

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Tyler Smith v. Township of Redford, et al.

Smith v. Township of Redford · No. 2:24-cv-11822 · Decided January 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan granted Tyler Smith leave to file a second amended complaint in his civil-rights action arising from a traffic stop. The court denied the defendants’ motion to dismiss without prejudice as moot and granted counsel Kama Patel’s motion to withdraw for health reasons.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Susan K. DeClercq
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division
DECIDED	January 15, 2026
DOCKET	2:24-cv-11822
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for leave to file a second amended complaint, defendants moved to dismiss the first amended complaint, and plaintiff's counsel moved to withdraw. The district court granted leave to amend, denied defendants' dismissal motion without prejudice as moot, and granted counsel's motion to withdraw.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Leave to amend under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) is committed to the court's discretion and is generally granted freely when justice so requires. A proposed amendment is futile if it could not withstand a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Tyler Smith v. Township of Redford, et al.

TOPICS

motion to amend

pleadings

motions to dismiss

civil rights

municipal law

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

municipal law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff should be granted leave under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) to file a second amended complaint.
2. Whether defendants' pending motion to dismiss the first amended complaint became moot once leave to file a second amended complaint was granted.
3. Whether plaintiff's attorney demonstrated good cause to withdraw based on serious health issues without prejudicing the parties.

HOLDINGS

1. Leave to amend should be granted because the case remained at an early procedural stage, the proposed amendment was not entirely futile, and the record did not establish undue delay, bad faith, or undue prejudice sufficient to overcome Rule 15(a)(2)'s liberal amendment policy.
2. Defendants' motion to dismiss the prior complaint was denied without prejudice as moot because plaintiff was authorized to file a superseding second amended complaint.
3. Counsel's motion to withdraw was granted for good cause because serious health issues impaired counsel's ability to represent the client and withdrawal would not prejudice the parties.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The court should freely give leave when justice so requires.”

“A proposed amendment is futile if it “could not withstand a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss.””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Smith's action concerns alleged civil-rights violations arising from a June 12, 2023 traffic stop involving Redford Township police officers and a former police chief. He sought to file a second amended complaint to add factual allegations and legal claims, clarify existing allegations, and add a supplemental police expert report. The case had been pending for approximately seventeen months, but no scheduling order had been entered and discovery had not begun.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Smith filed a civil-rights complaint arising from a June 12, 2023 traffic stop. The court previously allowed a first amended complaint, after which defendants moved to dismiss. Before that motion was resolved, Smith sought leave to file a second amended complaint; one of his attorneys separately moved to withdraw. The court granted the amendment, treated the pending dismissal motion as moot, and permitted defendants to answer or renew their dismissal motion after the second amended complaint was filed.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Knight Cap. Partners Corp. v. Henkel AG & Co., KGaA, 930 F.3d 775, 786 (6th Cir. 2019)
- Ogle v. Hocker, No. 02-73200, 2004 WL 7340719, at *1 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 5, 2004)
- Klein by Klein v. Caterpillar Inc., 581 F. Supp. 3d 912, 918–20 (E.D. Mich. 2022)
- Beydoun v. Sessions, 871 F.3d 459, 469 (6th Cir. 2017)
- Rose v. Hartford Underwriters Ins. Co., 203 F.3d 417, 420 (6th Cir. 2000)
- Halasz on behalf of H.H. v. Cass City Pub. Schs., 748 F. Supp. 3d 482, 493–94 (E.D. Mich. 2024)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678–79 (2009)
- Nino v. Flagstar Bank, FSB, 766 F. App'x 199, 204 (6th Cir. 2019)
- Wilkins v. Bush, No. 2:22-cv-11937, 2022 WL 16925958, at *3 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 14, 2022)
- Martin v. Trott Law, P.C., 198 F. Supp. 3d 794, 814 (E.D. Mich. 2016)
- Troxel Mfg. Co. v. Schwinn Bicycle Co., 489 F.2d 968, 971 (6th Cir. 1973)
- Ross v. MMI Asset Mgmt. Grp., LLC, No. 24-10342, 2024 WL 1184685, at *1 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 19, 2024)
- Brandon v. Blech, 560 F.3d 536, 538 (6th Cir. 2009)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION TYLER SMITH, Plaintiff, Case No. 2:24-cv-11822 v. Honorable Susan K. DeClercq United States District Judge TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD, et al, Defendants. _____/ ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT (ECF No. 35), DISMISSING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS AS MOOT (ECF No. 24), AND GRANTING COUNSEL'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW (ECF No. 38) I. On July 15, 2024, Plaintiff Tyler Smith filed a complaint alleging various civil rights violations against Defendants Redford Township (Redford), Redford police officers, and Redford's former chief of police.

ECF No. 1. On June 19, 2025, Smith moved to file an amended complaint to correct several "clerical, citation and factual errors," ECF No. 15 at PageID.125, which the Court granted upon stipulation of the parties. ECF No. 20.

On August 22, 2025, Smith filed his amended complaint, ECF No. 21, identifying the previously unnamed officers as defendants, clarifying the factual allegations, and removing counts and defendants that were included in Smith's original complaint, ECF No. 1, but had since been dismissed, see ECF Nos. 3; 19; 23.

On September 4, 2025, Defendants moved to dismiss Smith's amended complaint. ECF No. 24. Smith filed a response opposing Defendants' motion, ECF No. 27, and Defendants filed a reply, ECF No. 28.1 But, on November 1, 2025, Smith moved for leave to file a second amended complaint, arguing that the request was made in good faith, a timely manner, and in the interest of justice "to add additional factual allegations and legal claims arising from the same June 12, 2023 traffic-stop incident that forms the basis of this action," as well as to "clarify the [g]eneral [a]llegations that pertain to those counts," and add a supplemental police expert report.

ECF No. 31 at PageID.321, 330. Smith also argued that the amended complaint would "not cause delay or prejudice" to Defendants because "[n]o scheduling order has yet been entered, no discovery has begun, and no responsive pleadings addressing the merits of the proposed new claims have been filed." Id. at PageID.322, 332–33. Then on November 23, 2025, Smith filed a notice of withdrawal of his motion, ECF No. 34, only to file a new motion for leave to file a second amended complaint the following day for effectively the same reasons as the previous motion provided, ECF No. 35.

Defendants opposed the motion, arguing that the delays, deficient pleadings, and new burden of preparing against other claims is prejudicial. ECF No. 1 This case was reassigned from Judge Nancy G. Edmunds to Judge Susan K. DeClercq on October 24, 2025. See ECF No. 29. 36. Smith replied that the amended complaint was not "untimely, futile, and prejudicial" because it "clarifies factual allegations, narrows issues, and incorporates" an expert report to increase efficiency.

ECF No. 37 at PageID.582. On January 12, 2026, one of Smith's attorneys, Kama Patel, moved to withdraw for medical reasons. ECF No. 38. Patel noted her co-counsel, Patrick Nyenhuis, would remain as Smith's representation. Id. II.

Under Civil Rule 15(a)(2), after 21 days has passed since a pleading was served, "a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written consent or the court's leave. The court should freely give leave when justice so requires." FED. R. CIV. P. 15(a)(2). When deciding on a motion to amend, courts consider the following factors: "undue delay or bad faith in filing the motion, repeated failures to cure previously identified deficiencies, futility of the proposed amendment, and lack of notice or undue prejudice to the opposing party." *Knight Cap*.

Partners Corp. v. Henkel AG & Co., KGaA, 930 F.3d 775, 786 (6th Cir. 2019). Specifically, "repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendment despite an opportunity to do so constitutes a sufficient basis on which to deny a request for leave to amend." *Ogle v. Hocker*, No. 02-73200, 2004 WL 7340719 at *1 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 5, 2004). A proposed amendment is futile if it "could not withstand a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss." *Klein by Klein v. Caterpillar Inc.*, 581 F. Supp. 3d 912, 918 (E.D.

Mich. 2022) (quoting *Beydoun v. Sessions*, 871 F.3d 459, 469 (6th Cir. 2017)); see also *Rose v. Hartford Underwriters Ins. Co.*, 203 F.3d 417, 420 (6th Cir. 2000). After consideration of these factors and reviewing Smith’s complaints and briefs in support, this Court finds sufficient bases to grant the motion.

Although the case has been ongoing for 17 months, it is still at an early stage in the proceedings and several of the delays have not been because of Smith’s filings. See *Knight Cap. Partners*, 930 F.3d at 786. Moreover, the proposed amended complaint does not appear entirely futile. See *Caterpillar Inc.*, 581 F. Supp. 3d at 918–20 (noting that additional content that does not meaningfully alter the arguments and that is plausible is not futile for amendment purposes).

Some claims may not survive a motion to dismiss, as Defendants allege, but because there is at least one claim that appears facially plausible, the proposed amended complaint is not futile. See *id.*; see also *Halasz on behalf of H.H. v. Cass City Pub. Schs.*, 748 F. Supp. 3d 482, 493–94 (E.D. Mich. 2024) (noting that under *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678–79 (2009), the proposed amended complaint need only show “sufficient factual matter, accepted as true,” to state a facially plausible claim”).

That said, because this is the second amended complaint in a case where two motions to dismiss have been briefed, the record suggests that Smith’s counsel could have cured the factual deficiencies and brought these additional claims in the first amended complaint. See *Nino v. Flagstar Bank, FSB*, 766 F. App’x 199, 204 (6th Cir. 2019) (affirming the district court’s denial of leave to amend because the “Plaintiff has had ample opportunity to amend the complaint, but has failed to do so” throughout over a year of litigation); see also *Wilkins v. Bush*, No. 2:22-cv- 11937, 2022 WL 16925958 at *3 (E.D.

Mich. Nov. 14, 2022) (finding that this factor weighed against a plaintiff who sought to file a second amended complaint but who “failed to voluntarily cure the deficiencies from the original complaint in her first amendment”).

Therefore, this Court warns Smith and his counsel that this Court will not grant any subsequent motions for leave to amend so as to expedite this case beyond the pleadings stage and cease “the revolving door” of new complaints, as Defendants aptly describe. ECF No. 36 at PageID.555. Otherwise, the cumulative effect of repeated amendments could cause undue delay and prejudice by requiring Defendants to “expend additional resources to defend against new claims.” *Martin v. Trott Law, P.C.*, 198 F. Supp. 3d 794, 814 (E.D.

Mich. 2016) (citing *Troxel Mfg. Co. v. Schwinn Bicycle Co.*, 489 F.2d 968, 971 (6th Cir. 1973)). This Court also recognizes that Defendants filed a motion to dismiss. ECF No. 24. Because Smith may file an amended complaint, this motion to dismiss the previous complaint is now moot.

To promote judicial economy and “the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination” of the action, FED. R. CIV. P. 1, the Court will deny this motion without prejudice and allow Defendants to answer or file a renewed motion to dismiss the second amended complaint once it is filed.

Finally, this Court finds good cause to grant Patel’s motion to withdraw, because serious health issues are a valid reason to withdraw and her withdrawal will not prejudice the parties. See *Ross v. MMI Asset Mgmt. Grp., LLC*, No. 24-10342, 2024 WL 1184685, at *1 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 19, 2024) (finding good cause to grant an attorney’s motion to withdraw because her health issues would impact her ability to represent her client to the profession’s standards); see also *Brandon v. Blech*, 560 F.3d 536, 538 (6th Cir.

2009) (citing the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 1.16(a)(2)); E.D. Mich. LR 83.25(b). III. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that Plaintiff Motion to for Leave to File Second Amended Complaint, ECF No. 35, is GRANTED. Plaintiff may file a second amended complaint within 28 days of the date of this Order. It is further ORDERED that Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss, ECF No. 24, is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE as moot.

Defendants may answer or otherwise respond to the second amended complaint within 60 days of its filing. It is further ORDERED that Kama Patel’s Motion to Withdraw as Counsel, ECF No. 38, is GRANTED. This is not a final order and does not close the above-captioned case. /s/Susan K. DeClercq SUSAN K. DeCLERCQ United States District Judge Dated: January 15, 2026