

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, TYLER DIVISION

Robert Demison III v. Bryan Collier, et al.

Demison · No. 6:25-cv-174-JDK-KNM · Decided February 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas overruled Robert Demison III's objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation. The court adopted the report and dismissed the action with prejudice for failure to state a claim, while preserving without-prejudice claims potentially asserted against officials named in a second emergency-relief motion and claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jeremy D. Kernodle
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division
DECIDED	February 25, 2026
DOCKET	6:25-cv-174-JDK-KNM
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff objected to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation recommending dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1). The district court conducted de novo review, overruled the objections, adopted the report, and dismissed the action with prejudice for failure to state a claim, subject to specified claims being dismissed without prejudice.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of the portions of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which a timely and specific objection is made, under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; persuasive value only
PARTIES	Robert Demison III v. Bryan Collier, et al.

TOPICS

prisoners rights

civil rights

appellate procedure

civil procedure

pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

prisoner civil rights

federal civil procedure

magistrate judge reports and recommendations

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the plaintiff's conclusory and general objections required the district court to reject or reconsider the magistrate judge's report and recommendation.
2. Whether a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), raised for the first time in the objections and unsupported by allegations of race-based animus or conspiracy, was properly before the district court.
3. Whether the plaintiff's pre-judgment statement expressing an intent to appeal constituted a valid notice of appeal under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a)(2).
4. Whether the action should be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1) for failure to state a claim.

HOLDINGS

1. A party's objections must specifically identify the findings or conclusions challenged; frivolous, conclusory, or general objections need not be considered as a basis for rejecting the report and recommendation.
2. A claim or legal theory raised for the first time in objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation is not properly before the district court, particularly where the pleadings do not contain factual allegations supporting the theory.
3. A document expressing an intent to appeal before the court has announced or entered judgment is premature and cannot be treated as a notice of appeal under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a)(2).
4. The action was properly dismissed with prejudice for failure to state a claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), while claims against officials named in the second motion for emergency relief and claims based on § 1985(3) were dismissed without prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Fifth Circuit has stated that “parties filing objections [to a Magistrate Judge’s Report] must specifically identify those findings objected to. Frivolous, conclusive, or general objections need not be considered by the district court.””

“It is accordingly ORDERED that the Plaintiff’s objections are overruled and the Report of the Magistrate Judge (Docket No. 14) is ADOPTED as the opinion of the District Court.”

“It is further ORDERED that the above-styled civil action is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, but without prejudice as to any claims which Plaintiff may assert against the officials named in his second motion for emergency relief, and without prejudice as to any claims which Plaintiff may assert based upon 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Robert Demison III, an inmate proceeding pro se, alleged deprivations of constitutional rights in a lawsuit against Bryan Collier and other defendants. His objections to the magistrate judge's report consisted of a general statement that he objected and a reference to 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), without identifying specific errors. Neither his original nor amended complaint alleged race-based animus or a conspiracy to deprive him of constitutional rights.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Robert Demison, a pro se inmate, filed a civil-rights action concerning alleged constitutional deprivations. The case was referred to Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell, who recommended dismissal with prejudice under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), while preserving without-prejudice claims against officials named in a second motion for emergency relief. Demison filed conclusory objections and expressed an intent to appeal before judgment had been entered. The district court reviewed the challenged portions de novo, adopted the report and recommendation, overruled the objections, and dismissed the action.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Douglass v. United Services Automobile Association*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1430 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc)
- *Battle v. U.S. Parole Commission*, 834 F.2d 419, 421 (5th Cir. 1987)
- *Mosley v. Quarterman*, 306 F. App'x 40, 42 n. 2 (5th Cir. 2008)
- *Edmond v. Collins*, 8 F.3d 290, n.7 (5th Cir. 1993)
- *Gray v. Winco Foods, L.L.C.*, 683 F. Supp. 3d 571, n.3 (E.D. Tex. 2023)
- *Omran v. Prator*, 674 F. App'x 353, 355 (5th Cir. 2016)
- *Finley v. Johnson*
- *FirsTier Mortgage Co. v. Investors Mortgage Insurance Co.*, 498 U.S. 269, 276 (1991)
- *United States v. Cooper*, 135 F.3d 960, 963 (5th Cir. 1998)

OPINION

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS TYLER DIVISION ROBERT DEMISON III, § § Plaintiff, § § v. § Case No. 6:25-cv-174-JDK-KNM § BRYAN COLLIER, et al., § § Defendants. § ORDER ADOPTING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE Plaintiff Robert Demison, an inmate of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Correctional Institutions Division proceeding pro se, filed this lawsuit complaining of alleged deprivations of his constitutional rights.

Docket No. 1. The case was referred to United States Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636. On October 8, 2025, Judge Mitchell issued a Report and

Recommendation recommending that the Court dismiss this case with prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1) for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, but without prejudice as to any claims which Plaintiff may assert against the officials named in his second motion for emergency relief.

Docket No. 14. Plaintiff objected. Docket No. 16. Where a party timely objects to the Report and Recommendation, the Court reviews the objected-to findings and conclusions of the Magistrate Judge de novo. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

In conducting a de novo review, the Court examines the entire record and makes an independent assessment under the law. *Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1430 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc), superseded on other grounds by statute, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (extending the time to file objections from ten to fourteen days). Plaintiff's objections read, in their entirety, as follows: Motion for Objections.

(1) I Plaintiff would like to object to the document #14 (i.e. the Magistrate Judge's Report) 10/8/2025 via 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) claims. (2) I Plaintiff would like to appeal the judgment without prejudice for failure to state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) second motion for emergency relief etc. See attachments. There are no attachments to the notice of appeal, and while it is not clear from the face of the objections filed, Plaintiff may be referring to the attachments to his original complaint, which the Magistrate Judge addressed in the Report.

The Fifth Circuit has stated that "parties filing objections [to a Magistrate Judge's Report] must specifically identify those findings objected to. Frivolous, conclusive, or general objections need not be considered by the district court." *Battle v. U.S. Parole Commission*, 834 F.2d 419, 421 (5th Cir. 1987); see also *Mosley v. Quarterman*, 306 F.App'x 40, 42 n. 2 (5th Cir.

2008); *FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b)(2)*. This means that a party must point out with particularity any alleged errors in the Magistrate Judge's analysis, and objections which merely re-urge arguments contained in the original briefing are not proper and will not be considered. See *Edmond v. Collins*, 8 F.3d 290, n.7 (5th Cir. 1993); *Gray v. Winco Foods, L.L.C.*, 683 F.Supp.3d 571, n.3 (E.D.

Tex. 2023). Plaintiff's objections here are entirely conclusory and general, and present no basis upon which to reject the Magistrate Judge's Report. Although Plaintiff's objections refer to 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), neither his original nor his amended complaints contain any mention of race-based animus or a conspiracy to deprive him of his individual constitutional rights.

Any claim based upon § 1985(3) was thus raised for the first time in Plaintiff's objections to the Magistrate Judge's Report and is not properly before the district court. *Omran v. Prator*, 674 F.App'x 353, 355 (5th Cir. 2016), citing *Finley v. [unintelligible]* that plausibly set out a potential claim under §

1985(3). His objections are therefore without merit. Plaintiff also states that he would like to appeal the judgment.

No judgment had been announced or entered, however, at the time he filed his objections. Under Rule 4(a)(2), a notice of appeal filed before the entry of judgment, but after the court announces a decision or order, is treated as filed on the date of and after the entry of judgment. FED. R. APP. P. 4(a)(2).

In this case, because no judgment had been announced or entered when Plaintiff filed the document expressing his intent to appeal, it cannot be treated as a notice of appeal because it is premature. See *FirsTier Mortgage Co. v. Investors Mortgage Ins. Co.*, 498 U.S. 269, 276 (1991); *United States v. Cooper*, 135 F.3d 960, 963 (5th Cir. 1998). Should Plaintiff wish to appeal the final judgment in this case, he may do so by filing a proper notice of appeal within 30 days after this judgment is entered.

Having conducted a careful de novo review of those portions of the Magistrate Judge's proposed findings and recommendations to which the Plaintiff objected, the Court has determined that the Report of the Magistrate Judge is correct and the Plaintiff's objections are without merit. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (A district judge shall "make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made.") It is accordingly ORDERED that the Plaintiff's objections are overruled and the Report of the Magistrate Judge (Docket No. 14) is ADOPTED as the opinion of the District Court.

It is further ORDERED that the above-styled civil action is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, but without prejudice as to any claims which Plaintiff may assert against the officials named in his second motion for emergency relief, and without prejudice as to any claims which Plaintiff may assert based upon 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3).

It is further ORDERED that any and all motions in this case not previously ruled upon are DENIED. So ORDERED and SIGNED this 25th day of February, 2026. JHREMYD. KERN DLE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE