

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

Reed Timmer v. Triumph Roofing and Construction LLC, et al.

Timmer · No. 4:24-CV-635-SDJ · Decided March 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas partially adopts and modifies a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation concerning Reed Timmer’s motion for default judgment against Roddy Doddy Agency. The court concludes that the defendant’s failure to appear substantially prejudiced Timmer and orders Roddy Doddy Agency to pay \$1,500 in statutory damages plus post-judgment interest at 3.70%.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division
DECIDED	March 30, 2026
DOCKET	4:24-CV-635-SDJ
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation on Plaintiff Reed Timmer's motion for entry of final judgment by default against Roddy Doddy Agency. No party filed objections. The district court adopted the report in part, modified its analysis of substantial prejudice, and granted the motion in part.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court independently considered the magistrate judge's report and recommendation because no objections were filed, adopted the report's findings and conclusions except for the modified substantial-prejudice analysis, and applied the Fifth Circuit's six-factor test for determining whether default judgment is procedurally warranted.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

default judgment

default

civil procedure

damages

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil procedure

Copyright

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the substantial-prejudice factor in the Fifth Circuit's default-judgment analysis requires courts to assess prejudice experienced by the plaintiff rather than potential prejudice to the defendant.
2. Whether, after applying the six Lindsey factors and modifying the prejudice analysis, Timmer's motion for final default judgment should be granted in part.

HOLDINGS

1. When analyzing the second Lindsey factor, courts must examine the substantial prejudice experienced by the plaintiff, not whether entry of default judgment may prejudice the defendant.
2. Timmer's motion for entry of final judgment by default was properly granted in part, with Roddy Doddy Agency ordered to pay \$1,500 in statutory damages plus post-judgment interest at 3.70% from the date judgment was entered.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Therefore, when conducting the analysis for the second of the six Lindsey factors, courts should analyze the prejudice that has been experienced by the plaintiff.” (at 1)

“It is therefore ORDERED that Plaintiff Reed Timmer’s Motion for Entry of Final Judgment by Default Against Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency, and Incorporated Memorandum of Law, (Dkt. #34), is GRANTED in part.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency failed to appear and failed to answer Timmer's complaint. The failure to respond halted the adversarial process and caused substantial prejudice to Timmer. The court determined that default judgment was warranted and awarded statutory damages of \$1,500 plus post-judgment interest.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The matter was referred to a United States magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636 and Local Rule CV-72. The magistrate judge recommended granting in part Timmer's motion for final default judgment and awarding \$1,500 in statutory damages plus post-judgment interest. The district court modified the prejudice analysis, adopted the remaining findings and conclusions, and ordered Roddy Doddy Agency to pay the recommended damages and interest.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Lindsey v. Prive Corp., 161 F.3d 886, 893 (5th Cir. 1998)
- Wearable Shoe Tree, LLC v. Does 1-601, No. 4:24-CV-334-SDJ, 2025 WL 872524, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 20, 2025)
- Securities & Exchange Commission v. Moss, No. 4:20-CV-972-SDJ, 2022 WL 757226, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 11, 2022)
- Back-Up Systems Maintenance, LLC v. Suarez, No. 4:21-CV-521-SDJ, 2022 WL 2119115, at *4 (E.D. Tex. June 13, 2022)
- Viridity Energy Solutions, Inc. v. Lone Star Demand Response, LLC, No. 4:21-CV-419-SDJ, 2022 WL 4004785, at *3 (E.D. Tex. July 12, 2022)
- TenPearls, LLC v. Medulla International, LLC, No. 4:22-CV-550-SDJ, 2023 WL 3292883, at *3 (E.D. Tex. May 5, 2023)
- BEPS Services, LLC v. Blue Escape Pools, LLC, No. 4:23-CV-975-SDJ, 2025 WL 2713722, at *2 (E.D. Tex. Sept. 23, 2025)
- Insurance Co. of the West v. H&G Contractor's, Inc., No. CIV.A. C-10-390, 2011 WL 4738197, at *3 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 5, 2011)

OPINION

Timmer

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

SHERMAN DIVISION

REED TIMMER §

§

v. § CIVIL NO. 4:24-CV-635-SDJ

§

TRIUMPH ROOFING AND §

CONSTRUCTION LLC, ET AL. §

MEMORANDUM ADOPTING IN PART AND

MODIFYING IN PART THE REPORT AND

RECOMMENDATION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Before the Court is the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge (the “Report”), (Dkt. #41), this matter having been referred to the Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and Local Rule CV-72. The Report recommends that Plaintiff Reed Timmer’s Motion for Entry of Final Judgment by Default Against Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency, and

Incorporated Memorandum of Law, (Dkt. #34), be granted in part and that Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency pay Plaintiff Reed Timmer \$1,500.00 in statutory damages plus post-judgment interest. No party filed objections to the Report. The Court modifies the Report's analysis of substantial prejudice. (Dkt. #41 at 5–6). To determine whether a default judgment is procedurally warranted, a court must look at six factors from *Lindsey v. Prive Corp.*: [W]hether material issues of fact are at issue, whether there has been substantial prejudice, whether the grounds for default are clearly established, whether the default was caused by a good faith mistake or excusable neglect, the harshness of a default judgment, and whether the court would think itself obliged to set aside the default on the defendant's motion. 161 F.3d 886, 893 (5th Cir. 1998). The second factor, "whether there has been substantial prejudice," directs courts to analyze whether the plaintiff has been substantially prejudiced. However, the Report analyzes whether the "entry of default judgment would not be harsh or result in substantial prejudice to Defendant." (Dkt. #41 at 5) (emphasis added).¹ Because "default judgments are disfavored," a court will not issue them unless a party's default causes real prejudice to the moving party. See *Lindsey*, 161 F.3d at 893. In this regard, *Lindsey* refers to whether the plaintiff has been prejudiced in its formulation of the second factor: "whether there has been substantial prejudice." *Id.* (emphasis added). Referring to "substantial prejudice" that "has been," *Lindsey* directs courts to analyze any prejudice that has occurred, not whether there will be prejudice in the future due to a default judgment. *Id.* Further, to analyze potential prejudice to the defendant would be duplicative of the fifth factor, "the harshness of a default judgment." *Id.* Therefore, when conducting the analysis for the second of the six *Lindsey* factors, courts should analyze the prejudice that has been experienced by the plaintiff. ¹ In support of this analysis, the Report cites to this Court's opinion in *Wearable Shoe Tree, LLC v. Does 1-601*, No. 4:24-CV-334-SDJ, 2025 WL 872524, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 20, 2025). (Dkt. #41 at 5). The Court acknowledges that *Wearable Shoe Tree* mistakenly applied the "substantial prejudice" inquiry to the defendants, rather than to the plaintiff, an approach that departed from this Court's previous rulings on motions for default judgment in which it correctly analyzed prejudice as to the plaintiff. See, e.g., *Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Moss*, No. 4:20-CV-972-SDJ, 2022 WL 757226, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 11, 2022); *Back-Up Sys. Maint., LLC v. Suarez*, No. 4:21-CV-521-SDJ, 2022 WL 2119115, at *4 (E.D. Tex. June 13, 2022); *Viridity Energy Sols., Inc. v. Lone Star Demand Response, LLC*, No. 4:21-CV-419-SDJ, 2022 WL 4004785, at *3 (E.D. Tex. July 12, 2022); *TenPearls, LLC v. Medulla Int'l, LLC*, No. 4:22-CV-550-SDJ, 2023 WL 3292883, at *3 (E.D. Tex. May 5, 2023); *BEPS Servs., LLC v. Blue Escape Pools, LLC*, No. 4:23-CV-975-SDJ, 2025 WL 2713722, at *2 (E.D. Tex. Sept. 23, 2025). The Court notes that this minor error does not affect the ultimate resolution of the motion at issue in *Wearable Shoe Tree*. Here, conducting the proper analysis as to the second *Lindsey* factor does not alter the ultimate outcome of the Report. Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency's failure to appear has resulted in substantial prejudice to Timmer. When a defendant fails to respond to a lawsuit, the adversarial process is brought to a halt, resulting in prejudice to the plaintiff's interest. *Ins. Co. of the West v. H&G Contractor's*,

Inc., No. CIV.A. C-10-390, 2011 WL 4738197, at *3 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 5, 2011). Here, Timmer has been prejudiced by Defendant's failure to answer the complaint and will be further prejudiced absent a default judgment. Besides the above-stated modification, the Court concludes that the findings and conclusions of the Magistrate Judge are correct and adopts the Report as the findings and conclusions of the Court. It is therefore ORDERED that Plaintiff Reed Timmer's Motion for Entry of Final Judgment by Default Against Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency, and Incorporated Memorandum of Law, (Dkt. #34), is GRANTED in part. It is further ORDERED that Defendant Roddy Doddy Agency shall pay Plaintiff Reed Timmer \$1,500.00 in statutory damages plus post-judgment interest at a rate of 3.70% from the date of the entry of judgment.