

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

Ron Youngblood v. Warden Keith Turner

Civil Action No. 25-1418 · No. 2:25-cv-01418 · Decided November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana grants Ron Youngblood’s motion to stay his federal 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas proceedings while he exhausts pending post-conviction remedies in state court. The court finds good cause for the stay, determines that the unexhausted claims are not plainly meritless, and finds no evidence of abusive delay. Youngblood’s motion for copies of the respondent’s filings is denied without prejudice as moot, and the case is administratively closed while the court retains jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Karen Wells Roby
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
DECIDED	November 25, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-01418
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A state prisoner filed a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas petition and moved to stay the federal proceedings while he exhausted state post-conviction remedies. He also moved for copies of the respondent's answer and opposition. The magistrate judge granted the stay and denied the document-copy motion without prejudice as moot.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The motion to stay was evaluated under the stay-and-abeyance standard of Rhines v. Weber, including good cause for failure to exhaust, potential merit of the unexhausted claims, and absence of abusive litigation tactics or intentional delay. The court also considered whether a magistrate judge had authority to decide the nondispositive stay motion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Ron Youngblood v. Warden Keith Turner

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

post-conviction relief

civil procedure

constitutional law

PRACTICE AREAS

federal habeas corpus

state post-conviction relief

criminal procedure

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the federal habeas proceedings should be stayed while Youngblood exhausts his pending state post-conviction remedies.
2. Whether Youngblood's motion requesting copies of the respondent's answer and opposition should be granted after the court stayed the case.

HOLDINGS

1. A stay and abeyance is appropriate because Youngblood showed good cause for failing to exhaust before filing, at least some of his unexhausted claims were potentially meritorious, and there was no evidence of abusive litigation tactics or intentional delay.
2. The motion for copies of the respondent's answer and opposition was denied without prejudice as moot because the federal proceedings were stayed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“On the other hand, it likely would be an abuse of discretion for a district court to deny a stay and to dismiss a mixed petition if the petitioner had good cause for his failure to exhaust, his unexhausted claims are potentially meritorious, and there is no indication that the petitioner engaged in intentionally dilatory litigation tactics.” (at 277-78)

“IT IS ORDERED that Ron Youngblood’s Motion to Stay Proceeding (ECF No. 3) is GRANTED and that the pending matter be stayed.” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Youngblood is a Louisiana state prisoner convicted after trial of the attempted first-degree murder of Deputy Michael Dufrense and possession of a firearm by a felon; he was acquitted of a second attempted-murder charge. Following state appellate proceedings arising from *Ramos v. Louisiana*, the Louisiana Fifth Circuit affirmed the firearm conviction and vacated the attempted-murder conviction and sentence for a new trial. Youngblood filed a state post-conviction application raising, among other matters, a challenge to the effect of the new-trial order and ineffective assistance of counsel, and that application and related writ proceedings remained pending when he filed his federal petition.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Youngblood was convicted in Louisiana state court of attempted first-degree murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm. After appellate proceedings affected the attempted-murder conviction under *Ramos v.*

Louisiana, the Louisiana courts affirmed the firearm conviction and vacated the attempted-murder conviction for a new trial. Youngblood filed a state post-conviction application, which remained pending on related review, and then filed this federal habeas petition and motion to stay. The court stayed the federal case, ordered the matter closed for statistical purposes, retained jurisdiction, and allowed Youngblood to move to reopen within thirty days after exhausting state remedies.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Pierre v. Cain*, Civ. Action No. 15-5252, 2016 WL 1408581, at *1 n.1 (E.D. La. Apr. 11, 2016)
- *Kang v. Cain*, Civ. Action No. 15-2318, 2016 WL 866728, at *3 (E.D. La. Mar. 7, 2016)
- *State v. Youngblood*, 274 So. 3d 716 (La. App. 5th Cir. 2019)
- *State v. Youngblood*, 296 So. 3d 1022 (La. 2020)
- *State v. Youngblood*, 308 So. 3d 417 (La. App. 5th Cir. 2020)
- *State v. Youngblood*, 316 So. 3d 2 (La. 2021)
- *Ramos v. Louisiana*, 590 U.S. 83 (2020)
- *Roberts v. Cockrell*, 319 F.3d 690 (5th Cir. 2003)
- *Flanagan v. Johnson*, 154 F.3d 196 (5th Cir. 1998)
- *Ott v. Johnson*, 192 F.3d 510 (5th Cir. 1999)
- *Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269 (2005)
- *Rose v. Lundy*, 455 U.S. 509 (1982)
- *Darr v. Burford*, 339 U.S. 200 (1950)
- *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473 (2000)
- *Duncan v. Walker*, 533 U.S. 167 (2001)
- *Pace v. DiGuglielmo*, 544 U.S. 408 (2005)
- *Battaglia v. Stephens*, 824 F.3d 470 (5th Cir. 2016)
- *Zarvela v. Artuz*, 254 F.3d 374 (2d Cir. 2001)