

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Wanda Savage v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Savage v. Kennedy · No. 2:25-cv-08100-JLS-PVC · Decided December 5, 2025

SUMMARY

The U.S. District Court dismissed Wanda Savage’s action against Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. without prejudice because Plaintiff failed to file a complete in forma pauperis request or pay the filing fee. The court terminated all other pending matters and relied on its inherent authority to dismiss for failure to prosecute.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Josephine L. Staton
JURISDICTION	U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	December 5, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-08100-JLS-PVC
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought a civil action and submitted an incomplete and inconsistent request to proceed in forma pauperis. After the court ordered her either to file a complete request or pay the filing fee, she failed to comply, and the court dismissed the action without prejudice.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Wanda Savage v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

TOPICS

- motions to dismiss
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- federal courts
- in forma pauperis proceedings

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the action should be dismissed without prejudice when Plaintiff failed to submit a complete in forma pauperis request or pay the required filing fee after being ordered to do so.

2. Whether the court had authority to dismiss the action sua sponte for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with a court order.

HOLDINGS

1. A civil action may be dismissed without prejudice when the plaintiff fails to establish eligibility to proceed in forma pauperis and does not pay the required filing fee after being given an opportunity and order to do so.
2. A federal court has authority to dismiss an action sua sponte for lack of prosecution in order to manage its docket and achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The authority . . . to dismiss sua sponte for lack of prosecution . . . [is] vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff initiated a civil action but did not pay the filing fee or submit a complete and consistent request to proceed in forma pauperis. After receiving an order directing her to cure the deficiency or pay the fee within 30 days, Plaintiff took neither action.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 22, 2025, the court postponed ruling on Plaintiff's in forma pauperis request and ordered her to submit a completed request with an explanatory statement or pay the full filing fee within 30 days. The court warned that failure to comply would result in dismissal without prejudice. Plaintiff did not comply, so the court dismissed the case and terminated all other pending matters.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962)
- Roberts v. Soc. Sec. Dep't, 2022 WL 4088755, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 6, 2022)

OPINION

Wanda Savage v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

PER CURIAM.

JS-6

CIVIL MINUTES – GENERAL

Case No. 2:25-cv-08100-JLS-PVC Date: December 5, 2025 Title: Wanda Savage v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Present: The Honorable JOSEPHINE L. STATON, U.S. District Judge Kelly Davis

Not Reported Deputy Clerk Court Reporter / Recorder Attorneys Present for Plaintiff: Attorneys Present for Defendant: None Present None Present Proceedings (In Chambers): ORDER DISMISSING CASE FOR FAILING TO FILE A COMPLETE IN FORMA PAUPERIS REQUEST OR PAY FILING FEE

All parties instituting a civil action, suit, or proceeding in a district court of the United States must pay a filing fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party's failure to pay the filing fee only if the party is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) (1). On October 22, 2025, the Court postponed ruling on Plaintiff's request to proceed in forma pauperis ("Request") because it was incomplete and inconsistent. Dkt 13. The Court directed Plaintiff to either: (1) refile a fully completed Request on the Court's updated CV-60 form and a one-page statement explaining the deficiency; or (2) pay the full filing fee. Id. The Court warned that if Plaintiff did not comply within 30 days, the case would be dismissed without prejudice. Id. To date, Plaintiff has not complied with the Court's Order. Accordingly, this action is DISMISSED without prejudice. See *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962) ("The authority . . . to dismiss sua sponte for lack of JS-6

CIVIL MINUTES – GENERAL

Case No. 2:25-cv-08100-JLS-PVC Date: December 5, 2025 Title: Wanda Savage v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. prosecution . . . [is] vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases."); *Roberts v. Soc. Sec. Dep't*, 2022 WL 4088755, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 6, 2022) (action may be dismissed without prejudice where plaintiff fails to establish in forma pauperis status and does not pay the required filing fee). All other pending matters are TERMINATED. IT IS SO ORDERED.