

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

Nevin P. Cooper-Keel v. Jeremy Baier, et al.

Cooper-Keel · No. 1:24-cv-1235 · Decided March 24, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan denied Nevin P. Cooper-Keel’s objections to a Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation and adopted the recommendation as the court’s opinion. The court granted Defendant Carter Woodwyk’s motion for judgment on the pleadings, closed the case, and certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jane M. Beckering
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
DECIDED	March 24, 2026
DOCKET	1:24-cv-1235
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff objected to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending granting Defendant Woodwyk's motion for judgment on the pleadings. The district court conducted de novo review of the portions challenged in the objections, denied the objections, adopted the Report and Recommendation, and granted the motion.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(3) of the portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections were made.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court memorandum opinion and order
PARTIES	Nevin P. Cooper-Keel v. Jeremy Baier, Carter Woodwyk

TOPICS

- motion for judgment on the pleadings
- civil procedure
- section 1983
- due process
- civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff's objections to the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation warranted de novo review and rejection of the recommendation.
2. Whether Defendant Woodwyk was entitled to judgment on the pleadings because Plaintiff failed to plausibly allege malicious prosecution and due process claims.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff's wholesale reiteration of his prior arguments did not identify any specific error in the magistrate judge's analysis and was insufficient to require meaningful de novo review.
2. Defendant Woodwyk was entitled to judgment on the pleadings because Plaintiff failed to plausibly allege either his malicious prosecution claim or his due process claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Plaintiff states merely a "wholesale objection" to the Magistrate Judge's conclusions, which is insufficient for meaningful review by the Court." (PageID.427)

"In sum, Plaintiff's objections do not reveal any error in the Magistrate Judge's analysis." (PageID.427)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff alleged malicious prosecution and due process violations based on a misdemeanor charge brought against him and later dismissed. The action was brought against Jeremy Baier, an Allegan County assistant prosecutor, and Carter Woodwyk, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources officer. Baier had already been dismissed, and the remaining claims against Woodwyk were found not to have been plausibly alleged.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Cooper-Keel brought claims for malicious prosecution and due process violations arising from a dismissed misdemeanor charge. Defendant Baier was dismissed previously. Defendant Woodwyk moved for judgment on the pleadings, and the magistrate judge recommended granting the motion because neither claim was plausibly alleged. The district court overruled Plaintiff's objections, adopted the Report and Recommendation, granted judgment on the pleadings, and directed that the case be closed.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Freeman v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs., 972 F.2d 347, at *2 (6th Cir. 1992)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION NEVIN P. COOPER-KEEL, Plaintiff, Case No. 1:24-cv-1235 v. HON. JANE M. BECKERING JEREMY BAIER, et al., Defendants. _____/ MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER Plaintiff Nevin P. Cooper-Keel, proceeding pro se, initiated this action against Defendants Jeremy Baier, an Allegan County assistant prosecutor; and Carter Woodwyk, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources officer.

Plaintiff alleges malicious prosecution and due process violations arising from a misdemeanor charge that was brought against him but subsequently dismissed. Defendant Baier was previously dismissed from this action. Defendant Woodwyk filed a Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, which was fully briefed and referred to the Magistrate Judge.

The Magistrate Judge issued a Report and Recommendation (R&R), recommending that this Court grant the motion and close this case. The matter is presently before the Court on Plaintiff's objections to the Report and Recommendation, to which Woodwyk filed a response.

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(3), the Court has performed de novo consideration of those portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections have been made.

The Court denies the objections. The Magistrate Judge thoroughly considered the factual allegations that Plaintiff supplied in support of his claims, concluding that neither claim was plausibly alleged (R&R, ECF No. 39 at PageID.414–416).

In his objections, Plaintiff reiterates his arguments that his factual allegations were sufficient to support his claims (Objs., ECF No. 40 at PageID.421–424). As Defendant Woodwyk points out (Resp., ECF No. 41 at PageID.427), Plaintiff states merely a “wholesale objection” to the Magistrate Judge's conclusions, which is insufficient for meaningful review by the Court.

See, e.g., *Freeman v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, 972 F.2d 347, at *2 (6th Cir. 1992) (“[The] purpose [of filing objections] is not served if the district court is required to conduct a complete, de novo review of all of the pleadings that were considered by the magistrate judge.”).

In sum, Plaintiff's objections do not reveal any error in the Magistrate Judge's analysis. Accordingly, this Court adopts the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation as the Opinion of this Court. A Judgment will be entered consistent with this Opinion and Order. See FED. R. CIV. P. 58. Consistent with the Magistrate Judge's recommendation, the Court certifies that an appeal of the Judgment would not be taken in good faith.

Therefore: IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Objections (ECF No. 40) are DENIED and the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge (ECF No. 39) is APPROVED and

ADOPTED as the Opinion of the Court. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Woodwyk's Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings (ECF No. 15) is GRANTED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court certifies that an appeal of this decision would not be taken in good faith.

Dated: March 24, 2026 /s/ Jane M. Beckering JANE M. BECKERING United States District Judge