

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, AIKEN DIVISION

Donnell Mitchell v. AGY Aiken, LLC and AGY Holding Corp.

Mitchell v. AGY Aiken · No. 1:25-cv-13069-CMC · Decided April 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of South Carolina adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation in this employment-discrimination action. The court dismissed the plaintiff’s Title VII, ADA, and FMLA claims except for retaliation claims, struck his pending motions for judgment on the pleadings and summary judgment, and granted leave to amend the retaliation claims. The amended complaint was deemed filed, and the case was re-referred for further pretrial proceedings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Aiken Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Cameron McGowan Currie
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Aiken Division
DECIDED	April 22, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-13069-CMC
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, proceeding pro se, brought Title VII, ADA, and FMLA claims against his former employers. The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation addressing defendants' motions to dismiss, for a more definite statement, and to strike, as well as plaintiff's motions for judgment on the pleadings, summary judgment, and leave to amend.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviews specific objections to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation de novo and reviews the Report for clear error when no specific objection is made. A Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal is proper only when, accepting well-pleaded allegations as true, the plaintiff cannot prove any set of facts entitling him to relief. A Rule 12(e) motion is granted only when a pleading is so vague or

ambiguous that the opposing party cannot reasonably prepare a response.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE

unpublished_nonprecedential

TOPICS

motions to dismiss

retaliation

ada / disability

motion for a more definite statement

motion to amend

PRACTICE AREAS

employment law

civil rights

civil procedure

disability discrimination

retaliation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should review the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation for clear error because plaintiff failed to file specific objections.
2. Whether plaintiff's Title VII, ADA, and FMLA claims, other than retaliation claims, should be dismissed for failure to state a claim.
3. Whether plaintiff's retaliation claims required a more definite statement.
4. Whether plaintiff's pending motions for judgment on the pleadings and summary judgment should be stricken.
5. Whether plaintiff should be permitted to amend the complaint as to the retaliation claims.

HOLDINGS

1. When a party does not make specific objections to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, the district court reviews the Report for clear error rather than conducting de novo review.
2. The claims under Title VII, the ADA, and the FMLA were dismissed for failure to state a claim, except for the retaliation claims.
3. Defendants' motion for a more definite statement was granted as to the retaliation claims.
4. The motion to strike was granted in part, and plaintiff's motions for judgment on the pleadings and summary judgment were stricken from the docket.
5. Plaintiff's motion to amend was granted as to the retaliation claims, and the proposed Amended Complaint was deemed filed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the court." (at 2)

"A motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) should be granted only if, after accepting all well-pleaded allegations in the complaint as true, it appears certain that the plaintiff cannot prove any set of facts in support of the claims that entitles him to relief." (at 2)

“The motion for more definite statement is “designed to strike at unintelligibility rather than simple want of detail,” and the motion will be granted only when the complaint is so vague and ambiguous that the defendant cannot frame a responsive pleading.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Donnell Mitchell sued his former employers, AGY Aiken, LLC and AGY Holding Corp., alleging violations of Title VII, the ADA, and the FMLA. The pleadings and proposed amendment concerned, among other matters, retaliation claims, but the magistrate judge found the non-retaliation claims insufficient and the retaliation allegations too vague to permit a responsive pleading. Plaintiff submitted additional filings and a proposed amended complaint but did not make specific objections to the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Shiva V. Hodges for pretrial proceedings. The magistrate judge recommended granting defendants' motion to strike in part, dismissing the ADA, FMLA, and Title VII claims except retaliation claims, and requiring a more definite statement as to the retaliation claims. Plaintiff did not file specific objections. After reviewing the Report for clear error, the district court adopted it, struck plaintiff's pending motions, granted the motion to dismiss except as to retaliation, granted a more definite statement as to retaliation, and deemed plaintiff's proposed amended complaint filed as to those claims.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Clerk was directed to file the Amended Complaint as a separate docket entry. Defendants were directed to respond within 14 days after entry of the Order, and the matter was re-referred to the magistrate judge for review of the Amended Complaint and further pretrial matters.

CASES CITED

- Roseboro v. Garrison, 528 F.2d 309 (4th Cir. 1975)
- Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261 (1976)
- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Edwards v. City of Goldsboro, 178 F.3d 231, 244 (4th Cir. 1999)
- Giarratano v. Johnson, 521 F.3d 298, 302 (4th Cir. 2008)
- Eastern Shore Markets, Inc. v. J.D. Associates Ltd. Partnership, 213 F.3d 175, 180 (4th Cir. 2000)
- Philips v. Pitt County Memorial Hospital, 572 F.3d 176, 180 (4th Cir. 2009)
- Mylan Laboratories, Inc. v. Markari, 7 F.3d 1130, 1134 (4th Cir. 1993)
- Hodgson v. Virginia Baptist Hospital, 482 F.2d 821, 822-23 (4th Cir. 1973)
- Frederick v. Koziol, 727 F. Supp. 1019, 1021 (E.D. Va. 1990)

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