

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Williams v. Rama

No. 1:25-cv-00232-KES-SAB (E.D. Cal. June 17, 2025) · No. 1:25-cv-00232-KES-SAB · Decided June 17,
2025

SUMMARY

The United States Magistrate Judge recommends dismissing Ahkeem Williams’s pro se action against Rasaei Rama and others without prejudice. The recommendation is based on failure to state a claim, failure to prosecute, and failure to comply with the court’s order requiring a second amended complaint. The document also advises that objections may be filed within 14 days.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stanley A. Boone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	June 17, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00232-KES-SAB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Findings and recommendations by a magistrate judge recommending dismissal without prejudice of a pro se, in forma pauperis civil-rights action after the plaintiff failed to cure pleading deficiencies, failed to prosecute, and failed to comply with a court order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For involuntary dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), the court considers the public interest in expeditious resolution, the court's need to manage its docket, the risk of prejudice to defendants, the public policy favoring disposition on the merits, and the availability of less drastic sanctions. Screening dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) is proper when the complaint fails to state a claim.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss
- pleadings
- section 1983
- fourteenth amendment

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the action should be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) for failure to state a claim.
2. Whether the action should be involuntarily dismissed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with a court order.
3. Whether dismissal without prejudice is an appropriate lesser sanction under the circumstances.

HOLDINGS

1. The action should be dismissed because the amended complaint failed to state a claim for which relief could be granted, despite the court's prior explanation of the pleading deficiencies and opportunity to amend.
2. Dismissal without prejudice was warranted under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) because plaintiff failed to prosecute the action and failed to comply with the court's order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Before dismissing an action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41, a court must consider: (1) the public interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage a docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to defendant; (4) public policy favoring disposition on the merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions.” (at 2)

“It appears Plaintiff has abandoned this action, and Plaintiff’s failure to respond to the Court’s order warrants the sanction of dismissal without prejudice under the circumstances.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff proceeded pro se and in forma pauperis in a civil-rights action. The court twice found that his pleadings failed to state a claim and gave him instructions and an opportunity to file a compliant second amended complaint. Plaintiff failed to file the required pleading, failed to respond to the court's order, and did not update his address after court mail was returned as undeliverable.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court screened the initial complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and found that it failed to state a claim, then granted leave to amend. After screening the amended complaint, the court again found pleading deficiencies, advised plaintiff of the applicable Fourteenth Amendment standards, and directed him to file a second amended complaint. Plaintiff did not file the required pleading or respond to the order, and the magistrate judge recommended dismissal without prejudice; the recommendation was subject to review by the assigned district judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b).

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Barren v. Harrington, 152 F.3d 1193 (9th Cir. 1998)
- Applied Underwriters v. Lichtenegger, 913 F.3d 884, 889-90 (9th Cir. 2019)
- Hells Canyon Pres. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv., 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir. 2005)
- Malone v. U.S. Postal Service, 833 F.2d 128, 130-31 (9th Cir. 1987)
- Bautista v. Los Angeles County, 216 F.3d 837, 841 (9th Cir. 2000)
- Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Yourish v. California Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 990-91 (9th Cir. 1999)
- Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 644 (9th Cir. 2002)
- Sibron v. New York, 392 U.S. 40, 57 (1968)
- Wilkerson v. Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 838-39 (9th Cir. 2014)
- Baxter v. Sullivan, 923 F.2d 1391, 1394 (9th Cir. 1991)

OPINION

Williams v. Rama

PER CURIAM.

1 2 3 4 5 6

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

7

8 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

9 AHKEEM WILLIAMS, Case No. 1:25-cv-00232-KES-SAB 10 Plaintiff, FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

11 RECOMMENDING DISMISSAL OF

v. ACTION

12 RASAEI RAMA, et al., (ECF No. 13) 13 Defendants. 14 15 Plaintiff is proceeding pro se and
in forma pauperis in this action. (ECF No. 7.) On

16 March 27, 2025, the Court screened the initial complaint, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915, and
17 found that it failed to state a claim for which relief could be granted. (ECF No. 8.) The Court 18
explained the deficiencies in the complaint and directed Plaintiff to file an amended complaint 19
within 30 days of receiving the Court’s order. (Id.) On April 17, 2025, Plaintiff timely filed an 20
amended complaint, which the Court screened and found that Plaintiff had again failed to state a
21 claim. (ECF No. 13.) The Court construed that Plaintiff might be seeking to bring a claim under
22 the Fourteenth Amendment, gave Plaintiff the applicable legal standards, and explained the 23
pleading deficiencies. (Id.) The Court also admonished that “[i]f Plaintiff fails to file an 24
amended complaint in compliance with this order, the Court will recommend to a district judge 25

that this action be dismissed consistent with the reasons stated in this order.” (Id.) (emphasis in 26 original). The deadline for Plaintiff to file his second amended complaint has now passed, and 27 the Court will now recommend that this matter be dismissed for failure to state a claim, failure to prosecute, as well as failure to comply with the Court’s May 12, 2025 order. (ECF No. 13.) 1 I.

2 DISCUSSION

3 To begin with, the Court incorporates here its findings and conclusions from its May 12, 4 2025 screening order, which concluded that the amended complaint failed to state a claim. (ECF 5 No. 13.) Accordingly, on that basis alone, this matter should be dismissed. 28 U.S.C. § 6 1915(e)(2); see *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193 (9th Cir. 1998) (affirming sua sponte 7 dismissal for failure to state a claim). 8 In addition, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) permits courts to involuntarily dismiss 9 an action when a litigant fails to prosecute an action or fails to comply with a court order. See 10 Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); see also *Applied Underwriters v. Lichtenegger*, 913 F.3d 884, 889 (9th Cir. 11 2019) (citations omitted); *Hells Canyon Pres. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 403 F.3d 683, 689 12 (9th Cir. 2005) (“[T]he consensus among our sister circuits, with which we agree, is that courts 13 may dismiss under Rule 41(b) sua sponte, at least under certain circumstances.”). Similarly, 14 Local Rule 110 permits courts to impose sanctions on a party who fails to comply with a court 15 order, and the procedural rules that govern this Court are to be “construed, administered and 16 employed by the court . . . to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every 17 action and proceeding.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 1. 18 Before dismissing an action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41, a court must consider: (1) the 19 public interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage a docket; (3) 20 the risk of prejudice to defendant; (4) public policy favoring disposition on the merits; and (5) 21 the availability of less drastic sanctions. See *Applied Underwriters*, 913 F.3d at 890 (noting that 22 these five factors “must be considered” before a Rule 41 involuntarily dismissal); *Malone v. U.S. 23 Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130-31 (9th Cir. 1987) (reviewing the five factors and 24 independently reviewing the record because the district court did not make finding as to each). 25 But see *Bautista v. Los Angeles County*, 216 F.3d 837, 841 (9th Cir. 2000) (listing the same but 26 noting the court need not make explicit findings as to each); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 27 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (affirming dismissal of pro se § 1983 action when plaintiff did not 1 each factor is not required by the district court). 2 Upon review of the above-stated factors, the Court finds dismissal of the action is 3 warranted. The expeditious resolution of litigation is deemed to be in the public interest. 4 *Yourish v. California Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 990-91 (9th Cir. 1999). Turning to the second 5 factor, the Court’s need to efficiently manage its docket cannot be overstated. Given Plaintiff 6 has failed to respond to the Court’s May 12, 2025 order, the Court’s time is better spent on other 7 matters than needlessly consumed managing a case with a recalcitrant litigant. Indeed, “trial 8 courts do not have time to waste on multiple failures by aspiring litigants to follow the rules and 9 requirements of our courts.” *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 644 (9th Cir. 2002) (Trott, J., 10 concurring in affirmance of district court’s involuntary

dismissal with prejudice of habeas 11 petition where the petitioner failed to timely respond to court order, noting “the weight of the 12 docket-managing factor depends upon the size and load of the docket, and those in the best 13 position to know what that is are our beleaguered trial judges”). Delays have the inevitable and 14 inherent risk that evidence will become stale or witnesses’ memories will fade or be unavailable 15 and can prejudice a defendant, thereby satisfying the third factor. See *Sibron v. New York*, 392 16 U.S. 40, 57 (1968). The instant dismissal is a dismissal without prejudice, which is a lesser 17 sanction than a dismissal with prejudice, thereby addressing the fifth factor. 18 In sum, this case cannot linger indefinitely on this Court’s already overburdened docket. 19 A dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders is in 20 accord with Ninth Circuit precedent as well precedent governing Rule 41 dismissals. It appears 21 Plaintiff has abandoned this action, and Plaintiff’s failure to respond to the Court’s order 22 warrants the sanction of dismissal without prejudice under the circumstances.1 23 / / / 24 / / / 25 1 On May 21, 2025, the Court’s May 12, 2025 order was returned as mail undeliverable. Local Rule 183(b) requires 26 litigants appearing pro se to keep the Court and opposing parties advised on his or her current address. If mail is returned to the Court as undeliverable, and if such plaintiff fails to notify the Court and opposing parties within 30 27 days thereafter of a current address, the Court may dismiss the action without prejudice for failure to prosecute. L.R. 183(b). The time for Plaintiff to file a change of address has passed. The Court notes this as an additional 1 I.

2 ORDER AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3 Accordingly, it HEREBY RECOMMENDED that this case be dismissed without 4 | prejudice for failure to state a claim, failure to prosecute this action, and/or failure to comply 5 | with the Court’s order, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41 and Local Rule 110. 6 These Findings and Recommendations will be submitted to the United States District 7 | Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(). Within fourteen 8 | (14) days after being served with these Findings and Recommendations, Plaintiff may file 9 | written objections with the Court, limited to 15 pages in length, including exhibits. The 10 | document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and 11 | Recommendations.” Plaintiff is advised that failure to file objections within the specified time 12 | may result in the waiver of rights on appeal. *Wilkerson v. Wheeler*, 772 F.3d 834, 838-39 (9th 13 | Cir. 2014), citing *Baxter v. Sullivan*, 923 F.2d 1391, 1394 (9th Cir. 1991). 14

15 IT IS SO ORDERED. FA. ee

16 | Dated: _ June 17, 2025

STANLEY A. BOONE

17 United States Magistrate Judge 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28