

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH
DAKOTA

Julian Pierce Williams v. Paul Olthoff, et al.

Williams · No. 1:25-cr-058 · Decided April 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The court denied without prejudice Plaintiff Julian Pierce Williams’s motion for leave to serve additional interrogatories and requests for admission. The court found that Plaintiff had not shown whether he had used the previously authorized discovery, identified the number or contents of the proposed additional requests, or made a particularized showing that the additional discovery was necessary.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of North Dakota
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Clare R. Hochhalter
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of North Dakota
DECIDED	April 17, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cr-058
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for leave to serve additional interrogatories and requests for admission beyond the limits in the scheduling and discovery order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercised its discretion under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26(b)(2), 33, and 36 to determine whether additional discovery should be permitted.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished federal district court discovery order; persuasive value only.
PARTIES	Julian Pierce Williams v. Paul Olthoff, et al.

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- civil rights
- prisoners rights

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff made the particularized showing required to obtain leave to serve interrogatories beyond the limits in the Federal Rules and the court's scheduling and discovery order.
2. Whether Plaintiff showed that additional requests for admission should be permitted despite the court's authority under Rule 26(b)(2) to limit such discovery.

HOLDINGS

1. Leave to serve additional interrogatories was denied without prejudice because Plaintiff failed to make a particularized showing that the additional discovery was necessary and did not adequately identify the amount or content of the proposed discovery.
2. Leave to serve additional requests for admission was denied without prejudice because Plaintiff failed to provide a particularized explanation of why the additional discovery was necessary and did not specify the number or contents of the proposed requests.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"In practical terms, the party seeking leave to ... serve more interrogatories than are contemplated by the Federal Rules or the Court's Scheduling Order, must make a particularized showing of why the discovery is necessary." (2)

"Plaintiff has neither presented nor otherwise suggested the contents of his proposed interrogatories and requests." (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The court's scheduling and discovery order limited each party to 25 interrogatories, 10 requests for admission, and 25 requests for production. Plaintiff sought leave to serve additional interrogatories and requests for admission, asserting that earlier discovery responses created a need for further requests concerning alleged constitutional violations, involved individuals, policies, practices, and key factual matters. The motion did not specify how many additional requests Plaintiff sought or provide the proposed requests.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After a scheduling conference, the court entered an order limiting each party to 25 interrogatories, 10 requests for admission, and 25 requests for production. Plaintiff later moved for leave to serve additional interrogatories and requests for admission. The court denied the motion without prejudice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Archer Daniels Midland Co. v. Aon Risk Services, Inc. of Minnesota, 187 F.R.D. 578, 586 (D. Minn. 1999)
- Francis v. Marks, No. 4:05CV01090 RSW/JTR, 2006 WL 8445238, at *2 (E.D. Ark. Apr. 18, 2006)

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