

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA, LAFAYETTE DIVISION

Joseph A. Pitre v. Julius Alsandor et al.

Pitre · No. 6:22-CV-05166 · Decided November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States Magistrate Judge recommends granting the Opelousas Housing Authority’s motion to dismiss for Joseph A. Pitre’s failure to comply with a discovery order. The recommendation concludes that Pitre willfully failed to provide complete discovery responses despite being ordered to do so and that dismissal with prejudice is warranted under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 16 and 37. The parties were advised of their right to file objections under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Lafayette Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David J. Ayo
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Lafayette Division
DECIDED	November 25, 2025
DOCKET	6:22-CV-05166
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Report and recommendation on defendant Opelousas Housing Authority's unopposed motion to dismiss the remaining claims as a sanction for failure to comply with a discovery order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Dismissal as a discovery sanction is appropriate when a party's failure to comply with court orders is willful or in bad faith, accompanied by delay or contumacious conduct, and lesser sanctions would not deter the conduct or cure the prejudice.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- sanctions
- motions to dismiss
- civil procedure
- civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

employment law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Pitre's failure to comply with the court's discovery order warranted dismissal of his remaining claims with prejudice under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 16 and 37.
2. Whether lesser sanctions would adequately address Pitre's willful noncompliance and the prejudice to OHA.

HOLDINGS

1. The court recommended dismissal with prejudice because Pitre willfully failed to comply with the court's order compelling discovery, engaged in contumacious conduct, and caused undue prejudice to OHA.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“provide complete and thorough responses to all discovery propounded upon him by OHA on or before August 11, 2025.” (Rec. Doc. 47 at 2)

“no sanction lesser in severity than dismissal will cure Pitre’s contumacious conduct or mitigate the prejudice to OHA in preparing this case for the assigned January 26, 2026 trial date.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Pitre alleged that he was discriminated and retaliated against based on sex and age when he was not selected to become the permanent executive director of the Opelousas Housing Authority. After a July 21, 2025 hearing, the court ordered him to provide complete and thorough responses to OHA's interrogatories and requests for production by August 11, 2025. Pitre failed to answer Interrogatories 16, 20, and 21, gave insufficient answers to Interrogatories 5 and 11, and produced no documents despite acknowledging that he possessed relevant materials.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pitre filed a pro se civil-rights employment-discrimination action in August 2022 and later amended his complaint. Claims against the mayor and individual OHA defendants were dismissed for failure to effect service. After counsel withdrew, the court ordered Pitre to provide complete discovery responses by August 11, 2025 and warned that noncompliance could result in dismissal. OHA moved to dismiss after Pitre failed to provide certain interrogatory responses and produced no requested documents; the magistrate judge recommended granting the motion and dismissing the remaining claims with prejudice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Hickman v. Fox Television Station, Inc., 177 F. App'x 427, 428 (5th Cir. 2006)
- Berry v. CIGNA/RSI-CIGNA, 975 F.2d 1188, 1191 (5th Cir. 1992)
- Stearman v. Comm'r, 436 F.3d 533, 535 (5th Cir. 2006)
- Price v. McGlathery, 792 F.2d 472, 474 (5th Cir. 1986)

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