

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, AUSTIN DIVISION

Chioma Okoro and Jerome Okoro v. State of Texas, Governor Greg
Abbott, and Secretary of State

No. 1:25-CV-1526-RP · No. 1:25-CV-1526-RP · Decided December 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation and dismissed Chioma Okoro’s complaint without prejudice as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e). The court also imposed a pre-filing bar requiring Okoro to obtain prior judicial approval before filing future complaints in the district.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert Pitman
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division
DECIDED	December 10, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-CV-1526-RP
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation recommending dismissal of the complaint as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e) and imposition of a pre-filing bar. No timely objections were filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Clear-error review of the magistrate judge's report and recommendation because no timely objections were filed.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; precedential status unknown.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- sanctions
- pleadings
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation should be accepted when no timely objections were filed and the record showed no clear error.
2. Whether Plaintiff's complaint should be dismissed without prejudice as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e).
3. Whether Plaintiff should be barred from filing future complaints in the Western District of Texas without prior judicial approval based on her history of frivolous litigation.

HOLDINGS

1. When no timely objections are filed to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, the district court reviews the recommendation for clear error rather than conducting de novo review.
2. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e).
3. Plaintiff is barred from filing future complaints in the Western District of Texas without obtaining prior approval from a district or magistrate judge of that court.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because Plaintiff has not filed timely objections, the Court reviews the report and recommendation for clear error.” (Order)

“Plaintiff's complaint, (Dkt. 1), is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE as frivolous.” (Order)

“Plaintiff Chioma Okoro is BARRED from filing future complaints in the Western District of Texas without obtaining prior approval from a district or magistrate judge of this Court.” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Chioma Okoro filed a complaint and an application to proceed in forma pauperis, naming herself and Jerome Okoro as plaintiffs, although only Chioma signed the filings. The court noted that Plaintiff had previously filed four cases that had been dismissed as frivolous and had previously been warned that further frivolous litigation could result in a pre-filing bar. The court also noted that Plaintiff was on the State of Texas's list of vexatious litigants and was subject to a pre-filing order in Travis County.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Magistrate Judge Susan Hightower issued a report and recommendation on November 6, 2025, concerning Chioma Okoro's complaint and application to proceed in forma pauperis. Because Plaintiff filed no timely objections, the district court reviewed the recommendation for clear error, found none, adopted it, dismissed the complaint without prejudice as frivolous, and imposed a pre-filing bar requiring prior judicial approval for future complaints in the Western District of Texas.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Okoro v. State, No. 1:25-cv-00501-RP-SH, 2025 WL 1672141 (W.D. Tex. May 12, 2025)
- Okoro v. Pelosi, No. 1:21-cv-00504-LY, Dkt. 13 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 23, 2021)
- Okoro v. Pablos, No. 1:18-CV-401-RP, Dkt. 46 (W.D. Tex. Feb. 11, 2019)
- Okoro v. Texas, No. 1:22-cv-00804-LY-SH, 2022 WL 11112473 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 19, 2022)
- Okoro v. Texas, No. 1:22-CV-00804-LY-SH, 2022 WL 19569567, at *1 & n.1 (W.D. Tex. Dec. 21, 2022)
- Okoro v. Murphy, No. 03-20-00031-CV, 2020 WL 990019, at *1 (Tex. App.—Austin Feb. 28, 2020, no pet.)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION CHIOMA OKORO and JEROME OKORO, § § Plaintiffs, § § v. § 1:25-CV-1526-RP § STATE OF TEXAS, GOVERNOR GREG § ABBOTT, and SECRETARY OF STATE, § § Defendants. § ORDER Before the Court is the report and recommendation from United States Magistrate Judge Susan Hightower concerning Plaintiff Chioma Okoro’s¹ (“Plaintiff”) complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e).

(R. & R., Dkt. 4). Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Rule 1(d) of Appendix C of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Judge Hightower issued her report and recommendation on November 6, 2025. (Id.).

As of the date of this Order, Plaintiff has not filed objections to the report and recommendation. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), a party may serve and file specific, written objections to a magistrate judge’s proposed findings and recommendations within fourteen days after being served with a copy of the report and recommendation and, in doing so, secure de novo review by the district court.

When no objections are timely filed, a district court can review the magistrate’s report and recommendation for clear error. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 advisory committee’s note (“When no timely objection is filed, the [district] court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.”). ¹ As noted by Judge Hightower, Plaintiff names herself and Jerome Okoro as Plaintiffs, but only Chioma signed the Complaint and application to proceed in forma pauperis.

The Court therefore refers to Chioma Okoro as “Plaintiff,” and this Order pertains only to her. Because Plaintiff has not filed timely objections, the Court reviews the report and recommendation for clear error. Having done so and finding no clear error, the Court accepts and adopts the report and recommendation as its own order. Additionally, Judge Hightower recommended that a pre-

filing bar be imposed on Plaintiff, such that she will be barred from filing any lawsuits in this Court without first obtaining permission from a judge of this Court.

This Court has already dismissed as frivolous four cases brought by Plaintiff. *Okoro v. State*, No. 1:25-cv-00501-RP-SH, 2025 WL 1672141 (W.D. Tex. May 12, 2025), R. & R. adopted, 2025 WL 1667934 (W.D. Tex. June 11, 2025); *Okoro v. Pelosi*, No. 1:21-cv-00504-LY, Dkt. 13 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 23, 2021); *Okoro v. Pablos*, No. 1:18-CV-401-RP, Dkt. 46 (W.D. Tex. Feb. 11, 2019); *Okoro v. Texas*, No. 1:22-cv-00804-LY-SH, 2022 WL 11112473 (W.D.

Tex. Oct. 19, 2022). This case will be Plaintiff's fifth case dismissed as frivolous. Plaintiff has already been warned that filing any further frivolous lawsuits may result in a pre-filing bar. *Okoro v. Texas*, No. 1:22-CV-00804- LY-SH, 2022 WL 19569567, at *1 & n.1 (W.D. Tex. Dec. 21, 2022). Additionally, Plaintiff is on the State of Texas's list of vexatious litigants and is subject to a prefiling order in Travis County.

Okoro v. Murphy, No. 03-20-00031-CV, 2020 WL 990019, at *1 (Tex. App.—Austin Feb. 28, 2020, no pet.). The Court agrees with Judge Hightower that, based on Plaintiff's history of filing frivolous lawsuits, and in light of the fact that she has already been warned that a pre-filing bar may be imposed against her should she file a subsequent frivolous lawsuit, that a pre-filing bar is appropriate.

Accordingly, the Court ORDERS that the report and recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge, (Dkt. 4), is ADOPTED. Plaintiff's complaint, (Dkt. 1), is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE as frivolous. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff Chioma Okoro is BARRED from filing future complaints in the Western District of Texas without obtaining prior approval from a district or magistrate judge of this Court.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the Clerk's Office mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiff Chioma Okoro via certified mail. SIGNED on December 10, 2025. ROBERT PITMAN UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE