

**COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, EIGHTH APPELLATE DISTRICT,
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

State ex rel. Lundeen v. Miday

2026-Ohio-1458 · No. 115697 · Decided April 23, 2026

SUMMARY

The Eighth District Court of Appeals dismissed the Lundeens’ mandamus complaint seeking to compel a common pleas judge to vacate an order dismissing their false-light counterclaim. The court held that the judge possessed subject-matter jurisdiction, any alleged error was voidable rather than void, and an appeal provided an adequate remedy. The court also declared the Lundeens vexatious litigators under its local rule and imposed filing restrictions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District, Cuyahoga County
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Anita Laster Mays; Eileen A. Gallagher; Deena R. Calabrese
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District, Cuyahoga County
DECIDED	April 23, 2026
DOCKET	115697
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original mandamus action by relators seeking to compel a common pleas court judge to vacate an order dismissing their counterclaim; the respondent judge moved to dismiss.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a motion to dismiss a mandamus complaint, the court determines whether the relators have established a clear legal right to relief, a clear legal duty on the respondent, and the lack of an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law. The court accepts material allegations as true and draws reasonable inferences in favor of the nonmoving party.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	James E. Lundeen, Cynthia M. Lundeen, Sir Isaac Newton Enterprises, LLC v. Sherrie Miday, Judge

TOPICS

writ of certiorari

motion for judgment on the pleadings

subject matter jurisdiction

appellate procedure

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil procedure

Appellate procedure

Extraordinary writs

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the relators were entitled to a writ of mandamus compelling Judge Miday to vacate the dismissal of their counterclaim.
2. Whether Judge Miday lacked subject-matter jurisdiction to rule on a Civ.R. 12(C) motion because no answer had been filed to the counterclaim.
3. Whether an appeal from the dismissal constituted an adequate remedy that precluded mandamus.
4. Whether the court should declare the relators vexatious litigators and restrict their pro se filings in the Eighth District.

HOLDINGS

1. Mandamus was unavailable because the relators failed to establish a clear legal right to vacatur, a clear legal duty requiring Judge Miday to vacate the judgment, and the absence of an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law.
2. When a specific action falls within a court's subject-matter jurisdiction, an error in exercising that jurisdiction renders the judgment voidable rather than void, and extraordinary relief is unavailable to attack the judgment.
3. The court sua sponte declared the Lundeens vexatious litigators and prohibited them from filing or continuing pro se appeals, original actions, or motions in the Eighth District without first obtaining leave and satisfying filing-fee and security-for-costs requirements.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“when a specific action is within a court’s subject-matter jurisdiction, any error in the exercise of that jurisdiction renders the court’s judgment voidable, not void.” (II.A)

“When a court possesses basic subject-matter jurisdiction to act, and an appeal is available, a writ will not issue.” (II.A)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

An eviction action was filed against the Lundeens in Cleveland Heights Municipal Court and was transferred to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas after the Lundeens filed a counterclaim seeking more than \$25,000 for false-light invasion of privacy. Judge Miday, the assigned common pleas judge, granted a Civ.R. 12(C) motion and dismissed the counterclaim with prejudice. The Lundeens sought mandamus, arguing that Judge Miday lacked jurisdiction to decide the motion because no answer had been filed in response to the counterclaim.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The relators filed a counterclaim for false-light invasion of privacy in an eviction action originally brought in municipal court. After the matter was transferred to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Judge Miday granted the plaintiff's Civ.R. 12(C) motion and dismissed the counterclaim with prejudice. The relators then filed this mandamus action seeking to compel Judge Miday to vacate that judgment. The Court of Appeals granted the respondent's motion to dismiss and dismissed the complaint.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- State ex rel. Parisi v. Heck, 2013-Ohio-4948, ¶ 4 (2d Dist.)
- State ex rel. Willis v. Sheboy, 6 Ohio St.3d 167, 168 (1983)
- State ex rel. Fed. Homes Properties, Inc. v. Singer, 9 Ohio St.2d 95, 96 (1967)
- State ex rel. Richardson v. Gowdy, 2023-Ohio-976, ¶ 12
- State ex rel. Waters v. Spath, 2012-Ohio-69, ¶ 6
- State ex rel. Luoma v. Russo, 2014-Ohio-4532, ¶ 8
- State ex rel. Peoples v. Johnson, 2017-Ohio-9140, ¶ 11
- Jackson v. Johnson, 2013-Ohio-999, ¶ 11
- State ex rel. Gaydosh v. Twinsburg, 93 Ohio St.3d 576, 578 (2001)
- State ex rel. Rootstown Local School Dist. Bd. of Edn. v. Portage Cty. Court of Common Pleas, 78 Ohio St.3d 489, 492 (1997)
- State ex rel. Gilligan v. Hoddinott, 36 Ohio St.2d 127, 132 (1973)
- Ohio High School Athletic Assn. v. Ruehlman, 2019-Ohio-2485, ¶ 7
- Yousef v. Yousef, 2019-Ohio-3656, ¶ 9 (8th Dist.)
- State v. Harper, State v. Harper, 2020-Ohio-2913, ¶ 26
- State ex rel. Davic v. Franklin Cty. Court of Common Pleas, 2023-Ohio-4569, ¶ 15
- France v. Celebrezze, 2012-Ohio-5085, ¶ 10 (8th Dist.)
- State ex rel. Richard v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Commrs., 100 Ohio App.3d 592, 598 (8th Dist. 1995)
- State v. Henderson, 2014-Ohio-2274 (8th Dist.)
- State ex rel. McGrath v. McClelland, 2012-Ohio-157 (8th Dist.)

OPINION

State ex rel. Lundeen v. Miday

2026 Ohio 1458

PER CURIAM.

[Cite as State ex rel. Lundeen v. Miday, 2026-Ohio-1458.]

COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO
EIGHTH APPELLATE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA
STATE EX REL. JAMES E. LUNDEEN, :
ET AL.,

Relator, : No. 115697 v.

SHERRIE MIDAY, JUDGE,

Respondent.

JOURNAL ENTRY AND OPINION

JUDGMENT: COMPLAINT DISMISSED

DATED: April 21, 2026 Writ of Mandamus Motion No. 589937 Order No. 594454 Appearances: Ratliff Law Office, and J.C. Ratliff, Rocky Ratliff, and Nick Barons, for relator. Michael C. O'Malley, Cuyahoga County Prosecuting Attorney, and Michael J. Stewart, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, for respondent. ANITA LASTER MAYS, J.: James E. Lundeen, Cynthia M. Lundeen, and Sir Isaac Newton Enterprises, LLC ("Lundeens"), the relators, seek a writ of mandamus in an effort to compel Judge Sherrie Miday, the respondent, to vacate an order that dismissed the relators' counterclaim that was pending in *Troicky v. Lundeen, et al.*, Cuyahoga C.P. No. CV-25-116208. Judge Miday has filed a motion to dismiss that is granted for the following reasons.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Facts The following facts are gleaned from the Lundeens' complaint for mandamus, Judge Miday's motion to dismiss, the Lundeens' brief in opposition to the motion to dismiss, and the supplemental brief filed by Judge Miday. On January 24, 2025, a complaint for forcible entry and detainer was filed in the Cleveland Hts. Municipal Court, *Troicky v. Lundeen, et al.*, Cleveland Hts. M.C. No. CVG-25-00067. The complaint for forcible entry and detainer sought the eviction of the Lundeens from the residential property located at 2380 Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. Specifically, the eviction was based upon: 1) Troicky is the owner of the residential premises located at 2380 Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106; 2) Troicky took title to the premises on or around August 12, 2024; 3) the property is not a rental and is not registered as such with the City of Cleveland Heights; 4) the Lundeens are residing at the premises without the permission of Troicky and without right to possess and/or occupy the same; 5) on January 15, 2025, Troicky caused to be served upon the Lundeens a written notice to leave the premises ("3-day notice") for noncolor of title as required by R.C. 1923.04; 6) the Lundeens have failed and refused to leave the premises and have been continuing to unlawfully and forcibly detain from Troicky possession of the premises; and 7) Troicky is entitled to an order granting restitution of the premises and ordering the Lundeens to vacate. On March 27, 2025, the Lundeens filed a counterclaim for "false light invasion of property" and prayed for damages in excess of \$25,000. On March 28, 2025, the forcible-entry-and-detainer action, as well as the counterclaim, were certified for transfer to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court because the counterclaim

exceeded the monetary jurisdiction of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court. On April 23, 2025, the forcible-entry-and-detainer action, and the counterclaim, were filed in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Judge Miday was assigned as the trial judge. On May 19, 2025, Troicky filed a Civ.R. 12(C) motion for judgment on the pleadings with regard to the Lundeens' counterclaim for false light invasion of privacy. On September 30, 2025, Judge Miday granted the motion for judgment on the pleadings and held that [p]laintiff's motion to dismiss defendants' counterclaim, filed 05/19/2025, is granted. The court has considered plaintiff's motion filed 05/19/2025 and defendants' brief in opposition filed 09/11/2025. Plaintiff has moved to dismiss the counterclaim pursuant to Civ.R 12(C). The standard applied under Civ.R.12(C) motion for judgment on the pleadings requires a determination that no material factual issues exist and that the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. *State ex rel. Midwest Pride IV, Inc. v. Pontious*, 75 Ohio St.3d 565,

1996 Ohio 459, 664 N.E. 2d 931 (1996). Pursuant to Civ.R. 12(C),

dismissal is appropriate where a court (1) construes the material allegations in the complaint, with all reasonable inferences to be drawn therefrom, in favor of the nonmoving party as true, and (2) finds beyond doubt that the plaintiff could prove no set of facts in support of his claim that would entitle him to relief. *Vinicky v. Pristas*, 163 Ohio App.3d 508, 2005-Ohio-5196, 839 N.E.2d 88, ¶ 3 (8th Dist.). Defendants' counterclaim is for false light invasion of privacy. "To establish false light invasion of privacy, a plaintiff must show: (1) the defendant gave publicity to a private matter concerning the plaintiffs;

(2) the publicity placed the plaintiff in a false light; (3) the false light

would be highly offensive to a reasonable person; and (4) the defendant had knowledge of or acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity of the publicized matter and the false light in which the plaintiff would be placed." *Id.*, citing *Welling* at syllabus. "To be actionable false light, 'the statement made must be untrue.'" *Id.*, citing *Welling* at 52; see also *Murray v. Chagrin Valley Publishing Co.*, 2014-Ohio-5442, 25 N.E.3d 1111, 38 (8th Dist.) (finding there must be untruthful statements commenting on private matters to be actionable false light). Defendants' counterclaim does not establish the elements of false light invasion of privacy. The court finds plaintiff's motion well taken and granted. In construing the material allegations in the complaint, with all reasonable inferences to be drawn therefrom in favor of the nonmoving party as true, the court finds that no material factual issues exist and that the movant George Troicky is entitled to judgment as a matter of law under Civ.R. 12(C). Defendants' counterclaim is dismissed with prejudice. Journal Entry No. 202176894 (Sept. 30, 2025). On October 17, 2025, the Lundeens filed their complaint for a writ of mandamus. On November 21, 2025, Judge Miday filed a motion to dismiss the complaint for mandamus. On December 5, 2025, the Lundeens filed a brief in opposition to the motion to dismiss. On December 24, 2025, Judge Miday filed a supplemental brief in support of the motion to dismiss.

II. LEGAL ANALYSIS

The Lundeens, in support of their complaint for mandamus, argue that Judge Miday did not possess the required jurisdiction to grant a Civ.R. 12(C) motion for judgment on the pleadings to dismiss their counterclaim. Specifically, the Lundeens argue that Judge Miday possessed no jurisdiction to act on the Civ.R. 12(C) motion for judgment on the pleadings because no answer was filed in response to the counterclaim. Thus, the Lundeens argue that Judge Miday is required to vacate the judgment that granted the motion for judgment on the pleadings and dismissed their counterclaim based upon false light invasion of privacy. A. Standard for Granting Mandamus The Ohio Const., art., IV, § 3(B)(1)(b) provides this court with original jurisdiction over a complaint that seeks a writ of mandamus. A writ of mandamus, however, is an extraordinary remedy that can only be granted in a limited set of circumstances. *State ex rel. Parisi v. Heck*, 2013-Ohio-4948, ¶ 4 (2d Dist.). Mandamus can only be employed to compel the performance of a present existing duty to which there is a default. *State ex rel. Willis v. Sheboy*, 6 Ohio St.3d 167, 168 (1983); *State ex rel. Fed. Homes Properties, Inc. v. Singer*, 9 Ohio St.2d 95, 96 (1967).

To be granted mandamus, the Lundeens must establish (1) a clear legal right to the requested relief, (2) a clear legal duty on the part of Judge Miday, and (3) the lack of an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law. *State ex rel. Richardson v. Gowdy*, 2023-Ohio-976, ¶ 12; *State ex rel. Waters v. Spath*, 2012-Ohio-69, ¶ 6. The Ohio Supreme Court has held “[t]he availability of an appeal is an adequate remedy sufficient to preclude a writ.” *State ex rel. Luoma v. Russo*, 2014-Ohio-4532, ¶ 8; *State ex rel. Peoples v. Johnson*, 2017-Ohio-9140, ¶ 11. The availability of an appeal is an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law even if the relator fails to pursue an appeal. *Jackson v. Johnson*, 2013-Ohio-999, ¶ 11; *State ex rel. Gaydosh v. Twinsburg*, 93 Ohio St.3d 576, 578 (2001). The Lundeens argue that Judge Miday lacked jurisdiction to issue a ruling with regard to the Civ.R. 12(C) motion for judgment on the pleadings. Absent a patent and unambiguous lack of jurisdiction, a court having general jurisdiction of the subject matter of an action has authority to determine its own jurisdiction. In addition, a party challenging the trial court’s jurisdiction possesses an adequate remedy at law through an appeal from the court’s holding that it has jurisdiction. *State ex rel. Rootstown Local School Dist. Bd. of Edn. v. Portage Cty. Court of Common Pleas*, 78 Ohio St.3d 489, 492 (1997). Moreover, this court has discretion in issuing a writ. *State ex rel. Gilligan v. Hoddinott*, 36 Ohio St.2d 127, 132 (1973). Herein, Judge Miday is a judge of a common pleas court. A common pleas court is a court of general jurisdiction with subject-matter jurisdiction that extends to all matters at law and in equity that are not denied to it. Ohio Const., art. IV, § 4(B). *Ohio High School Athletic Assn. v. Ruehlman*, 2019-Ohio-2485, ¶ 7. In addition, once a case is transferred from a municipal court to a common pleas court, the case shall proceed as if it had been originally commenced in the common pleas court. R.C. 1901.22(G); *Yousef v. Yousef*, 2019-Ohio-3656, ¶ 9 (8th Dist.). Judge Miday unquestionably possessed subject-matter jurisdiction over the counterclaim and the Civ.R. 12(C) motion for judgment on the pleadings. Also, “when a specific action is within a court’s subject-matter

jurisdiction, any error in the exercise of that jurisdiction renders the court's judgment voidable, not void." State v. Harper, 2020-Ohio-2913, ¶ 26. Any extraordinary relief, such as through an original action, is not available to attack a voidable judgment. State ex rel. Davic v. Franklin Cty. Court of Common Pleas, 2023-Ohio-4569, ¶ 15; State v. Harper, ¶ 26. When a court possesses basic subject-matter jurisdiction to act, and an appeal is available, a writ will not issue. France v. Celebrezze, 2012-Ohio-5085, ¶ 10 (8th Dist.). Thus, we find that the Lundeens have failed to establish a right to have the dismissal of their counterclaim vacated, failed to establish that Judge Miday is required to vacate the judgment that dismissed their counterclaim, and have failed to establish that an appeal does not constitute an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law.

B. Declaration as Vexatious Litigators The constitutional right of access to courts guaranteed under Ohio Const., art. I, § 16, is not unfettered. It does not include the right to impede the normal functioning of judicial processes. State ex rel. Richard v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Commrs., 100 Ohio App.3d 592, 598 (8th Dist. 1995). By repeatedly filing meritless original actions and appeals, the Lundeens have continually taxed the limited and precious resources of this court and the clerk of courts. Exercising our inherent power under Loc.App.R. 23, we, sua sponte, declare the Lundeens vexatious litigators to prevent any further abuse by them of the judicial process. See State v. Henderson, 2014-Ohio-2274 (8th Dist.); State ex rel. McGrath v. McClelland, 2012-Ohio-157 (8th Dist.). Accordingly, the Lundeens are prohibited from instituting any appeals or original actions, continuing any appeals or original actions, or filing any motions in any pending appeals or original actions, pro se, in the Eighth District Court of Appeals, without first obtaining leave of this court. The Lundeens are further prohibited from filing any appeals or original actions, pro se, in the Eighth District Court of Appeals without the filing fee and security for costs required by Loc.App.R. 3(A). See McGrath. Any request to file an appeal or original action shall be submitted to the clerk of this court for the court's review along with any appeal or original action. C.

Disposition Accordingly, we grant Judge Miday's motion to dismiss. Costs to the Lundeens. The court directs the clerk of courts to serve all parties with notice of this judgment and the date of entry upon the journal as required by Civ.R. 58(B). Complaint dismissed.

ANITA LASTER MAYS, JUDGE
EILEEN A. GALLAGHER, P.J., and
DEENA R. CALABRESE, J., CONCUR