

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
NEW YORK

Anthony Johnson v. Queens County

25-CV-10669 (LTS) (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 20, 2025) · No. 25-CV-10669 (LTS) · Decided January 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The Southern District of New York transfers Anthony Johnson’s pro se false-arrest action against Queens County to the Eastern District of New York under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2) and 1404(a). The court concludes that the alleged events occurred in Queens County and that the Eastern District is the more convenient forum, while leaving any determination regarding in forma pauperis status to the transferee court.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Laura Taylor Swain
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
DECIDED	January 20, 2026
DOCKET	25-CV-10669 (LTS)
DISPOSITION	transferred
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Pro se plaintiff filed a civil-rights action in the Southern District of New York alleging a false arrest in Far Rockaway, Queens County. The court transferred the action to the Eastern District of New York under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court transfer order

TOPICS

- venue
- civil procedure
- section 1983
- civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- venue
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether venue was proper in the Eastern District of New York because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in Queens County.
2. Whether the action should be transferred from the Southern District of New York to the Eastern District of New York for the convenience of the parties and witnesses and in the interest of justice under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).

HOLDINGS

1. Venue was proper in the Eastern District of New York under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because the alleged false arrest occurred in Queens County, which lies within that district.
2. Transfer to the Eastern District of New York was appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a) because the underlying events occurred in Queens County and the Eastern District appeared to be the more convenient forum.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Clerk of Court is directed to transfer this action to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.” (Conclusion)

“Under Section 1404(a), transfer appears to be appropriate in this case.” (Discussion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, who was incarcerated at the Otis Bantum Correctional Center on Rikers Island, alleged that Queens County was responsible for a false arrest occurring in Far Rockaway, Queens County, New York. The court reasoned that the operative events occurred in Queens County and that relevant documents and witnesses would likely be located there. Plaintiff also referenced separate incidents in which he was cut while detained at Rikers Island, but those incidents were not part of the transfer ruling.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff commenced the action in the Southern District of New York against Queens County. Although the court determined that venue was proper in the Eastern District of New York because the operative events occurred there, it transferred the case for convenience of the parties and witnesses and in the interest of justice. The Southern District directed the Clerk to transfer the action, stated that the transferee court would decide whether plaintiff could proceed without prepayment of fees, directed that no summons issue from the transferring court, and closed the case in that district.

DISPOSITION

transferred

CASES CITED

- Keitt v. N.Y. City, 882 F. Supp. 2d 412, 459-60 (S.D.N.Y. 2011)
- N.Y. Marine and Gen. Ins. Co. v. LaFarge No. Am., Inc., 599 F.3d 102, 112 (2d Cir. 2010)

- *Iragorri v. United Tech. Corp.*, 274 F.3d 65, 72 (2d Cir. 2001)
- *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444-45 (1962)

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