

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

Bobby J. Smith v. Unknown Goostrey

Smith v. Goostrey · No. 1:22-cv-753 · Decided February 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation in a prisoner civil rights action. The court granted defendants’ motion for summary judgment, dismissed the federal retaliation claim with prejudice, and declined supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claim, dismissing it without prejudice.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Paul L. Maloney
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division
DECIDED	February 20, 2026
DOCKET	1:22-cv-753
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, considered the prisoner's objections de novo, adopted the recommendation, granted defendants' motion for summary judgment on the federal retaliation claim, and declined supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claim.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviewed de novo those portions of the magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which specific objections were made, under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(3).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Bobby J. Smith v. Unknown Goostrey, Johnson

TOPICS

summary judgment

section 1983

civil rights

subject matter jurisdiction

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

prisoner litigation

federal civil procedure

summary judgment

supplemental jurisdiction

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's report and recommendation should be reviewed de novo based on the plaintiff's objections.
2. Whether defendants were entitled to summary judgment on the plaintiff's federal retaliation claim because the plaintiff could not establish causation.
3. Whether the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining state-law claim.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court reviews de novo the portions of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which specific objections are filed; nonspecific objections do not require de novo review under the statute.
2. Defendants were entitled to summary judgment because Smith could not establish causation for his retaliation claim; the evidence showed that his continued temporary custody was unrelated to his grievance.
3. The court declined to exercise jurisdiction over the remaining state-law claim after dismissing the federal claim and dismissed the state-law claim without prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"As a result, Defendants have demonstrated that the reason Plaintiff remained in temporary custody was unrelated to the grievance."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bobby Smith, a Michigan Department of Corrections prisoner, alleged that defendants violated his civil rights through retaliation. The retaliation claim concerned Smith's remaining in temporary segregation pending transfer. The Security Classification Committee gave Smith the option of remaining in temporary segregation until transfer, and Smith identified no record evidence contradicting that fact. The court concluded that the reason for his continued temporary custody was unrelated to his grievance.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff, a prisoner proceeding without counsel, asserted federal civil-rights and state-law claims. Defendants Goostrey and Johnson moved for summary judgment. The magistrate judge recommended granting summary judgment and dismissing the federal claim, while declining jurisdiction over the state-law claim. Plaintiff objected, but the district court overruled the objections, adopted the report and recommendation, granted

summary judgment, dismissed the federal retaliation claim with prejudice, and dismissed the state-law claim without prejudice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- 806 F.2d 636, 637 (6th Cir. 1986) (per curiam)

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