

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
OHIO, WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON

Norris v. Watson

Norris · No. 3:25-cv-133 · Decided March 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio adopted the magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation and dismissed Adam T. Norris’s case against Tom Watson with prejudice. The court certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith and denied Norris leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division at Dayton
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael J. Newman
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
DECIDED	March 2, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-133
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation after the parties failed to file timely objections.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court independently reviewed the Report and Recommendation and determined that it was well-reasoned; the opinion does not state a more specific standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Adam T. Norris v. Tom Watson

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- writ of certiorari

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- federal habeas procedure
- appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation when no timely objections were filed.
2. Whether the case should be dismissed with prejudice as recommended.
3. Whether an appeal would be taken in good faith and whether Plaintiff should be permitted to appeal in forma pauperis.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court adopted the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation in its entirety after reviewing it and noting that no timely objections had been filed.
2. The case was dismissed with prejudice in its entirety.
3. The court certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith and denied Plaintiff leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, the Court ADOPTS the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge in its entirety and DISMISSES this case WITH PREJUDICE.”

“Additionally, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a), the Court CERTIFIES that an appeal would not be taken in good faith and accordingly DENIES Plaintiff leave to appeal in forma pauperis.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion contains no substantive factual discussion concerning the underlying dispute between Adam T. Norris and Tom Watson. Its operative facts are procedural: a magistrate judge issued a Report and Recommendation, and the parties did not file objections before the deadline expired.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case was referred to Magistrate Judge Michael R. Merz under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b). The magistrate judge issued a Report and Recommendation, and no party objected within the time allowed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b). The district court adopted the Report and Recommendation in its entirety, dismissed the case with prejudice, certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith, denied Plaintiff leave to appeal in forma pauperis, and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Rhines v. Weber, 544 U.S. 269 (2005)

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