

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Christian Daniel Rilloraza v. 7-Eleven, Inc. and 7-Eleven Store No.
29694

Rilloraza · No. EDCV 25-01362-KK-SPx · Decided November 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California dismissed Christian Daniel Rilloraza’s Americans with Disabilities Act action against 7-Eleven, Inc. and 7-Eleven Store No. 29694 without prejudice. The court dismissed the action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) because the plaintiff failed to submit required USM-285 forms and file a notice of submission after being warned that noncompliance could result in dismissal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kenly Kiya Kato
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	November 4, 2025
DOCKET	EDCV 25-01362-KK-SPx
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court sua sponte dismissed Plaintiff's Americans with Disabilities Act action without prejudice for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with a court order requiring Plaintiff to complete and submit service documents.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A district court may sua sponte dismiss an action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders, applying the five-factor test concerning expeditious resolution, docket management, prejudice, the policy favoring decisions on the merits, and the availability of less drastic sanctions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion
PARTIES	Christian Daniel Rilloraza v. 7-Eleven, Inc., 7-Eleven Store No. 29694

TOPICS

service of process

civil procedure

ada / disability

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

Americans with Disabilities Act

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could sua sponte dismiss the action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for Plaintiff's failure to prosecute and comply with the Court's service-related order.
2. Whether the five dismissal factors favored dismissal without prejudice under the circumstances.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may sua sponte dismiss an action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) when a plaintiff fails to prosecute the action or comply with a court order.
2. Dismissal without prejudice was warranted because the public interest in expeditious resolution, the Court's need to manage its docket, the presumption of prejudice to Defendants, and the availability of less drastic sanctions favored dismissal, and those considerations outweighed the policy favoring disposition on the merits.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"It is well established that district courts have sua sponte authority to dismiss actions for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders."

"Accordingly, the Court DISMISSES this action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and comply with Court orders."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff filed an ADA complaint against 7-Eleven, Inc. and 7-Eleven Store No. 29694 but did not serve Defendants by the August 27, 2025 deadline. After the Court authorized service by the United States Marshals Service, Plaintiff was ordered to submit USM-285 forms and file a notice of submission within twenty-one days, with an express warning that noncompliance could result in dismissal without prejudice. Plaintiff never filed the notice of submission, requested an extension, or otherwise advanced service of process.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the complaint on May 29, 2025, but did not serve Defendants by the Rule 4(m) deadline. After issuing an order to show cause, the Court granted Plaintiff's request for service by the United States Marshals Service and directed Plaintiff to submit a separate USM-285 form for each defendant and file a notice of submission within twenty-one days. Plaintiff did not file the required notice or request additional time, so the Court dismissed the action without prejudice under Rule 41(b) and ordered the Clerk to close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Hells Canyon Pres. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv., 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir. 2005)
- Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Omstead v. Dell, Inc., 594 F.3d 1081, 1084 (9th Cir. 2010)
- Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421, 1423 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Langere v. Verizon Wireless Servs., LLC, 983 F.3d 1115, 1117 (9th Cir. 2020)
- In re Eisen, 31 F.3d 1447, 1452-53 (9th Cir. 1994)
- Morris v. Morgan Stanley & Co., 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir. 1991)
- W. Coast Theater Corp. v. City of Portland, 897 F.2d 1519, 1523 (9th Cir. 1990)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES—GENERAL Case No. EDCV 25-01362-KK-SPx Date: November 4, 2025 Title: Present: The Honorable KENLY KIYA KATO, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE Twyla Freeman Not Reported Deputy Clerk Court Reporter Attorney(s) Present for Plaintiff(s): Attorney(s) Present for Defendant(s): None Present None Present Proceedings: (In Chambers) Order DISMISSING the Instant Action for Failure to Prosecute I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY On May 29, 2025, plaintiff Christian Daniel Rilloraza (“Plaintiff”) filed a Complaint against defendants 7-Eleven, Inc. and 7-Eleven Store No. 29694 (“Defendants”), asserting claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ECF Docket No. (“Dkt.”) 1. Pursuant to the Federal Rules, Plaintiff had until August 27, 2025, to serve Defendants with the Complaint and summons, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m), but failed to do so. Hence, on September 25, 2025, the Court issued an order to show cause as to why this action should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute. Dkt. 19.

On September 29, 2025, Plaintiff responded to the Court’s order to show cause with a motion requesting service by the United States Marshals Service pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3). Dkt. 20. On October 3, 2025, the Court granted Plaintiff’s motion, Dkt. 21, directed the Clerk of Court to issue the requested summons, *id.*, and provided Plaintiff with instructions on how to effectuate service through the United States Marshals Service, Dkt.

22, Order. Pursuant to the Court’s October 3, 2025 Order, “to accomplish service,” Plaintiff was required to “complete a separate USM-285 form for each defendant listed in the Service Order and send the completed forms to the clerk of court.” Order at 1.

The Court further ordered Plaintiff to “file with the clerk of court a Notice of Submission indicating that the completed USM-285 form(s) have been provided to the clerk of the court” “[n]o later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of” the Order. *Id.* at 2.

The Court expressly warned that if Plaintiff did not “submit the completed USM-285 forms and file the Notice of Submission within twenty-one (21) days of the date of” the Order, Plaintiff’s action would be “dismiss[ed] without prejudice for [] failure to comply with the Court’s order and Plaintiff’s failure to prosecute.” *Id.* To date, Plaintiff has not filed the Notice of Submission.

Plaintiff has, thus, failed to diligently prosecute this matter and is in violation of the Court’s October 3, 2025 Order. See Order. II. DISCUSSION It is well established that district courts have sua sponte authority to dismiss actions for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); see also *Hells Canyon Pres. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir.

2005) (stating a court may dismiss an action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) sua sponte); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992) (affirming district court’s dismissal of action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with court order).

In deciding whether to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders, a district court must consider five factors: “(1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits[;] and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions.” *Omstead v. Dell, Inc.*, 594 F.3d 1081, 1084 (9th Cir.

2010) (quoting *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1423 (9th Cir. 1986)), overruled on other grounds by *Langere v. Verizon Wireless Servs., LLC*, 983 F.3d 1115, 1117 (9th Cir. 2020). In the instant action, the first two factors – public interest in expeditious resolution of litigation and the court’s need to manage its docket – weigh in favor of dismissal. Plaintiff has not filed the Notice of Submission necessary to effectuate service of process against Defendants nor requested an extension of time to do so.

See Order. This failure to prosecute and follow court orders hinders the Court’s ability to move this case toward disposition and suggests Plaintiff does not intend to litigate this action diligently. The third factor – prejudice to the defendant – also weighs in favor of dismissal. A rebuttable presumption of prejudice to the defendant arises when a plaintiff unreasonably delays prosecution of an action.

See *In re Eisen*, 31 F.3d 1447, 1452-53 (9th Cir. 1994). Nothing suggests such a presumption is unwarranted in this case. The fourth factor – public policy in favor of deciding cases on the merits

– ordinarily weighs against dismissal. It is Plaintiff’s responsibility, however, to move towards disposition at a reasonable pace and avoid dilatory and evasive tactics.

See *Morris v. Morgan Stanley & Co.*, 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir. 1991). Plaintiff has not discharged this responsibility despite having been: (1) instructed on Plaintiff’s responsibilities; (2) granted sufficient time in which to discharge them; and (3) warned of the consequences of failure to do so. See Order.

Under these circumstances, the policy favoring resolution of disputes on the merits does not outweigh Plaintiff’s failure to obey court orders or to file responsive documents within the time granted. The fifth factor – availability of less drastic sanctions – also weighs in favor of dismissal.

The Court cannot move the case toward disposition without Plaintiff’s compliance with court orders or participation in this litigation. Plaintiff has shown they are either unwilling or unable to comply with court orders by failing to file responsive documents or otherwise cooperating in prosecuting this action.

Finally, while dismissal should not be entered unless Plaintiff has been notified dismissal is imminent, see *W. Coast Theater Corp. v. City of Portland*, 897 F.2d 1519, 1523 (9th Cir. 1990), the Court has explicitly warned Plaintiff about the possibility of dismissal, see Order at 2. III. CONCLUSION Accordingly, the Court DISMISSES this action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and comply with Court orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall close this action. (JS-6) IT IS SO ORDERED.