

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA, FORT WAYNE DIVISION

Ted B. Jones v. IMPD, et al.

Jones v. IMPD · No. 1:25-CV-653-HAB-ALT · Decided March 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana dismissed Ted B. Jones’s case with prejudice after he failed to comply with an order requiring a properly completed complaint and continued submitting noncompliant filings. The court denied his pending motions to proceed in forma pauperis and for appointed counsel, imposed a two-year filing restriction subject to specified exceptions, and warned that attempts to circumvent the restriction could result in fines or more severe restrictions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Fort Wayne Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Holly A. Brady
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Fort Wayne Division
DECIDED	March 6, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-CV-653-HAB-ALT
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A pro se plaintiff failed to comply with an order requiring a properly completed civil complaint form and an amended complaint containing only related claims. The district court denied pending in forma pauperis and counsel motions, dismissed the action with prejudice, and imposed a filing restriction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion
PARTIES	Ted B. Jones v. IMPD, et al.

TOPICS

- sanctions
- civil procedure
- section 1983
- civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the action should be dismissed because the plaintiff failed to comply with the court's order requiring a proper amended complaint.
2. Whether the plaintiff's repeated frivolous and noncompliant filings justified restricting his ability to file papers in the district court.
3. Whether the plaintiff's pending motions to proceed in forma pauperis and for appointment of counsel should be denied.

HOLDINGS

1. A plaintiff's failure to comply with an order requiring a proper amended complaint, after being warned that noncompliance would result in dismissal, warranted dismissal of the case with prejudice.
2. A district court may restrict a litigant's future filings when repeated frivolous or noncompliant filings, despite prior admonitions, waste judicial resources and demonstrate continued disregard of court orders.
3. The court denied Jones's pending motions for leave to proceed in forma pauperis and for appointment of counsel.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Every paper filed . . . no matter how repetitious or frivolous, requires some portion of the institution’s limited resources. A part of the Court’s responsibility is to see that these resources are allocated in a way that promotes the interests of justice.” (362 F.3d at 957)

“That time has come. Jones has been repeatedly admonished that he would be restricted if he continued to make frivolous filings.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jones was instructed to submit a properly and legibly completed civil complaint form and an amended complaint containing only related claims. He failed to comply by the deadline and filed six additional illegible letters, each of which was stricken. The court also considered Jones's history of repeated frivolous or noncompliant filings and prior warnings that continued frivolous filings could result in filing restrictions.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 6, 2026, the court ordered Jones to submit a legible civil complaint form and an amended complaint limited to related claims by February 5, 2026. Jones did not comply and instead filed six additional illegible, nonresponsive letters, which the court struck. Relying on his repeated disregard of court orders and prior warnings, the court dismissed this case with prejudice and restricted his ability to file papers in the court, subject to specified exceptions and a two-year period before seeking removal of the restriction.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Jones v. Reno, et al., No. 1:94-CV-240-WCL
- Jones v. Fort Wayne City of, et al., No. 1:96-CV-484-WCL
- Jones v. Fort Wayne IN, et al., No. 1:97-CV-465-WCL
- Jones v. Stoner, et al., No. 1:03-CV-303-TLS-RBC
- Jones v. Indy City of, et al., No. 1:12-CV-111-RL-RBC
- Jones v. Majestic Care Ctr., No. 1:24-CV-111-HAB-SLC
- Jones v. CitiLink Bus, No. 1:25-CV-352-HAB-ALT
- Jones v. Parkview Hospital, et al., No. 1:25-CV-372-HAB-ALT
- Montgomery v. Davis, 362 F.3d 956, 957 (7th Cir. 2004)
- In re McDonald, 489 U.S. 180, 184 (1989)

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