

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
MISSISSIPPI, NORTHERN DIVISION

Devon Odom v. Hinds County, Mississippi, et al.

Odom · No. 3:25-cv-42-KHJ-MTP · Decided March 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The court partially grants and partially denies Plaintiff Devon Odom’s motion for attorney’s fees and expenses incurred in obtaining an order compelling discovery from Hinds County. Applying the lodestar method and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(5)(C), the court awards \$11,808.75 after reducing the requested fees by 6% to reflect Plaintiff’s partial success.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Northern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael T. Parker
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Northern Division
DECIDED	March 30, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-42-KHJ-MTP
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for attorney's fees and expenses after partially prevailing on a motion to compel discovery. The court granted the fee motion in part and denied it in part.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court assessed the reasonableness and apportionment of attorney's fees under the lodestar method, the Johnson factors, and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(5)(C).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Devon Odom v. Hinds County, Mississippi, et al.

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- section 1983
- civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff's requested attorney and paralegal hourly rates were reasonable.
2. Whether the hours claimed in connection with the motion to compel and related fee proceedings were reasonably expended.
3. Whether the fee award should be apportioned or reduced because Plaintiff partially failed to obtain the requested discovery.
4. What amount of attorney's fees and expenses should be awarded under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(5)(C).

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff's requested hourly rates of \$375 for attorney time and \$100 for paralegal time were reasonable under the circumstances.
2. The claimed 34.6 hours, consisting of 33.1 attorney hours and 1.5 paralegal hours, were reasonably expended.
3. A fee reduction was appropriate because Plaintiff achieved only partial success, but Hinds County's requested reduction of at least 25% was not warranted; a 6% reduction adequately reflected Plaintiff's lack of success.
4. Plaintiff was entitled to \$11,808.75 in reasonable attorney's fees, representing the requested \$12,562.50 reduced by 6%.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Fifth Circuit uses the "lodestar" method to calculate reasonable attorney's fees, multiplying the number of hours spent on the matter by a reasonable hourly rate for such work in the community."

"The Court is mindful, though, that its "goal ... is to do rough justice, not to achieve auditing perfection.""

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff incurred attorney and paralegal time pursuing a motion to compel discovery from Hinds County. The motion sought responses to approximately 25 interrogatories and requests for production, as well as a complete second set of written discovery; Plaintiff prevailed on nearly all of those requests. Plaintiff requested \$12,562.50 in attorney's fees based on a \$375 hourly attorney rate and a \$100 hourly paralegal rate, supported by affidavits and billing records. Hinds County sought at least a 25% reduction because Plaintiff did not prevail on two discovery requests and allegedly failed to segregate time attributable to unsuccessful issues.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff moved to compel Hinds County to respond to discovery. The court granted the motion in part and denied it in part, finding that Plaintiff prevailed on 23 requests and obtained responses to an entire second set of written discovery, while one request was denied in full and one in part. The court authorized Plaintiff to seek

fees and costs under the discovery order. Plaintiff then moved for fees and expenses, and Hinds County opposed the motion, principally seeking a reduction based on Plaintiff's partial lack of success and alleged failure to segregate billing entries.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Combs v. City of Huntington, 829 F.3d 388, 392 (5th Cir. 2016)
- Auto Parts Mfg. Miss. Inc. v. King Constr. of Houston, LLC, 258 F. Supp. 3d 740, 754 (N.D. Miss. 2017)
- Tollett v. City of Kemah, 285 F.3d 357, 368 (5th Cir. 2002)
- Johnson v. Georgia Highway Express, Inc., 488 F.2d 714 (5th Cir. 1974)
- Gurule v. Land Guardian, Inc., 912 F.3d 252, 257 n.3 (5th Cir. 2019)
- Walker v. U.S. Dep't of Hous. & Urb. Dev., 99 F.3d 761, 770 (5th Cir. 1996)
- Pickett v. Miss. Bd. of Animal Health, 2021 WL 4979009, at *4 (S.D. Miss. Oct. 26, 2021)
- United States ex rel. Jehl v. GGNCS Southaven, LLC, 2024 WL 1145962, at *2 (N.D. Miss. Mar. 14, 2024)
- Haddonfield Foods, Inc. v. S. Hens, Inc., 2022 WL 20438231, at *2 (S.D. Miss. Nov. 3, 2022)
- S. Refuge, LLC v. Bondurant, 2023 WL 2998475, at *3 (S.D. Miss. Apr. 18, 2023)
- Anthony v. Walker, 2025 WL 2639175, at *7 (S.D. Miss. Sept. 12, 2025)
- Wiemer v. Rubino, 2019 WL 2461817, at *3 (S.D. Miss. June 12, 2019)
- Brown v. Ascent Assurance, Inc., 191 F. Supp. 2d 729, 733 (N.D. Miss. 2002)
- Fox v. Vice, 563 U.S. 826, 838 (2011)
- Shumpert v. City of Tupelo, Mississippi, 2017 WL 1740330, at *3 (N.D. Miss. May 3, 2017)
- White Cap LP v. McSpadden, 2024 WL 5440869, at *3 (N.D. Tex. Sept. 16, 2024)

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