

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
OKLAHOMA

Allen Alexander Parks v. Mark Knutson, et al.

Parks · No. CIV-25-1564-D · Decided April 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma construes Plaintiff Allen Alexander Parks’s notice as a voluntary dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(i). The court explains that the dismissal was self-executing, directs the Clerk to terminate the action as of the notice date, and vacates the referral order to the magistrate judge.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
DECIDED	April 10, 2026
DOCKET	CIV-25-1564-D
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a notice of voluntary dismissal without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(i).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Allen Alexander Parks v. Mark Knutson, et al.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- prisoner civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff's notice of voluntary dismissal operated as a dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(i) without further action by the Court.

HOLDINGS

1. A clear notice of voluntary dismissal filed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(i) is self-executing and dismisses the action without further action by the Court.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“stipulation of dismissal filed under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(i) or (ii) is self-executing”

“clear statement”

“no action is required on the part of the court”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion contains no substantive factual background concerning the underlying prisoner civil-rights action. Plaintiff filed a notice stating that he voluntarily dismissed the case without prejudice. The Clerk received the notice on April 9, 2026.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Clerk received Plaintiff's notice of voluntary dismissal on April 9, 2026. The Court construed the filing as a notice under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(i), held that the dismissal operated without further court action, directed the Clerk to terminate the action, and vacated the prior referral order to the magistrate judge.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- De Leon v. Marcos, 659 F.3d 1276, 1283 (10th Cir. 2011)
- Janssen v. Harris, 321 F.3d 998, 1000 (10th Cir. 2003)
- Netwig v. Ga. Pac. Corp., 375 F.3d 1009, 1010 (10th Cir. 2004)

OPINION

Parks

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

ALLEN ALEXANDER PARKS,)

) Plaintiff,)) v.) Case No. CIV-25-1564-D) MARK KNUTSON, et al.,)) Defendants.)

ORDER

On April 9, 2026, the Clerk received Plaintiff's "Notice of Voluntary Dismissal of This CIV-25-1564-D Case Without Prejudice" [Doc. No. 17], which the Court construes as a notice of dismissal pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 41(a)(1)(A)(i). So construed, Plaintiff's request operates as a notice of

voluntary dismissal of this case without further action by the Court.¹ IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk is directed to terminate this action in her records as of the date of Plaintiff's notice of voluntary dismissal.² 1 See *De Leon v. Marcos*, 659 F.3d 1276, 1283 (10th Cir. 2011) ("stipulation of dismissal filed under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(i) or (ii) is self-executing"); *Janssen v. Harris*, 321 F.3d 998, 1000 (10th Cir. 2003) (pro se plaintiff's "clear statement" that he wants his action dismissed effectuates a dismissal under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(i); "no action is required on the part of the court"); see also *Netwig v. Ga. Pac. Corp.*, 375 F.3d 1009, 1010 (10th Cir. 2004) (dismissal was effective on date of Rule 41(a)(1) filing). 2 When processing Plaintiff's initial filing, the Clerk entered an order of referral to United States Magistrate Judge Chris M. Stephens under 28 U.S.C. § 636. That Order [Doc. No. 4] is VACATED. IT IS SO ORDERED this 10th day of April, 2026. □□ Q.QyPt

TIMOTHY D. DeGIUSTI

Chief United States District Judge