

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. JOHN DOE subscriber assigned IP address
100.8.169.70

Strike 3 Holdings · No. 25-17930-SDW-MAH · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey grants Strike 3 Holdings, LLC leave to serve Verizon Fios with a subpoena before the Rule 26(f) conference to identify the subscriber associated with IP address 100.8.169.70. The subpoena is limited to the subscriber’s name and address, and the court prohibits requests for telephone numbers, email addresses, or MAC addresses.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael A. Hammer
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
DECIDED	December 22, 2025
DOCKET	25-17930-SDW-MAH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for leave to serve a third-party subpoena on Verizon Online LLC before the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) conference to identify the unknown subscriber associated with an IP address. The magistrate judge decided the motion without oral argument and granted it in part by authorizing limited expedited discovery.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercised discretion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(d)(1) and applied the good-cause standard for expedited discovery, considering the entirety of the record, the reasonableness of the request, the administration of justice, and prejudice to the responding party.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- copyright infringement
- civil procedure
- service of process

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

copyright litigation

anonymous defendant identification

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff had good cause to obtain expedited third-party discovery before the Rule 26(f) conference to identify an unknown copyright-infringement defendant.
2. Whether the subpoena should be limited to information reasonably necessary to identify the subscriber while protecting the privacy of a potentially noninfringing account holder.

HOLDINGS

1. Good cause existed to permit limited expedited discovery before the Rule 26(f) conference because the requested information was necessary to identify the appropriate defendant and effectuate service, and the need for the discovery outweighed the potential prejudice to the responding subscriber.
2. Plaintiff may subpoena Verizon Fios for only the name and address of the subscriber assigned to the relevant IP address; it may not seek the subscriber's telephone number, email address, or MAC address.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“There is good cause to permit limited discovery prior to the Rule 26(f) conference in this case.” (Section II)

“The Court therefore holds that Plaintiff may serve Verizon Fios with a subpoena pursuant to Federal Rule of Procedure 45 that is limited to obtaining the name and address of the subscriber of IP address 100.8.169.170.” (Section II)

“Plaintiff may not seek the subscriber’s telephone numbers, email addresses, or MAC addresses.” (Section II)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Strike 3 Holdings alleged that an unknown defendant used the BitTorrent system to download and distribute the company's copyrighted works through IP address 100.8.169.70. Plaintiff asserted that Verizon Fios, the Internet service provider associated with that address, could identify the subscriber and that the information was necessary to serve the defendant and continue litigating the copyright claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Strike 3 Holdings filed a copyright infringement complaint against an unidentified defendant known only by an IP address. Before the Rule 26(f) conference, Plaintiff moved for leave to subpoena the associated Internet service provider. The court granted the motion subject to limitations on the information sought and the use of the information.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Better Packages, Inc. v. Zheng, No. 05-4477, 2006 WL 1373055, at *3 (D.N.J. May 17, 2006)
- Ent. Tech. Corp. v. Walt Disney Imagineering, No. 03-3546, 2003 WL 22519440, at *4 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 2, 2003)
- In re BitTorrent Adult Film Copyright Infringement Cases, 296 F.R.D. 80, 87, 93 (E.D.N.Y. 2012)
- Manny Film LLC v. Doe Subscriber Assigned IP Address 50.166.88.98, 98 F. Supp. 3d 693, 694-95 (D.N.J. 2015)
- Semitool, Inc. v. Tokyo Electron Am., Inc., 208 F.R.D. 273, 276 (N.D. Cal. 2002)
- Plastic the Movie Ltd. v. Doe, No. 15-2476, 2015 WL 2159287, at *2-3 (D.N.J. May 6, 2015)
- Malibu Media, LLC v. Does, No. 12-7615, 2013 WL 12407010, at *3-4 (D.N.J. Feb. 26, 2013)
- Malibu Media, LLC v. Doe, No. 14-3874, slip op. ¶ 7 (D.N.J. Sept. 2, 2014)
- Malibu Media v. Doe, No. 13-4660, slip op. at 2 (D.N.J. Aug. 19, 2013)
- Voltage Pictures v. Does, No. 12-6885, 2013 WL 12406868, at *4 (D.N.J. May 31, 2013)
- Malibu Media, LLC v. Does, No. 12-7789, 2014 WL 229295, at *9 (D.N.J. Jan. 21, 2014)

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