

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Annette Crawley v. Mark Roberson, Sheriff

Crawley · No. 25-3274-JWL · Decided March 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Kansas dismissed Annette Crawley’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). The dismissal followed Crawley’s failure to respond to an order to show cause or provide a current address after her release from custody; her motion to proceed in forma pauperis was denied as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John W. Lungstrum
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
DECIDED	March 2, 2026
DOCKET	25-3274-JWL
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner brought a petition for habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The district court dismissed the petition without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) after petitioner failed to comply with an order to show cause and failed to provide a current address.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Annette Crawley v. Mark Roberson, Sheriff

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- habeas corpus
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could dismiss the § 2241 petition without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) when petitioner failed to comply with the court's order to show cause.

2. Whether petitioner's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis should remain pending after dismissal of the action.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may dismiss an action without prejudice under Rule 41(b) when a petitioner fails to comply with a court order, including sua sponte, and the court dismissed this petition because Crawley failed to comply with the order to show cause by the court's deadline.
2. The motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis was denied as moot after dismissal of the petition.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This rule has been interpreted as permitting district courts to dismiss actions sua sponte when one of these conditions is met.”

“In addition, it is well established in this circuit that a district court is not obligated to follow any particular procedures when dismissing an action without prejudice under Rule 41(b).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

At the time she filed the petition, Annette Crawley was confined at the Johnson County Adult Detention Center in Olathe, Kansas. She alleged that she was being held on a Clay County, Missouri, detainer despite having no Johnson County charges and that a prior detention on the same detainer had ended after she refused extradition and no Governor's warrant was obtained. After Crawley was released from custody, court mailings to her detention-center address were returned, and she failed to respond to an order directing her to provide a current address and show cause by the court's deadline.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Crawley filed a § 2241 habeas petition while confined at the Johnson County Adult Detention Center, alleging detention on a Missouri detainer and refusal of extradition. She also moved to proceed in forma pauperis, but failed to provide required financial information. After the court's notice of deficiency was returned undelivered, Crawley was released from custody. The court then ordered her to provide a current address and show cause why the action should not be dismissed without prejudice; she did not respond, and the order was returned undelivered. The court dismissed the petition under Rule 41(b) and denied the in forma pauperis motion as moot.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Young v. United States, 316 F. App'x 764, 771–72 (10th Cir.)
- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 630–31 (1962)
- Olsen v. Mapes, 333 F.3d 1199, 1204 n.3 (10th Cir.)

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