

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 25-1886

ABRAHIM FATA,
Appellant

v.

CHARLES LANG; MARTHA LANG

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
(D.C. Civil Action No. 5:24-cv-06934)
District Judge: Honorable Mitchell S. Goldberg

Submitted for Possible Dismissal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) or
Summary Action Pursuant to Third Circuit LAR 27.4 and I.O.P. 10.6
October 16, 2025
Before: KRAUSE, MATEY, and BOVE, Circuit Judges

(Opinion filed: January 6, 2026)

OPINION*

* This disposition is not an opinion of the full Court and pursuant to I.O.P. 5.7 does not constitute binding precedent.

PER CURIAM

Appellant Abraham Fata, proceeding in forma pauperis, appeals from the District Court's order dismissing his amended complaint. For the reasons that follow, we will summarily affirm the District Court's judgment.

In December 2024, Fata filed his civil rights complaint against defendants Charles and Martha Lang. Fata raised multiple federal constitutional and civil rights claims, state tort claims, and allegations that defendants had violated multiple federal criminal statutes. Fata also alleged that defendants' actions assisted a conspiracy to cover up the sexual abuse of his son in 2016. After granting Fata's application to proceed in forma pauperis, the District Court: (1) dismissed Fata's conspiracy allegations as frivolous pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i); (2) dismissed Fata's constitutional and civil rights claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) for failure to state a claim; (3) dismissed Fata's criminal allegations because the statutes do not give rise to a private cause of action; and (4) dismissed Fata's state law claims for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

We have jurisdiction over this appeal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291. We construe Fata's allegations liberally and exercise plenary review over the District Court's dismissal order. See Dooley v. Wetzel, 957 F.3d 366, 373-74 (3d Cir. 2020) (citations omitted). We may summarily affirm if the appeal fails to present a substantial question. See 3d Cir. L.A.R. 27.4.

We agree with the District Court’s decision to dismiss this case. Fata’s complaint lacks specific factual allegations to explain how he is entitled to relief on his conspiracy claim. See Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). Fata’s belief that a conspiracy exists, and that defendants’ actions assisted the conspiracy, is not sufficient to survive dismissal. See Morrow v. Balaski, 719 F.3d 160, 165 (3d Cir. 2013) (“[W]e are not compelled to accept unsupported conclusions and unwarranted inferences, or a legal conclusion couched as factual allegation.”) (citation omitted).

Fata’s attempt to bring claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 fails because defendants, who are private citizens, are not state actors and were not acting under color of law. See Kach v. Hose, 589 F.3d 626, 646 (3d Cir. 2009). His attempt to bring claims under the federal criminal statutes fails because criminal statutes generally do not give rise to a private cause of action. See Cent. Bank of Denver, N.A. v. First Interstate Bank of Denver, N.A., 511 U.S. 164, 190 (1994). Finally, the District Court correctly dismissed Fata’s state law claims for lack of subject matter jurisdiction because he failed to allege a basis for diversity jurisdiction in his complaint. See McCann v. Newman Irrevocable Tr., 458 F.3d 281, 286 (3d Cir. 2006). Having dismissed all of Fata’s claims over which it had original jurisdiction, the District Court then acted within its discretion in declining to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the claims. See Elkadrawy v. Vanguard Grp., Inc., 584 F.3d 169, 174 (3d Cir. 2009).

Considering the foregoing, the District Court did not abuse its discretion or otherwise err in dismissing the complaint without leave to amend after determining that further amendment would have been futile. See Grayson v. Mayview State Hosp., 293 F.3d 103, 108 (3d Cir. 2002). Accordingly, we will summarily affirm the District Court's judgment.¹

¹ Although Fata's Motion for a More Definite Statement under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(e) and pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(B) is denied because those rules are not applicable to filings before this Court, in light of his pro se status, we have reviewed the Motion in its entirety and taken it into account in reaching the foregoing conclusions.