

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA, SHREVEPORT DIVISION

Decalvin Shuntrell Raphiel v. Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr., Lloyd
Pitchford, et al.

Raphiel · No. 25-cv-1119 · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The court granted Plaintiff leave to file a second amended complaint identifying Trans Union, LLC and Experian Information Solutions, Inc. as the only defendants. It dismissed the claims against Lloyd Pitchford and Tiffani L. Chambers, denied related motions as moot or without prejudice, and ordered Plaintiff to file evidence of service on Experian by April 7, 2026 unless Experian responds earlier.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Shreveport Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mark L. Hornsby
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Shreveport Division
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-1119
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a civil action in Shreveport City Court, the action was removed to federal court based on federal question jurisdiction, and the court addressed amendment of the complaint and the effect of the second amended complaint on pending motions to dismiss.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Decalvin Shuntrell Raphiel v. Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr., Lloyd Pitchford, Tiffani L. Chambers, Trans Union, LLC, Experian Information Solutions, Inc.

TOPICS

- pleadings
- motions to dismiss
- service of process
- credit reporting
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

consumer credit reporting

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether defendants omitted from the second amended complaint should be dismissed from the action.
2. Whether pending motions to dismiss directed at an earlier complaint were mooted by the filing of the second amended complaint.
3. Whether Plaintiff was required to serve newly added defendant Experian Information Solutions, Inc. within the time prescribed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m).

HOLDINGS

1. Because the second amended complaint clearly identified Trans Union, LLC and Experian Information Solutions, Inc. as the only defendants, all claims against Lloyd Pitchford and Tiffani L. Chambers were dismissed pursuant to the court's prior amendment order.
2. The filing of an amended complaint generally moots a motion to dismiss filed in response to a prior complaint; accordingly, the pending motions filed by Lloyd Pitchford and Tiffani L. Chambers were denied as moot, and Trans Union's earlier motion was denied without prejudice.
3. Plaintiff was required to serve Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) and to file evidence of valid service by April 7, 2026, unless Experian filed an answer or motion for an extension of time before that date.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The filing of an amended complaint generally moots any motion to dismiss that was filed earlier in response to a prior complaint.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff initiated the action in Shreveport City Court, and it was removed to the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana on the basis of federal question jurisdiction. Following an earlier order concerning amendment, Plaintiff filed a second amended complaint identifying Trans Union, LLC and Experian Information Solutions, Inc. as the only defendants. Experian had been newly added and had not yet been shown to have been served.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After removal, the court permitted Plaintiff to seek leave to amend by identifying the defendants and stating his claims clearly and concisely. Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to file a second amended complaint, which was granted; that complaint named only Trans Union, LLC and Experian Information Solutions, Inc. The court therefore dismissed the claims against Lloyd Pitchford and Tiffani L. Chambers, denied their pending motions to dismiss as moot, denied without prejudice Trans Union's earlier motion directed at a prior complaint, and ordered Plaintiff to provide evidence of service on Experian.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Dozier v. Voodoo Energy Servs. LLC, 2025 WL 606186, at *5 (W.D. La. 2025)

OPINION

Raphiel

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

SHREVEPORT DIVISION

DECALVIN SHUNTRELL RAPHIEL CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-cv-1119

VERSUS JUDGE S. MAURICE HICKS, JR.

LLOYD PITCHFORD ET AL MAGISTRATE JUDGE HORNSBY

MEMORANDUM ORDER

Decalvin Shuntrell Raphiel (“Plaintiff”) filed this civil action in Shreveport City Court, and it was removed to this court based on federal question jurisdiction. The court recently entered a memorandum order (Doc. 54) that addressed Plaintiff’s efforts to amend his complaint. Plaintiff was allowed the opportunity to file a motion for leave to amend that (1) specifically identifies the defendant(s) that Plaintiff intends to sue and (2) states clearly and concisely Plaintiff’s best case in support of the claims that he wishes to pursue. The order noted that any current defendant who was not named in such an amended complaint would be deemed dismissed from the case. Plaintiff responded by filing a motion for leave to file a second amended complaint. Leave was granted, and the second amended complaint states clearly that the only defendants are Trans Union, LLC and Experian Information Solutions, Inc. Accordingly, all claims against defendants Lloyd Pitchford and Tiffani L. Chambers are dismissed, and their pending Motions to Dismiss (Docs. 21 & 23) are denied as moot. Also pending is a Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 39) filed by Trans Union, LLC that attacked a prior amended complaint. The filing of an amended complaint generally moots any motion to dismiss that was filed earlier in response to a prior complaint. Dozier v. Voodoo Energy Servs. LLC, 2025 WL 606186, *5 (W.D. La. 2025). Accordingly, Trans Union’s earlier Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 39) is denied without prejudice. Trans Union may respond to the second amended complaint by filing another motion to dismiss or answer as it chooses. Plaintiff’s second amended complaint added new defendant Experian Information Solutions, Inc. Plaintiff is reminded of his obligation under Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 4(m) to serve Experian within 90 days of the filing of his second amended complaint. Plaintiff is ordered to file evidence of valid service on Experian by April 7, 2026 unless Experian has filed an answer or motion for extension of time

prior to that date. **THUS DONE AND SIGNED** in Shreveport, Louisiana, this 8th day of January, 2026. =| Mark L. Hornsby U.S. Magistrate Judge Page 2 of 2