

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION

Jane Doe et al. v. Ursuline High School et al.

Doe v. Ursuline High School · No. 4:25-CV-1822 · Decided March 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio grants in part the Coach Defendants’ motion for an extension of time to answer and strikes Plaintiffs’ Third Amended Complaint in its entirety. The court permits refileing subject to removal of previously stricken material, allows certain grammatical changes to remain, and warns counsel that further nonconforming or frivolous filings may result in sanctions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Benita Y. Pearson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division
DECIDED	March 4, 2026
DOCKET	4:25-CV-1822
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court resolved the Coach Defendants' unopposed motion for an extension of time to answer the Third Amended Complaint after determining that the pleading did not comply with the court's prior order governing the permitted amendments.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A request to extend a deadline under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(b)(1), as identified in the opinion, requires good cause; generally, the movant must show that despite diligence the original deadline could not be met.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; memorandum opinion and order from a federal district court with no reporter citation.

TOPICS

- pleadings
- motion to amend
- sanctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil procedure

Pleading and amendment practice

Federal litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Coach Defendants established good cause for an extension of time to answer the Third Amended Complaint.
2. Whether Plaintiffs' Third Amended Complaint complied with the court's order permitting only specified deletions and prohibiting other substantive amendments.
3. Whether minor grammatical and typographical changes constituted impermissible amendments.

HOLDINGS

1. The Third Amended Complaint did not comply with the court's order because Plaintiffs replaced stricken material with substantive legal argument and objections, and the pleading was therefore stricken in its entirety.
2. Minor grammatical, clerical, and typographical changes, including conforming terminology to the court's pseudonym order, were non-substantive and could remain in a conforming Third Amended Complaint.
3. The motion for an extension of time to answer was granted in part, and the Coach Defendants were permitted to respond to any conforming Third Amended Complaint within seven days after it was filed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“No other content may be amended therein.” (PageID #: 2025)

“As a result of their patently inappropriate response to an Order that was clearly understood but found objectionable, the Third Amended Complaint is stricken in its entirety.” (Section IV.A)

“If Plaintiffs choose to refile a Third Amended Complaint, it shall be filed in accord with this Order: paragraphs previously ordered stricken shall be removed and not replaced with objections or explanations.” (Section V)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The court had ordered Plaintiffs to remove specified paragraphs from their pleading and expressly prohibited amendment of any other content. Plaintiffs removed the specified paragraphs but also inserted substantive legal argument and objections, while making other changes that the court characterized as minor grammatical or typographical edits. The Coach Defendants sought an additional thirty days to answer the nonconforming pleading.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed their original Complaint on September 2, 2025, followed by an Amended Complaint and Second Amended Complaint. The court set February 6, 2026, as the deadline for filing a Third Amended Complaint and later ordered Plaintiffs to refile the Second Amended Complaint with specified paragraphs removed and no other

content amended. Plaintiffs filed a Third Amended Complaint that removed the specified paragraphs but also added substantive legal argument and other text. The Coach Defendants moved for an additional thirty days to answer, and the court granted the motion in part, struck the Third Amended Complaint, and established deadlines for any conforming refiling and response.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Shane v. Bunzl Distrib. USA, Inc., 275 F. App'x 535, 536 (6th Cir. 2008)
- Doe v. Ursuline High Sch., No. 4:25-CV-01822 (N.D. Ohio filed Sept. 2, 2025)

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