

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
VIRGINIA

John Joyce v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation

Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-97 (RDA/LRV) · No. Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-97 (RDA/LRV) · Decided April 29,
2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia adopts a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation recommending that Plaintiff John Joyce be permitted to amend his complaint. The court grants the motion for leave to amend and directs Plaintiff to file the amended complaint within seven days.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
DECIDED	April 29, 2026
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-97 (RDA/LRV)
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending that Plaintiff be granted leave to amend the complaint. No objections were filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	In the absence of objections to a magistrate judge's recommendation, the district court need only determine whether there is clear error on the face of the record rather than conduct de novo review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	John Joyce v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation

TOPICS

- motion to amend
- pleadings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation when no objections were filed and no clear error appeared on the face of the record.
2. Whether Plaintiff should be granted leave to amend the complaint.

HOLDINGS

1. When no objections are filed to a magistrate judge's recommendation, the district court need not conduct de novo review and may accept the recommendation after satisfying itself that no clear error appears on the face of the record.
2. Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend Complaint was granted, and Plaintiff was directed to file the amended complaint within seven days of the order's entry.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“in the absence of any objections to a Magistrate Judge’s Recommendation, the Court “need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation’”””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The plaintiff moved for leave to amend the complaint. The magistrate judge recommended granting the motion, and no party filed objections by the stated deadline.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Magistrate Judge Lindsey R. Vaala recommended granting Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend Complaint. After the objection deadline passed without objections, the district court reviewed the Report for clear error, approved and adopted it, granted the motion, and directed Plaintiff to file the amended complaint within seven days.

DISPOSITION

approved

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Plaintiff was directed to file the amended complaint within seven days of entry of the order.

CASES CITED

- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)