

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
MISSISSIPPI

A.M. by and through next friend, Nakala Murry, and Nakala Murry
v. City of Indianola, Mississippi and Officer Greg Capers

A.M. v. City of Indianola · No. 4:25-CV-53-JDM-DAS · Decided May 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi denied Plaintiffs’ Motion to Compel. The court held that discovery remained stayed due to pending immunity-based motions and that the requested broad electronic-discovery search exceeded the limited Rule 56(d) discovery previously authorized. The court declined to compel department-wide searches, additional discovery concerning an attorney, sanctions, or fee-shifting.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David A. Sanders
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi
DECIDED	May 29, 2026
DOCKET	4:25-CV-53-JDM-DAS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs moved to compel broad supplemental electronic discovery while immunity-based summary judgment motions were pending and discovery remained stayed, subject only to limited Rule 56(d) authorization.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court evaluated the motion under the governing discovery standards, the continuing immunity-based discovery stay, the limited scope of prior Rule 56(d) orders, proportionality, and the requirements of Rule 26(e).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order
PARTIES	A.M. by and through next friend, Nakala Murry, Nakala Murry v. City of Indianola, Mississippi, Officer Greg Capers

TOPICS

discovery dispute

qualified immunity

summary judgment

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

qualified immunity

discovery

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiffs were entitled to compel broad supplemental electronic discovery while discovery remained stayed under Local Uniform Civil Rule 16(b)(3)(B) because immunity-based motions were pending.
2. Whether the Court's prior Rule 56(d) orders or the parties' supplementation discussions authorized the department-wide searches and additional discovery requested by Plaintiffs.
3. Whether the single email produced by MBI warranted compelled discovery concerning Attorney V. Dorsey.
4. Whether sanctions or fee-shifting should be imposed.

HOLDINGS

1. The Court may not compel broad merits discovery that substantially exceeds the limited Rule 56(d) discovery authorized while immunity-based motions remain pending and the discovery stay remains in effect.
2. The Court's prior Rule 56(d) orders and the parties' post-deposition discussions did not waive the immunity-based discovery stay or authorize unlimited future electronic discovery.
3. The Court would not compel additional discovery concerning Attorney V. Dorsey based on speculation about the nature and extent of her involvement.
4. Sanctions and fee-shifting were unwarranted on the present record.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The rationale underlying such stays is well-established: immunity is not merely a defense to liability, but an entitlement to avoid the burdens of litigation, including broad discovery.”

“The parties’ post-deposition discussions regarding supplemental productions did not constitute a blanket waiver of the qualified-immunity stay or an agreement to unlimited future electronic discovery.”

“But the Court will not compel the broad supplemental discovery requested by Plaintiffs, will not order a department-wide forensic search of municipal communications, and will not impose sanctions or fee-shifting on the present record.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs sought broad supplemental electronic discovery from the City of Indianola based principally on a June 9, 2023, email produced by the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation. The requested discovery included comprehensive searches of employee emails, text messages, and electronic files, including materials concerning

an individual identified as Attorney V. Dorsey. The Court found that prior orders authorized only targeted discovery concerning specified records, custodians, and depositions, and that the parties' discussions reflected confusion but did not establish authorization for a department-wide forensic search.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Court previously stayed discovery under Local Uniform Civil Rule 16(b)(3)(B) after immunity-based summary judgment motions were filed. It later authorized limited production of existing police records and four specified depositions, and subsequently allowed Plaintiffs to substitute a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation for two authorized depositions. Plaintiffs then moved to compel a department-wide search of emails, text messages, and electronic records based principally on an email produced by MBI; the Court denied the motion.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Backe v. LeBlanc, 691 F.3d 645, 648 (5th Cir. 2012)

OPINION

A.M.

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
GREENVILLE DIVISION

A.M. by and through next friend,
NAKALA MURRY, and NAKALA MURRY PLAINTIFFS
v. CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:25-CV-53-JDM-DAS
CITY OF INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI and
OFFICER GREG CAPERS DEFENDANTS
ORDER DENYING MOTION TO COMPEL

Before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel. Having considered the parties' submissions, the procedural posture of the case, and the governing discovery standards applicable where immunity-based motions remain pending, the Court concludes that the motion should be denied. This dispute arises during a period in which discovery has been stayed pursuant to Local Uniform Civil Rule 16(b)(3)(B) following the filing of immunity-based summary judgment motions. Although the Court previously permitted limited Rule 56(d) discovery, that authorization was expressly narrow. The January 8, 2026, Order [76] allowed limited production of existing police records and four specifically identified depositions tailored to issues bearing on immunity and summary judgment. The Court did not authorize broad merits discovery, open-ended electronic discovery, or a

comprehensive search of municipal communications systems. Nor did the Court subsequently lift the stay in any broader respect. The March 24, 2026, Order

[109] merely permitted Plaintiffs to substitute a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (“MBI”) in place of two previously authorized depositions. Plaintiffs nevertheless now seek an order compelling Defendant City of Indianola to conduct what is, in substance, a sweeping supplemental electronic discovery review of employee emails, text messages, and electronic records based upon a June 9, 2023, email produced by MBI in response to a subpoena. Plaintiffs contend the existence of that email demonstrates Defendants failed to comply with their discovery obligations and failed to conduct an adequate search for responsive communications. The Court is unpersuaded. At the outset, Defendants correctly note that discovery remains stayed. Local Rule 16(b)(3)(B) provides that the filing of immunity-based motions stays discovery pending resolution of those motions. The rationale underlying such stays is well-established: immunity is not merely a defense to liability, but an entitlement to avoid the burdens of litigation, including broad discovery. See *Backe v. LeBlanc*, 691 F.3d 645, 648 (5th Cir. 2012). The Court’s Rule 56(d) orders constituted limited exceptions to that stay, not a wholesale reopening of discovery. Critically, Plaintiffs’ present motion seeks relief that substantially exceeds the scope of the limited discovery previously authorized. Plaintiffs request a comprehensive and documented search of City employees’ emails, text messages, and electronic files. Nothing in the Court’s prior orders authorized such expansive discovery. Indeed, the record reflects that during the parties’ discovery conferences and correspondence, the contemplated email searches focused primarily upon the accounts of Chief Sampson, Lieutenant Carter, and Officer Capers. Defendants repeatedly expressed their position that they would not undertake a broad department-wide forensic search of municipal communications systems, and the record reflects that Plaintiffs proceeded with limited discovery against that backdrop. Plaintiffs attempt to characterize Defendants’ agreements to supplement production as overriding the stay and reopening discovery. The Court disagrees. The parties’ post-deposition discussions regarding supplemental productions did not constitute a blanket waiver of the qualified-immunity stay or an agreement to unlimited future electronic discovery. At most, those discussions reflected ongoing supplementation efforts concerning discrete categories of materials identified during the authorized depositions. Importantly, the present record reflects substantial confusion and disagreement between the parties concerning the intended scope of the email searches and supplemental productions. Plaintiffs maintain they never limited their requests to specific custodians; Defendants contend the parties expressly discussed limiting searches to certain identified accounts due to proportionality and expense concerns. The correspondence submitted to the Court and discussions during status conferences between the parties and the Court, support Defendants’ position that the contemplated searches during the Rule 56(d) period were targeted and limited rather than department-wide. The Court is likewise unpersuaded that further compelled discovery concerning “Attorney V. Dorsey” is warranted at this time. The Johnson email merely reflects that an individual identified as

“Attorney V. Dorsey” allegedly recalled Officer Capers having written a use-of-force report and indicated she would attempt to locate it. Plaintiffs’ motion largely rests on speculation regarding the nature and extent of her involvement. The Court declines to order additional discovery based upon conjecture, particularly in light of the continuing immunity stay and the limited scope of discovery previously authorized. The Court further notes that Plaintiffs repeatedly represented during the Rule 56(d) proceedings that the limited discovery already authorized would permit them to respond to summary judgment and that no broader discovery was necessary. Although Plaintiffs now argue those representations were made before the Johnson email surfaced, the Court cannot ignore that Plaintiffs themselves previously characterized the requested Rule 56(d) discovery as narrow and limited. Ultimately, the relief Plaintiffs seek is disproportionate to the showing made. The motion would require the Court to substantially expand discovery during an active immunity stay based principally upon the existence of a single email located through third-party subpoena practice. The Court declines to do so. To the extent Defendants possess additional nonprivileged responsive materials within the scope of their continuing obligations under Rule 26(e), those obligations remain in effect. But the Court will not compel the broad supplemental discovery requested by Plaintiffs, will not order a department-wide forensic search of municipal communications, and will not impose sanctions or fee-shifting on the present record. For these reasons, Plaintiffs’ Motion to Compel is DENIED. SO ORDERED, this the 29th day of May, 2026. /s/ David A. Sanders

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE