

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION

Travone Williams v. Tony D. Peterson and Sgt. Thomas

Williams v. Peterson · No. 2:25-CV-813-WKW · Decided March 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama dismissed without prejudice a pro se prisoner’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action against Tony D. Peterson and Sgt. Thomas. The court dismissed the case for failure to pay the assessed initial partial filing fee and failure to comply with multiple court orders, relying on its inherent authority and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	W. Keith Watkins
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
DECIDED	March 25, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-CV-813-WKW
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a pro se 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint and sought leave to proceed in forma pauperis. After the court granted IFP status and assessed a \$10 initial partial filing fee, Plaintiff failed to pay the fee despite repeated orders, show-cause directives, extensions, and warnings that noncompliance could result in dismissal.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse of discretion for dismissal under the court's inherent authority and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

- sanctions
- civil procedure
- section 1983

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could dismiss the action under its inherent authority and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) because Plaintiff failed to prosecute and failed to comply with repeated court orders requiring payment of the initial partial filing fee.
2. Whether dismissal without prejudice was an appropriate sanction for Plaintiff's noncompliance.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may dismiss an action under its inherent docket-management authority and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) when a plaintiff fails to prosecute or disregards court orders, particularly after being warned of the consequences.
2. Dismissal without prejudice is appropriate for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders where the dismissal is not based on a required finding of willfulness or bad faith.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A dismissal without prejudice, by contrast, doesn’t require a finding of willfulness or bad faith because its consequences are less severe.”

“Based on the foregoing, it is ORDERED that this action is DISMISSED without prejudice.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Travone Williams, an incarcerated pro se plaintiff, filed a § 1983 complaint and sought to proceed in forma pauperis. After granting IFP status, the court assessed a \$10 initial partial filing fee. Williams did not pay the fee by the deadline, did not comply with repeated orders and warnings, and did not request another extension after receiving one.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff initially filed a handwritten IFP motion without the required account statement. The court directed him to correct the deficiency, later granted IFP status, and assessed an initial partial filing fee. Plaintiff failed to pay the fee by the original deadline, failed to comply with a show-cause order, obtained an extension through March 16, 2026, and still neither paid the fee nor sought another extension. The district court dismissed the action without prejudice and stated that final judgment would be entered separately.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *McNair v. Johnson*, 143 F.4th 1301, 1306–07 (11th Cir. 2025)

- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629–30 (1962)
- Moon v. Newsome, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989)
- Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla., 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989) (per curiam)
- Goforth v. Owens, 766 F.2d 1533, 1535 (11th Cir. 1985)

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/federal/united-states-district-court-for-the-middle-district-of-alab/2026/travone-williams-v-tony-d-peterson-and-sgt-thomas-5vtgztm0>