

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Jasmen Lavar Hall v. Ironwood State Prison

Hall v. Ironwood State Prison · No. 2:24-cv-2701-JGB-RAO · Decided September 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California dismisses Jasmen Lavar Hall’s civil rights action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). The dismissal is based on Hall’s failure to file an amended complaint and failure to respond to the court’s order to show cause.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jesus G. Bernal
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	September 11, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-2701-JGB-RAO
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Pro se prisoner civil-rights action dismissed without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to obey court orders and failure to prosecute.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the five-factor Ninth Circuit test for dismissal for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with court orders.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Jasmen Lavar Hall v. Ironwood State Prison, et al.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss
- prisoners rights
- section 1983

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights
- prisoner litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the action should be dismissed without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) because Plaintiff failed to file the required amended complaint, failed to respond to the order to show cause, and failed to prosecute.

HOLDINGS

1. Dismissal without prejudice was appropriate because Plaintiff failed to obey the court's orders and failed to prosecute the action.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“For the reasons set forth below, the Court dismisses this action for failure to obey court orders and to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).” (at 1)

“Four factors favor dismissal and one factor weighs slightly against dismissal. Accordingly, dismissal of this action without prejudice is appropriate.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a California state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a civil-rights complaint. After the case was transferred, the court granted in forma pauperis status and dismissed the complaint with leave to amend, setting a deadline for a First Amended Complaint and warning that noncompliance could result in dismissal. Plaintiff did not file the amended complaint or respond to the subsequent order to show cause.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a civil-rights complaint in the Southern District of California, and the action was transferred to the Central District of California. After granting in forma pauperis status, the court dismissed the original complaint with leave to amend and ordered Plaintiff to file a First Amended Complaint. Plaintiff instead filed grievance-related documents, failed to file the amended complaint, and failed to respond to an order to show cause; the court then dismissed the action without prejudice.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-63 (9th Cir. 1992)
- *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962)
- *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 642-43 (9th Cir. 2002)
- *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 990-91 (9th Cir. 1999)
- *Ash v. Cvetkov*, 739 F.2d 493, 496 (9th Cir. 1984)
- *Anderson v. Air W., Inc.*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976)
- *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)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 JASMEN LAVAR HALL, Case No. 2:24-cv-2701-JGB-RAO 12 Plaintiff, 13
v. ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT 14 IRONWOOD STATE PRISON, et al., 15 Defendants.
16 17 18 I. INTRODUCTION 19 On November 21, 2024, Plaintiff Jasmen Lavar Hall
("Plaintiff"), a California 20 state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a civil rights complaint
("Complaint") in the 21 Southern District of California.

Dkt. No. 1. The matter was transferred to the Central 22 District of California on December 9,
2024. Dkt. No. 5. Plaintiff's request to proceed 23 in forma pauperis was granted on December 26,
2024. Dkt. No. 8. On April 29, 24 2025, the Court issued an Order Dismissing Complaint with
Leave to Amend and 25 directing Plaintiff to file a First Amended Complaint ("FAC") by no later
than May 26 29, 2025.

Dkt. No. 11. The Court cautioned Plaintiff that failure to timely file the 27 FAC may result in
dismissal of this action without prejudice for failing to diligently 28 prosecute. Id. at 6. On May
20, 2025, Plaintiff filed a document captioned "Exhibit 1 A," which consists of copies of
paperwork related to the adjudication of his grievance 2 by the California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Dkt. No. 12. 3 When Plaintiff did not file the FAC by the May 29, 2025, deadline, the Court 4
issued an order to show cause on July 15, 2025, why the matter should not be 5 dismissed for
failure to prosecute and follow court orders ("OSC"). Dkt. No. 13. 6 The OSC directed Plaintiff to
respond in writing by August 5, 2025. Id. To date, 7 Plaintiff has not filed the FAC or responded to
the Court's OSC.

8 For the reasons set forth below, the Court dismisses this action for failure to 9 obey court orders
and to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). 10 II. DISCUSSION 11
Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41 ("Rule 41") governs the dismissal of 12 federal actions. Rule
41(b) grants district courts authority to dismiss actions for 13 failure to comply with court orders
or for failure to prosecute.

Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 14 963 F.2d 1258, 1260–63 (9th Cir. 1992); Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S.
626, 15 629–31 (1962). District courts may exercise their inherent power to control their 16
dockets by imposing sanctions, including, where appropriate, the dismissal of a case. 17 Ferdik,
963 F.2d at 1260. 18 A court must weigh five factors when determining whether to dismiss an
action 19 for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with court orders: 20 (1) the public's interest
in expeditious resolution of litigation; 21 (2) the court's need to manage its docket; 22 (3) the risk
of prejudice to defendants; 23 (4) the availability of less drastic alternatives; and 24 (5) the public
policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits.

25 *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir. 2002). Dismissal is appropriate 26 where at least four factors support dismissal, or where three factors “strongly 27 support” dismissal. *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 990 (9th Cir. 1990). 28 /// 1 Here, the first and second factors (the public’s interest in expeditious 2 resolution and the Court’s need to manage its docket) strongly favor dismissal.

3 “[T]he public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation always favors 4 dismissal.” *Id.* Plaintiff has failed to prosecute this action by not filing the FAC or 5 responding to the Court’s orders. Plaintiff’s “noncompliance has caused [this] action 6 to come to a complete halt, thereby allowing [him] to control the pace of the docket 7 rather than the Court.” *Yourish*, 191 F.3d at 990.

Plaintiff’s inaction interferes with 8 the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of the litigation and the Court’s need to 9 manage its docket. Accordingly, these two factors weigh strongly in favor of 10 dismissal. 11 The third factor (the risk of prejudice to the defendant) requires a defendant to 12 establish “that plaintiff’s actions impaired defendant’s ability to proceed to trial or 13 threatened to interfere with the rightful decision of the case.” *Pagtalunan*, 291 F.3d 14 at 642. “Limited delays and the prejudice to a defendant from the pendency of a 15 lawsuit are realities of the system that have to be accepted, provided the prejudice is 16 not compounded by ‘unreasonable’ delays.” *Ash v. Cvetkov*, 739 F.2d 493, 496 (9th Cir. 17 Cir.

1984). However, “the risk of prejudice to the defendant is related to the 18 plaintiff’s reason for defaulting in failing to timely” act. *Yourish*, 191 F.3d at 991. 19 The better the reason, the less likely it is that the third factor will favor dismissal. See 20 *id.* (finding that the plaintiff’s “paltry excuse for his default on the judge’s order 21 indicate[d] that there was sufficient prejudice to Defendants from the delay that [the 22 third] factor also strongly favor[ed] dismissal”). “[T]he failure to prosecute 23 diligently is sufficient by itself to justify a dismissal, even in the absence of a showing 24 of actual prejudice to the defendant from the failure.” *Anderson v. Air W., Inc.*, 542 25 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir.

1976); see also *In re Eisen*, 31 F.3d 1447, 1452–53 (9th Cir. 26 1994) (quoting *Anderson*). Here, the failure to file the FAC or communicate with the 27 Court indicates Plaintiff’s loss of interest in the matter. The Court finds that the third 28 factor weighs in favor of dismissal. 1 The fourth factor (the availability of less drastic alternatives) also weighs in 2 || favor of dismissal.

The Court provided Plaintiff sufficient time to file the FAC or, 3 || alternatively, to respond to the Court’s OSC. The Court cautioned Plaintiff that a 4 || failure to file the FAC may result in dismissal, see Dkt. No. 11 at 6. See L.R. 41-6. 5 || The Court further cautioned Plaintiff that a failure to respond to the OSC would result 6 || in the action being dismissed.

See Dkt. No. 13. Plaintiff’s failure to participate in 7 || his own lawsuit supports that no lesser sanction will be effective. 8 Regarding the fifth factor, public policy generally favors the

disposition of 9 || cases on their merits. Pagtalunan, 291 F.3d at 643.

However, it is the responsibility 10 || of the moving party to move the case toward a timely disposition on the merits, and 11 || to refrain from dilatory and evasive tactics. *Morris v. Morgan Stanley & Co.*, 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir. 1991).

Because Plaintiff has failed to participate in his own 13 || lawsuit, it does not appear that retention of this case would increase the likelihood of 14 || the matter being resolved on its merits. Therefore, this factor weighs only slightly 15 || against dismissal. 16 Four factors favor dismissal and one factor weighs slightly against dismissal. 17 || Accordingly, dismissal of this action without prejudice is appropriate.

18 | HT. CONCLUSION 19 For the reasons set forth above, the Court dismisses this action without 20 || prejudice. 21 22 || DATED: September 11, 2025 °° JEsSG.BERNASTM SS 24
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 25 26 27 28