

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS

Taheera Sanders and David Miller v. Deontaye Beach and Organics
Distribution LLC

Sanders · No. 25-cv-2049-RJD · Decided February 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois grants Plaintiffs’ unopposed motion to remand a motor-vehicle collision case removed on diversity-jurisdiction grounds. The court concludes that Plaintiffs stipulated that neither individual claim satisfied the amount-in-controversy requirement and remands the action to the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County, Illinois.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Reona J. Daly
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
DECIDED	February 10, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-2049-RJD
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs moved to remand an action removed from Illinois state court on the asserted basis of diversity jurisdiction. Defendants did not respond.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The removing parties bear the burden of establishing federal jurisdiction, and removal statutes are construed narrowly, with doubts resolved in favor of remand.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Taheera Sanders, David Miller v. Deontaye Beach, Organics Distribution LLC

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

diversity jurisdiction

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether federal diversity jurisdiction existed when the plaintiffs stipulated that neither individual claim satisfied the amount-in-controversy requirement.
2. Whether the removed action should be remanded when the defendants failed to establish federal jurisdiction and did not oppose the motion to remand.

HOLDINGS

1. Federal diversity jurisdiction was not established because, in an action with two plaintiffs, the amount in controversy generally cannot be aggregated across their separate claims, and Plaintiffs stipulated that neither claim independently exceeded \$75,000.
2. Plaintiffs' motion to remand was granted, and the action was remanded to the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County, Illinois.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“As the removing parties, Defendants bear “the burden of establishing federal jurisdiction” and this Court must “interpret the removal statute narrowly, resolving any doubt in favor of the plaintiff’s choice of forum in state court.”” (Page 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On or about September 19, 2024, Taheera Sanders and David Miller were riding in a vehicle operated by Sanders in St. Clair County, Illinois. Deontaye Beach allegedly collided with their vehicle while operating a tractor-trailer in the course of his employment with Organics Distribution LLC. Plaintiffs alleged lost wages, personal injuries, and medical expenses, but stipulated that neither plaintiff's individual claim exceeded \$75,000.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed suit in the Circuit Court of St. Clair County, Illinois, arising from a motor-vehicle collision. Defendants removed the action to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois under 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Plaintiffs stipulated that neither individual claim satisfied the \$75,000 amount-in-controversy requirement and moved to remand. The district court granted the motion and remanded the case to the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County, Illinois.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The case is remanded to the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County, Illinois.

CASES CITED

- Travelers Prop. Cas. v. Good, 689 F.3d 714, 717 (7th Cir. 2012)
- Schur v. L.A. Weight Loss Centers, Inc., 577 F.3d 752, 758 (7th Cir. 2009)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS) TAHEERA SANDERS and DAVID MILLER,)) Plaintiffs,)) Case No. 25-cv-2049-RJD v.)) DEONTAYE BEACH and ORGANICS) DISTRIBUTION LLC,)) Defendants.))
ORDER DALY, Magistrate Judge: This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion to Remand (Doc. 12). Defendants did not respond.

As explained further, Plaintiffs' Motion is GRANTED. Plaintiffs allege that on or about September 19, 2024, they were riding in a motor vehicle operated by Plaintiff Taheera Sanders in St. Clair County, Illinois. Doc. 1-2, p. 2. Defendant Deontaye Beach allegedly collided with them as he operated a tractor-trailer in the course of his employment for Organics Distribution LLC. Id., pp. 2, 4.

Plaintiffs allege that they lost wages, suffered personal injuries, and incurred costs for medical treatment as a result of this collision. Id., pp. 4-5. They filed suit against Defendants in the Circuit Court of St. Clair County, Illinois. Id. Defendants removed the case to this Court, citing 28 U.S.C. §1332 (diversity jurisdiction). Doc. 1, ¶¶2-6. Plaintiff Sanders is a citizen of Florida and Plaintiff Miller is a citizen of Arkansas.

Id., ¶¶4,5. Defendant Beach is a citizen of Missouri and Defendant Organics Distribution, LLC Page 1 of 2 ("Organics Distribution") is a citizen of Missouri. One requirement for diversity jurisdiction is that each plaintiff is a citizen of a different state than each defendant. 28 U.S.C. §1332(a).

The other requirement is that the amount in controversy must exceed \$75,000.00. Id. Generally, in cases where there are two or more plaintiffs, the amount in controversy for their respective claims cannot be aggregated for purposes of establishing federal jurisdiction; each claim must meet the \$75,000 threshold on its own. Travelers Prop. Cas. v. Good, 689 F.3d 714, 717 (7th Cir.

2012). In their Motion to Remand, Plaintiffs stipulate that neither of their claims meets the \$75,000 minimum amount in controversy. Doc. 12, p. 1. As the removing parties, Defendants bear "the burden of establishing federal jurisdiction" and this Court must "interpret the removal statute narrowly, resolving any doubt in favor of the plaintiff's choice of forum in state court." Schur v. L.A.

Weight Loss Centers, Inc., 577 F.3d 752, 758 (7th Cir. 2009) (internal citations and quotations omitted). Defendants have filed no objection to remand and therefore Plaintiffs' Motion to

Remand (Doc. 12) is GRANTED. This case is REMANDED to the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County, Illinois. IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: February 10, 2026 s/ Reona J. Daly Hon. Reona J. Daly United States Magistrate Judge Page 2 of 2