

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Nancy Marleni Daun v. Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC

No. 2:25-cv-06513 (NJC) (LGD) (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 13, 2026) · No. 2:25-cv-06513 (NJC) (LGD) · Decided February 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The Eastern District of New York issued an order to show cause concerning Defendant Bob’s Discount Furniture, LLC’s removal of a New York personal-injury negligence action. The court found that the removal papers did not adequately establish that the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 or that the plaintiff was domiciled outside the defendant’s states of citizenship, and directed Defendant to show cause why the action should not be remanded.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Nusrat J. Choudhury
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
DECIDED	February 13, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-06513 (NJC) (LGD)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant removed a New York personal-injury negligence action to federal court on diversity grounds. The district court issued an order to show cause requiring Defendant to establish subject matter jurisdiction or face remand to state court.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court independently determines whether subject matter jurisdiction exists and may raise jurisdictional defects sua sponte at any time. The party invoking federal jurisdiction bears the burden of establishing it, and jurisdictional allegations must be supported by sufficient facts.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC v. Nancy Marleni Daun

TOPICS

subject matter jurisdiction

civil procedure

negligence

personal injury

pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

federal jurisdiction

personal injury

negligence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Defendant established that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 for diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).
2. Whether Defendant established complete diversity by adequately alleging Plaintiff Nancy Marleni Daun's state citizenship or domicile.
3. Whether the district court should remand the action for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendant failed to demonstrate a reasonable probability that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 because the asserted \$2,200,000 figure was unsupported by factual allegations or documentation.
2. Defendant failed to establish complete diversity because allegations that Plaintiff was a resident of New York, without allegations establishing domicile, were insufficient.
3. A federal district court has an independent obligation to determine whether subject matter jurisdiction exists and may raise a jurisdictional defect sua sponte at any time.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"This Court has an independent obligation to determine whether subject matter jurisdiction exists over this case."

"It is well-settled that the party asserting federal jurisdiction bears the burden of establishing jurisdiction"

"Accordingly, Defendant has not established either that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 or that there exists complete diversity between the parties as required for jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Nancy Marleni Daun alleged that she suffered personal injuries after tripping and falling on a rug on property leased and operated by Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC. Her complaint alleged damages exceeding the jurisdictional limits of lower New York courts but did not describe specific injuries, expenses, or a damages amount. Defendant relied principally on Plaintiff's counsel's email stating that the amount in controversy was \$2,200,000, while the removal papers did not establish Plaintiff's domicile beyond alleging New York residence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff commenced a negligence action in Suffolk County Supreme Court arising from an alleged slip-and-fall. Defendant removed the action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, asserting complete diversity and an amount in

controversy of \$2,200,000. The district court determined that the removal papers did not adequately establish either the amount in controversy or Plaintiff's domicile and ordered Defendant to show cause why the case should not be remanded.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Defendant must show cause by February 27, 2026, in writing and through sworn affidavit establishing all material facts, why the action should not be remanded for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. If Defendant does not respond or fails to establish jurisdiction, the court will remand the action to Suffolk County Supreme Court without prejudice to refile in the proper forum.

CASES CITED

- Joseph v. Leavitt, 465 F.3d 87, 89 (2d Cir. 2006)
- Lyndonville Savings Bank & Trust Co. v. Lussier, 211 F.3d 697, 700 (2d Cir. 2000)
- Doe v. McDonald, 128 F.4th 379, 384 (2d Cir. 2025)
- Platinum-Montaur Life Sciences, LLC v. Navidea Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., 943 F.3d 613, 617-18 (2d Cir. 2019)
- Bayerische Landesbank v. Aladdin Capital Management LLC, 692 F.3d 42, 48 (2d Cir. 2012)
- Carter v. HealthPort Technologies, LLC, 822 F.3d 47, 60 (2d Cir. 2016)
- Van Buskirk v. United Group of Companies, Inc., 935 F.3d 49, 53-54 (2d Cir. 2019)
- RainMakers Partners LLC v. NewSpring Capital, LLC, No. 23-cv-899, 2024 WL 1846321, at *2 n.1 (2d Cir. Apr. 29, 2024)
- Lever v. Lyons, No. 16-cv-5130, 2021 WL 302648, at *7 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 28, 2021)
- Lawrence Moskowitz CLU Ltd. v. ALP, Inc., 830 F. App'x 50, 51 (2d Cir. 2020)
- Pyskaty v. Wide World of Cars, LLC, 856 F.3d 216, 223 (2d Cir. 2017)
- Wood v. Maguire Automotive, LLC, 508 F. App'x 65, 65 (2d Cir. 2013)
- Lupo v. Human Affairs International, Inc., 28 F.3d 269, 273-74 (2d Cir. 1994)
- Minaudo v. Sunrise at Sheepshead Bay, No. 22-cv-2579, 2023 WL 110359, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 5, 2023)
- Elzoghary v. Zelaya-Monge, No. 23-cv-5353, 2023 WL 6121800, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 19, 2023)

OPINION

Daun

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Nancy Marleni Daun, Plaintiff, -v- 2:25-cv-06513

(NJC) (LGD)

Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC, Defendant.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

NUSRAT J. CHOUDHURY, United States District Judge: On November 24, 2025, Defendant Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC filed a Notice of Removal purporting to remove an action pending in the Suffolk County Supreme Court, initiated by Plaintiff Nancy Marleni Daun for negligence arising out of alleged injuries received while on property leased and operated by Defendant (Not. Removal, ECF No. 1; see also Compl., ECF No. 1-1.) The Notice of Removal asserts that this Court has diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332. (Not. Removal ¶¶ 3–4.) The Court has reviewed the Notice of Removal and the underlying Complaint and has determined that Defendant has failed to establish that this Court possesses diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). For the reasons set forth below, Defendant must show cause by February 27, 2026, in writing, with all material facts established by sworn affidavit, why this Court should not remand this case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

LEGAL STANDARDS

This Court has an independent obligation to determine whether subject matter jurisdiction exists over this case. See *Joseph v. Leavitt*, 465 F.3d 87, 89 (2d Cir. 2006). “[F]ailure of subject matter jurisdiction is not waivable and may be raised at any time by a party or by the court sua sponte.” *Lyndonville Sav. Bank & Tr. Co. v. Lussier*, 211 F.3d 697, 700 (2d Cir. 2000). If a district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction, it must dismiss the action. See *Doe v. McDonald*, 128 F.4th 379, 384 (2d Cir. 2025); Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3). “It is well-settled that the party asserting federal jurisdiction bears the burden of establishing jurisdiction,” and district courts “may not assume subject-matter jurisdiction when the record does not contain the necessary prerequisites for its existence.” *Platinum-Montaur Life Scis., LLC v. Navidea Biopharms., Inc.*, 943 F.3d 613, 617–18 (2d Cir. 2019) (quotation marks omitted). “[F]or diversity purposes, a corporation is considered a citizen of the state in which it is incorporated and the state of its principal place of business.” *Bayerische Landesbank v. Aladdin Cap. Mgmt. LLC*, 692 F.3d 42, 48 (2d Cir. 2012). “[T]he citizenship of a limited liability company is determined by the citizenship of each of its members.” *Carter v. HealthPort Techs., LLC*, 822 F.3d 47, 60 (2d Cir. 2016). And “[a]n individual’s citizenship, within the meaning of the diversity statute, is determined by his domicile,” or in other words, “the place where a person has his true fixed home and principal establishment, and to which, whenever he is absent, he has the intention of returning.” *Van Buskirk v. United Grp. of Cos., Inc.*, 935 F.3d 49, 53 (2d Cir. 2019). With respect to an individual’s citizenship, allegations of “residence alone [are] insufficient to establish domicile for jurisdictional purposes.” *Id.* at 54; accord *RainMakers Partners LLC v. NewSpring Cap., LLC*, No. 23-cv-899, 2024 WL 1846321, at *2 n.1 (2d Cir. Apr. 29, 2024) (“[A] complaint that alleges that the plaintiff and defendant are merely residents of different states has failed adequately to allege the existence of diversity jurisdiction.”). In order to determine an individual’s domicile, courts consider numerous factors,

which include: current residence; voting registration; driver's license and automobile registration; location of brokerage and bank accounts; membership in fraternal organizations, churches, and other associations; places of employment or business; . . . payment of taxes; . . . whether a person owns or rents his place of residence; the nature of the residence (i.e., how permanent the living arrangement appears); . . . and the location of a person's physician, lawyer, accountant, dentist, stockbroker, etc. *Lever v. Lyons*, No. 16-cv-5130, 2021 WL 302648, at *7 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 28, 2021) (citations omitted); see also *Lawrence Moskowitz CLU Ltd. v. ALP, Inc.*, 830 F. App'x 50, 51 (2d Cir. 2020) ("[T]he determination of domicile considers factors such as voting, taxes, property, bank accounts, places of business or employment.") (citation omitted). "[A] plaintiff invoking federal jurisdiction must demonstrate a 'reasonable probability' that the amount-in-controversy requirement is satisfied." *Pyskaty v. Wide World of Cars, LLC*, 856 F.3d 216, 223 (2d Cir. 2017) (citation omitted). The Second Circuit "recognize[s] a rebuttable presumption that the face of the complaint is a good faith representation of the actual amount in controversy." *Id.* The amount in controversy alleged must be plausible, i.e., supported by factual allegations in the complaint. *Wood v. Maguire Automotive, LLC*, 508 F. App'x 65, 65 (2d Cir. 2013) (affirming dismissal of complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction where the complaint's allegation "of \$75,000 in controversy is conclusory and not entitled to a presumption of truth"). "[I]f the jurisdictional amount is not clearly alleged in the . . . complaint, and the defendant's notice of removal fails to allege facts adequate to establish that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional amount, federal courts lack diversity jurisdiction as a basis for removing the plaintiff's action from state court." *Lupo v. Hum. Aff. Int'l Inc.*, 28 F.3d 269, 273–74 (2d Cir. 1994). "A defendant removing a personal injury or wrongful death action from New York state court, moreover, need not guess at the amount in controversy; New York state law provides a mechanism for establishing exactly that." *Minaudo v. Sunrise at Sheepshead Bay*, No. 22-cv-2579, 2023 WL 110359, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 5, 2023). "While the complaint in such an action 'shall not state the amount of damages' sought, N.Y. C.P.L.R. 3017(c), a defendant 'may at any time request a supplemental demand setting forth the total damages to which the pleader deems himself entitled,' . . . Should the plaintiff fail to serve that demand 'within fifteen days,' the state court 'may order that it be served.'" *Id.* "[S]ettlement demands generally are not reliable indicators of the amount in controversy . . . Indeed, 'settlement offers can often be wildly unrealistic and constitute mere puffery or posturing rather than a fair or realistic appraisal of a party's damages.'" *Elzoghary v. Zelaya- Monge*, No. 23-cv-5353, 2023 WL 6121800, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 19, 2023) (internal citations omitted). "[While] some courts have considered settlement demands in determining the amount in controversy, they have done so with caution," warning that "[a] settlement demand does not conclusively resolve the ambiguity regarding the amount in controversy." *Id.* "As such, courts considering settlement demands made prior to removal have viewed such offers as 'only one factor to consider in assessing the amount in controversy,' explaining that 'courts must consider the context in which such a settlement demand was made.'"

Id.

DISCUSSION

The Notice of Removal properly establishes that Defendant Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC is a citizen of Delaware and Connecticut. See Not. Removal ¶ 4 (alleging that BDF Acquisition Corp. is the sole member of Defendant and that "BDF Acquisition Corp. is incorporated in the State of Delaware with its principal place of business of 434 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester, Connecticut 06040."); see also *Carter*, 822 F.3d at 60 ("[T]he citizenship of a limited liability company is determined by the citizenship of each of its members."); *Bayerische Landesbank*, 692 F.3d at 48 (holding "a corporation is considered a citizen of the state in which it is incorporated and the state of its principal place of business"). However, the Notice of Removal fails to establish that the court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) for the following reasons. First, the Notice of Removal does not establish that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. The Notice of Removal cites a November 20, 2025 email from Plaintiff's counsel alleging that the amount in controversy is \$2,200,000. (Not. Removal ¶ 5; ECF No. 1-3.) However, neither the November 20, 2025 email nor the Notice of Removal nor any of its exhibits provide any context or justification regarding why the amount in controversy is \$2,200,000, such as any costs incurred by Plaintiff for any alleged injuries. The Complaint is a five-page document that generally alleges that Plaintiff seeks damages for personal injuries arising from a slip and fall without describing any injuries or related expenses. (See Compl.) It further alleges that "Plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants herein, in a sum exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction," which in New York is \$20,000. (Compl. at 9; N.Y. Const. Art. VI, § 11(a).) Plaintiff served Defendant with a verified bill of particulars, which asserts that Plaintiff tripped and fell on a rug and that Plaintiff sustained injuries to her shoulders, knees, wrists, and left elbow, but does not specify damages. (See ECF No. 1-4.) The parties exchanged demands for discovery, inspection, and affirmative defenses, but none of the documents provided specify a damages amount either.¹ (See *id.*) Defendant's demands do not include a demand for a specified damages amount, nor does it appear that Defendant served any other demand pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. 3017(c). (See *id.*) Rather, Defendant asked Plaintiff for an "amount in controversy, so this matter can be removed to federal court" and Plaintiff responded, "the amount in controversy is \$2,200,000." (ECF No. 1-3 1 While Plaintiff's Verified Bill of Particulars describes "Special Damages" incurred and attaches supporting documentation, such documentation is not included in Defendant's filing. at 2.) Accordingly, Defendant has not "demonstrate[d] a 'reasonable probability'" that the amount in controversy requirement is satisfied here. *Pyskaty*, 856 F.3d at 223. Second, the Notice of Removal fails to include sufficient facts demonstrating complete diversity of the parties because it fails to establish the citizenship of Plaintiff Nancy Marleni Daun. The Notice of Removal states, "plaintiff is a citizen of and currently domiciled in the State of New York," and cites to paragraph 1 of the Complaint. (See Not. Removal ¶ 4.) However, paragraph 1 of the Complaint alleges only that Plaintiff "was and continues to be a resident of the County of

Suffolk, State of New York.” (Compl. ¶ 1; ECF No. 1-1 at 4 (setting forth her New York residential address in the summons).) However, Plaintiff’s residence, standing alone does not establish that she is domiciled in New York. See Van Buskirk, 35 F.3d at 54. Accordingly, Defendant has not established either that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 or that there exists complete diversity between the parties as required for jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Defendant must show cause by February 27, 2026, in writing, through sworn affidavit, why this Court should not remand this action for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, without prejudice to refiling in the proper forum. If Defendant does not respond by February 27, 2026, or if its response does not show that the Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action, this action will be remanded to Suffolk County Supreme Court for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Dated: Central Islip, New York February 13, 2026 /s/ Nusrat J. Choudhury

NUSRAT J. CHOUDHURY

United States District Judge