

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
MICHIGAN

Tracey Rudder, Personal Representative for the Estate of Katie  
Nichole Primel v. Anessa Israel, et al.

Rudder · No. 2:24-cv-10302 · Decided December 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan adopted a magistrate judge’s recommended disposition, overruled objections by Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc., and accepted the plaintiff’s Sixth Amended Complaint. The court directed the magistrate judge to issue a report and recommendation on ACH’s pending motion to dismiss and allowed the remaining defendants until January 23, 2026, to answer or otherwise respond. The order concerns claims arising from the suicide of a pretrial detainee in the Genesee County Jail.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Brandy R. McMillion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DECIDED               | December 30, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DOCKET                | 2:24-cv-10302                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation concerning motions to dismiss and leave to amend, conducted de novo review of the defendant's objections, accepted the plaintiff's Sixth Amended Complaint, and directed the magistrate judge to issue a report and recommendation on a pending motion to dismiss. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | De novo review of portions of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which a specific objection is made under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(3). The court need not independently review portions to which no objection is made, and objections must identify specific errors.                                              |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Unknown; district court order with no reporter citation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

TOPICS

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## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether ACH's objections established that the magistrate judge erred in finding that amendment of the complaint would not be futile.
2. Whether the magistrate judge erroneously applied the factors governing leave to amend under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2).
3. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's recommended disposition, accept the Sixth Amended Complaint, and direct further proceedings on ACH's motion to dismiss.

## HOLDINGS

1. When a party makes a specific objection to a portion of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, the district court must review that portion de novo; general or insufficiently specific objections do not require independent review.
2. Leave to amend should be freely given when justice so requires, and the court properly allowed the plaintiff one final opportunity to amend because there was no evidence of bad faith, dilatory motive, lack of notice, or undue prejudice, and the repeated-amendment factor was not dispositive.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*"Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2) requires leave to amend to be freely given when justice so requires."*

*"Rule 15, which allows a liberal policy in favor of granting amendments, 'reinforce[s] the principle that cases 'should be tried on their merits rather than the technicalities of pleadings.'"*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Katie Nichole Primel committed suicide on March 7, 2022, while she was a pretrial detainee in the Genesee County Jail. Her mother, Tracey Rudder, acting as purported personal representative of Primel's estate, sued Genesee County, Deputy Anessa Israel, Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc., and associated employees, alleging responsibility for Primel's death. The plaintiff amended the complaint repeatedly, ultimately filing a Sixth Amended Complaint while motions concerning the Fourth Amended Complaint and leave to amend remained pending.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The plaintiff filed a civil-rights action arising from the suicide of a pretrial detainee and amended the complaint several times. Defendants filed motions to dismiss the Fourth Amended Complaint, and Magistrate Judge Grand recommended denying two motions without prejudice, denying one as moot, and allowing another amendment.

After ACH objected, the district court overruled the objections, adopted the recommended disposition, accepted the already-filed Sixth Amended Complaint, and directed further consideration of ACH's motion to dismiss it.

## DISPOSITION

other

## REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The magistrate judge was directed to issue a report and recommendation on ACH's pending motion to dismiss the Sixth Amended Complaint after the motion was fully briefed. The remaining defendants were ordered to answer or otherwise respond to the Sixth Amended Complaint by January 23, 2026.

## CASES CITED

- Lyons v. Commissioner of Social Security, 351 F. Supp. 2d 659, 661 (E.D. Mich. 2004)
- Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 151 (1985)
- Mira v. Marshall, 806 F.2d 636, 637 (6th Cir. 1986)
- Howard v. Secretary of Health & Human Services, 932 F.2d 505, 509 (6th Cir. 1991)
- VanDiver v. Martin, 304 F. Supp. 2d 934, 937 (E.D. Mich. 2004)
- Owens v. Commissioner of Social Security, No. 1:12-cv-00047, 2013 WL 1304470, at \*3 (W.D. Mich. Mar. 28, 2013)
- Hill v. Duriron Co., Inc., 656 F.2d 1208, 1215 (6th Cir. 1981)
- Perkins v. American Electric Power Fuel Supply, Inc., 246 F.3d 593, 605 (6th Cir. 2001)
- Inge v. Rock Financial Corp., 388 F.3d 930, 936 (6th Cir. 2004)
- Moore v. City of Paducah, 790 F.2d 557, 559 (6th Cir. 1986)

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