

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
OKLAHOMA

Melissa Ridgel v. Corporal Korbin Taylor Williams, in his individual
capacity, et al.

Ridgel · No. CIV-25-684-D · Decided December 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma denied Corporal Korbin Taylor Williams’s motion to dismiss for failure to timely serve process. The court found good cause to extend the service deadline by 60 days because Plaintiff made multiple service attempts and the statute of limitations had expired or was about to expire.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Timothy D. DeGiusti
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
DECIDED	December 23, 2025
DOCKET	CIV-25-684-D
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant Corporal Korbin Taylor Williams specially appeared and moved to dismiss for failure to serve him within the time required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m), arguing that the claims should be dismissed with prejudice because the statute of limitations had expired.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m), which requires dismissal without prejudice or an extension when a defendant is not timely served and requires an extension when the plaintiff shows good cause.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

- service of process
- motions to dismiss
- section 1983
- statute of limitations
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the attorneys' one-day entry of appearance on behalf of Corporal Williams constituted service under Oklahoma law.
2. Whether Plaintiff showed good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) to extend the deadline for serving Corporal Williams.
3. Whether dismissal based on expiration of the statute of limitations was appropriate when Plaintiff had not yet properly served Corporal Williams.

HOLDINGS

1. The one-day entry of appearance filed on behalf of Corporal Williams did not establish service because the attorneys promptly filed amended entries of appearance correcting the error, and the amended entries governed.
2. Plaintiff demonstrated good cause for extending the deadline to serve Corporal Williams under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m).
3. Dismissal of Plaintiff's claims against Corporal Williams based on the statute of limitations was improper at that point because good cause supported extending the service deadline and dismissal would bar refiling.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Court finds that good cause exists for extension of the service deadline."

"IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Special Entry of Appearance and Motion to Dismiss of Corporal Korbin Taylor Williams and Brief in Support [Doc. No. 12] is DENIED."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On October 3, 2023, Plaintiff was a passenger in a vehicle involved in a high-speed police pursuit. Corporal Williams had attempted to stop the vehicle after conducting a warrant check, but the driver fled at speeds exceeding 120 miles per hour. The fleeing vehicle eventually collided with another vehicle, allegedly causing Plaintiff severe and permanent injuries.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed suit against Corporal Williams and the City of Shawnee on June 20, 2025. Although attorneys initially entered appearances for both defendants, amended entries filed the next day stated that the attorneys represented only the City of Shawnee. Williams moved to dismiss on October 10, 2025, asserting that he had not been served within 90 days. The court denied the motion, found good cause for extending service, and granted Plaintiff 60 additional days to serve Williams.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand was ordered. Plaintiff must serve Corporal Williams within 60 days from entry of the order; failure to do so may result in dismissal of the claims against him.

CASES CITED

- Espinoza v. United States, 52 F.3d 838, 842 (10th Cir. 1995)
- McCarty v. Gilchrist, 646 F.3d 1281, 1289 (10th Cir. 2011)
- Wallace v. Kato, 549 U.S. 384, 387 (2007)

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