

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Noah Demetrius Reed v. Tim Easley

Reed v. Easley · No. No. 26-3047-JWL · Decided April 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Kansas stays and holds in abeyance Noah Demetrius Reed’s 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas petition pending completion of related Kansas state-court proceedings. The court denies reconsideration of its prior denial of appointed counsel and directs Reed to file periodic status reports, including updates concerning the related state case and his ability to obtain a required financial certificate.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John W. Lungstrum
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
DECIDED	April 15, 2026
DOCKET	No. 26-3047-JWL
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought federal habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. After issuing an order to show cause addressing timeliness, in forma pauperis documentation, appointment of counsel, and a proposed stay, the court considered Petitioner's response and ordered the case stayed and held in abeyance pending related Kansas state post-conviction proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum and order; nonprecedential.
PARTIES	Noah Demetrius Reed v. Tim Easley

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- state post-conviction relief
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Federal habeas corpus
- State post-conviction relief
- Civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the federal habeas action should be stayed and held in abeyance while the Kansas courts determine the timeliness and disposition of Reed's pending K.S.A. 60-1507 proceeding.
2. Whether Reed's inability to submit the required financial certificate prejudiced the timeliness of his federal habeas petition.
3. Whether the court should reconsider its denial of Reed's motion for appointment of counsel.

HOLDINGS

1. The federal habeas case must be stayed and held in abeyance until the conclusion of Sedgwick County District Court case number SG-2025-CV-001482 and any subsequent appeal because the state courts must resolve whether Reed's June 2025 K.S.A. 60-1507 motion was timely before the federal court can determine whether the federal petition was timely.
2. Reed's current inability to provide the financial certificate did not affect or prejudice the timeliness of his federal habeas petition.
3. The court denied reconsideration of its prior denial of appointment of counsel.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, this federal habeas case will be stayed and held in abeyance until the conclusion of Sedgwick County District Court case number SG-2025-CV-001482 and any subsequent appeal.” (Memorandum and Order, at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Reed, a Kansas state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a federal habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The timeliness of the petition depends on whether his June 2025 motion under K.S.A. 60-1507 was timely and therefore tolled the federal habeas limitations period. Reed also remained unable to obtain the financial certificate required to support his in forma pauperis motion and sought appointment of counsel.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Reed filed a § 2254 petition and motions to proceed in forma pauperis and for appointment of counsel. The court's March 12, 2026 memorandum and order found that the timeliness of the federal petition depended on whether Reed's June 2025 K.S.A. 60-1507 motion was timely, and proposed staying the federal case until the state proceedings resolved that issue. Reed responded, but did not establish good cause to avoid a stay; the court denied reconsideration of appointed counsel and entered the stay.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Hall v. Bellman, 935 F.2d 1106, 1110 (10th Cir. 1991)

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