00012-DCLC-CRW · Decided May 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee adopts a magistrate judge's report and recommendation and dismisses Rachel L. Kuntz's complaint with prejudice. The court declares Kuntz a vexatious litigant and permanently enjoins her from filing new petitions, complaints, or filings in closed cases without obtaining prior court permission. The order also directs the Clerk's Office to identify Kuntz as a restricted filer and establishes procedures for seeking leave to file.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Greeneville Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Clifton L. Corker
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Greeneville Division
DECIDED	May 12, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-CV-00012-DCLC-CRW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to remove a minor child as a party, dismiss the complaint, and declare Rachel L. Kuntz a vexatious litigant. No objections were filed. The district court adopted the report and recommendation, dismissed the complaint with prejudice, and imposed a permanent filing injunction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the report and recommendation for clear error or otherwise accepted its unobjected-to conclusions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Rachel L. Kuntz, et al. v. Andrea Lewis, et al.

TOPICS

injunctions

sanctions

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civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation to remove Plaintiff R.D.B. as a party under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(c) should be adopted.
2. Whether the complaint should be dismissed with prejudice because its allegations were fantastical or delusional and failed to state a claim for relief.
3. Whether Kuntz's documented pattern of repetitive, frivolous, and duplicative filings justified a permanent filing injunction and restricted-filer designation.
4. What procedures Kuntz must follow to obtain permission to file future documents in the district court.

HOLDINGS

1. The court adopted the magistrate judge's recommendation and dismissed the complaint with prejudice because the claims were fantastical or delusional and failed to state claims for which relief could be granted.
2. A district court may impose a comprehensive filing injunction requiring a prolific litigant with a demonstrated pattern of repetitive, frivolous, or vexatious filings to obtain leave before filing new petitions, complaints, or documents in closed cases.
3. Kuntz is permanently enjoined from filing new petitions or complaints in the district court or making new filings in closed cases without first obtaining the court's permission.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A prefiling review requirement is a judicially imposed remedy whereby a plaintiff must obtain leave of the district court to assure that the claims are not frivolous or harassing”

“Based upon Rachel L. Kuntz’s prior conduct, the Court finds that Ms. Kuntz has demonstrated a pattern of filing frivolous lawsuits and motions and, accordingly, finds that it is reasonable to anticipate that Ms. Kuntz will persist in her current pattern of frivolous litigation.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The complaint allegedly included fantastical or delusional allegations and failed to state claims for which relief could be granted. The complaint also attempted to include R.D.B., identified as Kuntz's minor child, as a party. Kuntz had previously filed four complaints, all dismissed at the screening stage, and several involved Andrea Lewis, claims on behalf of the minor child, and similar allegations. The court found this history demonstrated a pattern of frivolous and duplicative litigation and that Kuntz had previously been warned that continued frivolous filings could result in a filing restriction.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The magistrate judge issued an order and report and recommendation recommending removal of Plaintiff R.D.B. under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(c), dismissal of the claims as fantastical or delusional and for failure to state a claim, and a vexatious-litigant designation. Plaintiff did not object within the Rule 72(b) period. The district court adopted the report and recommendation, dismissed the complaint with prejudice, permanently enjoined Kuntz from filing new petitions, complaints, or filings in closed cases without prior permission, and directed the Clerk to designate her as a restricted filer.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Shepherd v. Wellman*, 313 F.3d 963, 970-71 (6th Cir. 2002)
- *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 153-54 (1985)
- *Chambers v. NASCO, Inc.*, 501 U.S. 32, 43-50 (1991)
- *Jones v. Kolb*, 91 Fed. Appx. 367, 369 (6th Cir. 2003)
- *Filipas v. Lemons*, 835 F.2d 1145, 1145 (6th Cir. 1987)
- *Feathers v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc.*, 141 F.3d 264, 269 (6th Cir. 1998)
- *Raimondo v. United States*, No. 21-10854, 2022 WL 3581144 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 19, 2022)
- *United States v. Petlechov*, 72 F.4th 699, 710-11 (6th Cir. 2023)
- *Porter v. D + C Recovable arm. Tr.*, No. CV 23-40170-MRG, 2024 WL 967575, at *2 (D. Mass. Mar. 6, 2024)
- *Daker v. Ward*, 999 F.3d 1300, 1308 (11th Cir. 2021)
- *Childs v. Miller*, 713 F.3d 1262, 1265 (10th Cir. 2013)
- *Kuntz et al. v. Garrison et al.*, No. 2:21-cv-00117-DCLC-CRW
- *Kuntz et al. v. Lewis et al.*, No. 2:22-cv-00034-TAV-CRW
- *Kuntz et al. v. Wray*, No. 2:24-cv-00009-JRG-CRW
- *Kuntz et al. v. Fellers et al.*, No. 2:24-cv-00105-JRG-CRW