

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN

Suzanne Dobry v. SharkNinja Operating LLC

Dobry · No. 4:25-cv-10042 · Decided December 17, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan denied Plaintiff Suzanne Dobry’s motion to seal, granted her motion to compel, and struck her reply brief for failure to comply with local font and page-limit rules. The court ordered SharkNinja Operating LLC to produce the names and telephone numbers of customers who had reported similar exploding-pitcher incidents, subject to the existing protective order. The order was entered by Magistrate Judge Anthony P. Patti on December 17, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Anthony P. Patti
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
DECIDED	December 17, 2025
DOCKET	4:25-cv-10042
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved to seal an exhibit and to compel discovery in a removed product-liability action. The magistrate judge, to whom discovery matters had been referred, denied the motion to seal, granted the motion to compel, and struck plaintiff's reply brief for violating local formatting and page-limit rules.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order
PARTIES	Suzanne Dobry v. SharkNinja Operating LLC

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- discovery
- commercial litigation
- product liability

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff established sufficiently compelling reasons to seal the redacted exhibits filed with the court.
2. Whether the names and telephone numbers of customers who reported prior similar exploding-pitcher incidents were relevant, proportional, and discoverable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(1).
3. Whether plaintiff's reply brief should be stricken for violating the Eastern District of Michigan's formatting and page-limit rules.

HOLDINGS

1. The motion to seal was denied because neither party overcame the strong presumption of public access to judicial records or demonstrated, on a document-by-document and line-by-line basis, compelling reasons for nondisclosure.
2. The names and telephone numbers of customers who informed SharkNinja of prior similar exploding-pitcher incidents were discoverable because they were relevant to the claims and affirmative defenses and proportional to the needs of the case.
3. The reply brief was stricken because it used a font substantially smaller than the required 14-point font and, if corrected, would exceed the page limit for reply briefs.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“There is a “strong presumption” in favor of open court records.” (305)

“Only the most compelling reasons can justify non-disclosure of judicial records.” (305-06)

“The Court finds the information discoverable and will order its production consistent with other courts who have rejected privacy arguments under similar circumstances.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Dobry alleged claims arising from an exploding pitcher and sought discovery of the names and telephone numbers of customers who had previously reported similar incidents to SharkNinja. SharkNinja resisted production based primarily on the asserted privacy interests of those customers, while the parties had already redacted the most sensitive information from the exhibits at issue. The court found that the requested information concerned potential witnesses and was relevant to Dobry's claims and SharkNinja's affirmative defenses.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Dobry filed the action in Macomb County Circuit Court, and SharkNinja removed it to the Eastern District of Michigan on January 6, 2025. The district judge entered a scheduling order and referred discovery matters to Magistrate Judge Anthony P. Patti under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b). After the parties resolved all discovery issues except production of customer contact information concerning similar exploding-pitcher incidents, Dobry moved to compel and to seal exhibits. Following briefing and a December 17, 2025 hearing, the court entered this order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Shane Group, Inc. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, 825 F.3d 299, 305-06, 308 (6th Cir. 2016)
- Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. v. F.T.C., 710 F.2d 1165, 1180 (6th Cir. 1983)
- Nixon v. Warner Communications, 435 U.S. 589, 597, 98 S. Ct. 1306 (1978)
- In re Knoxville News-Sentinel Co., 723 F.2d 470, 476 (6th Cir. 1983)
- Grae v. Corrections Corp. of Am., 134 F. 4th 927, 932 (6th Cir. 2025)
- Lutes v. Kawasaki Motors Corp., 2014 WL 5420205, Civ. No. 3:10CV1549, at *6 (D. Conn. 2014)
- Pham v. Wal-Mart, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 130038, Case No. 2:11-cv-01148 (D. Nev. 2011)

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