

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. JOHN DOE subscriber assigned IP address
108.5.244.235

Strike 3 Holdings · No. Civil Action No. 25-17873-MEF-MAH · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey grants Strike 3 Holdings, LLC leave to serve Verizon Fios with an expedited Rule 45 subpoena to identify the subscriber assigned IP address 108.5.244.235. The subpoena is limited to the subscriber’s name and address, and the court prohibits requests for telephone numbers, email addresses, or MAC addresses and imposes limits on use of the information.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael A. Hammer
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
DECIDED	December 22, 2025
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 25-17873-MEF-MAH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for leave to serve a third-party subpoena on Verizon Online LLC before the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) conference to identify the John Doe subscriber associated with a specified IP address.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied a discretionary good-cause standard to the request for expedited discovery, considering the entire record, the reasonableness of the request, the interests of justice, and potential prejudice to the responding party.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- copyright infringement
- civil procedure
- intellectual property

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should permit expedited discovery before the Rule 26(f) conference to identify an unknown copyright defendant.
2. Whether the subpoena should be limited to the subscriber's name and address to balance Plaintiff's need for identification against the privacy interests of a potentially uninvolved account holder.

HOLDINGS

1. Good cause supported allowing Plaintiff to serve a Rule 45 subpoena on Verizon Fios before the Rule 26(f) conference because the requested information was necessary to identify the proper defendant and permit service, and the request was appropriately limited.
2. Plaintiff may subpoena Verizon Fios only for the name and address of the subscriber assigned IP address 108.5.244.235; it may not seek the subscriber's telephone number, email address, or MAC address.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Good cause may be found where the need for expedited discovery, in consideration of the administration of justice, outweighs the prejudice to the responding party.”

“The Court therefore holds that Plaintiff may serve Verizon Fios with a subpoena pursuant to Federal Rule of Procedure 45 that is limited to obtaining the name and address of the subscriber of IP address 108.5.244.235.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Strike 3 Holdings alleged that it owned copyrights in certain works and that an unidentified defendant used BitTorrent to download and distribute those works through IP address 108.5.244.235. Plaintiff asserted that it could not identify or serve the defendant without information held by the relevant Internet service provider, Verizon Fios. Plaintiff sought only preconference discovery necessary to identify the subscriber associated with the IP address.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Strike 3 Holdings filed a copyright-infringement complaint against an unidentified John Doe defendant. Before the Rule 26(f) conference, Plaintiff moved for expedited discovery directed to the Internet service provider associated with the alleged infringement. The court granted the motion, but limited the subpoena to the subscriber's name and address and imposed restrictions on use and disclosure of the information.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Better Packages, Inc. v. Zheng, No. 05-4477, 2006 WL 1373055, at *3 (D.N.J. May 17, 2006)
- Ent. Tech. Corp. v. Walt Disney Imagineering, No. 03-3546, 2003 WL 22519440, at *4 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 2, 2003)
- In re BitTorrent Adult Film Copyright Infringement Cases, 296 F.R.D. 80, 87, 93 (E.D.N.Y. 2012)
- Manny Film LLC v. Doe Subscriber Assigned IP Address 50.166.88.98, 98 F. Supp. 3d 693, 694-95 (D.N.J. 2015)
- Semitool, Inc. v. Tokyo Electron Am., Inc., 208 F.R.D. 273, 276 (N.D. Cal. 2002)
- Plastic the Movie Ltd. v. Doe, No. 15-2476, 2015 WL 2159287, at *2-*3 (D.N.J. May 6, 2015)
- Malibu Media, LLC v. Does, No. 12-7615, 2013 WL 12407010, at *3-*4 (D.N.J. Feb. 26, 2013)
- Malibu Media LLC v. Doe, No. 14-3874, slip op. ¶ 7 (D.N.J. Sept. 2, 2014)
- Malibu Media v. Doe, No. 13-4660, slip op. at 2 (D.N.J. Aug. 19, 2013)
- Voltage Pictures v. Does, No. 12-6885, 2013 WL 12406868, at *4 (D.N.J. May 31, 2013)
- Malibu Media, LLC v. Does, No. 12-7789, 2014 WL 229295, at *9 (D.N.J. Jan. 21, 2014)

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