

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

- Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation when no timely objections were filed.
- 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)

#### OPINION

Norris

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON

ADAM T. NORRIS,

Plaintiff, Case No. 3:25-cv-133 vs. TOM WATSON, District Judge Michael J. Newman Magistrate Judge

Michael

R.

Merz

Defendant.

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ORDER: (1) ADOPTING THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE (Doc. No. 13); (2) DISMISSING THIS CASE WITH PREJUDICE  
IN ITS ENTIRETY; (3) CERTIFYING THAT AN APPEAL WOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN  
GOOD FAITH; AND (4) DENYING PLAINTIFF LEAVE TO APPEAL IN FORMA  
PAUPERIS

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The Court has reviewed the Report and Recommendation of Magistrate Judge Michael R. Merz (Doc. No. 13), to whom this case was referred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b). The parties have not filed objections to the Report and Recommendation and the time for doing so under Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b) has expired. Upon careful review of the foregoing, the Court determines that the Report and Recommendation is well-reasoned and should be adopted. See *Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269 (2005). 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. This case is CLOSED. IT IS SO ORDERED. March 2, 2026 s/Michael J. Newman Hon. Michael J. Newman United States District Judge