

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Michael Fitzgerald Hubbard v. Duluth Township, MN, Legal, et al.

Hubbard · No. 26-cv-341 (LMP/LIB) · Decided March 9, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota dismissed Michael Fitzgerald Hubbard’s complaint as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i), finding that its allegations of a wide-ranging conspiracy were fanciful, fantastic, and clearly baseless. The court denied Hubbard’s application to proceed in forma pauperis and motion for a protective order as moot, and certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith. The court also warned that continued filing of frivolous or meritless complaints could result in filing restrictions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Minnesota
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Laura M. Provinzino
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Minnesota
DECIDED	March 9, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-341 (LMP/LIB)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a civil complaint and an application to proceed in forma pauperis. The district court conducted pre-service screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), dismissed the complaint as frivolous, denied the IFP application as moot, and denied a related motion for a protective order as moot.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), an IFP action must be dismissed at any time if it is frivolous. A claim is frivolous when it lacks an arguable basis in law or fact; factual frivolousness includes allegations that are fanciful, fantastic, delusional, irrational, or wholly incredible. The court also considered whether the complaint plausibly stated a claim.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district-court order; persuasive value only.
PARTIES	Michael Fitzgerald Hubbard v. Duluth Township, MN, Legal, The Two Harbors Police Department, The City of Hermantown, MN, The City of Superior, Wisconsin Police Department, The City of Duluth Police

Headquarters, Lake County, MN Sheriff's Office, Douglas County, WI Sheriff's Department, St. Louis County, MN Sheriff's Office, UMD Police Department, UMD IT Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, POST, Minnesota Department of Revenue, Minnesota IT Services, MNIT, The St. Louis County, MN, Lake Superior Forensic Technology and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, ICAC, Minnesota Fusion Center, MNFC, The Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Corrections, DOC, The 6th Judicial District Court, MN

TOPICS

civil procedure pleadings eleventh amendment immunity sovereign immunity standing

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal civil procedure Civil rights Constitutional law Municipal law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint was subject to dismissal as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).
2. Whether Hubbard's IFP application and motion for a protective order should be denied as moot after dismissal of the complaint.
3. Whether the court should warn Hubbard that continued frivolous filings could lead to restrictions on initiating future lawsuits.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint must be dismissed as frivolous because its allegations of a vast conspiracy among numerous governmental entities, including claims of tracking software, courtroom impersonation, manipulated phones, and interference with medication, are fanciful, fantastic, irrational, and wholly incredible, and therefore lack an arguable basis in fact.
2. The IFP application and motion for a protective order are denied as moot because the complaint is dismissed in its entirety.
3. The court may restrict a litigant who repeatedly files frivolous claims from initiating new actions unless represented by counsel or granted prior judicial approval, and Hubbard was warned that continued frivolous filings could result in such a restriction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"A claim is frivolous if it "lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact.""

"The Court therefore dismisses Hubbard's complaint in its entirety as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Hubbard alleged that approximately twenty governmental entities and agencies in Minnesota and Wisconsin participated in a sophisticated conspiracy against him. His allegations included fraudulent credit cards, burglary, covert installation of tracking software, manipulation of emergency-dispatch data, deletion of electronic files, placement on a sex-offender registry without a conviction, impersonation during divorce proceedings, and interference with his ADHD medication. The court found that the alleged conspiracy and related events were fanciful and fantastic, lacking an arguable basis in fact.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Hubbard filed the complaint on January 15, 2026, alleging a broad conspiracy involving numerous governmental entities and asserting claims based on surveillance, identity theft, judicial corruption, interference with medical care, and related conduct. Because Hubbard sought to proceed in forma pauperis, the court reviewed the complaint before service. The court dismissed the complaint as factually frivolous and warned that continued frivolous filings could result in filing restrictions.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Carter v. Schafer, 273 F. App'x 581, 582 (8th Cir. 2008) (per curiam)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325, 327–28 (1989)
- Jones v. Norris, 310 F.3d 610, 612 (8th Cir. 2002)
- Brower v. County of Inyo, 489 U.S. 593, 598 (1989)
- Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 32–33 (1992)
- De La Garza v. Kandiyohi Cnty. Jail, Corr. Inst., 18 F. App'x 436, 437 (8th Cir. 2001) (per curiam)
- Pennhurst State & Hospital v. Halderman, 465 U.S. 89, 100 (1984)
- Va. Off. for Prot. & Advoc. v. Stewart, 563 U.S. 247, 253–54 (2011)
- Kunzer v. Foster, No. 24-cv-3726 (LMP/LIB), 2025 WL 1139345, at *4 (D. Minn. Apr. 17, 2025)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 679 (2009)
- In re Tyler, 839 F.2d 1290, 1292 (8th Cir. 1988)
- Sassower v. Carlson, 930 F.2d 583, 584–85 (8th Cir. 1991) (per curiam)
- Hubbard v. Lake Cnty. Sheriff's Dep't, No. 25-cv-999 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 4 at 6–7 (D. Minn. Apr. 18, 2025)
- Hubbard v. St. Louis Cnty. Sheriff's Dep't, No. 25-cv-1110 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 1 (D. Minn. filed Mar. 27, 2025)
- Hubbard v. Two Harbors Fed. Credit Union, No. 25-cv-2123 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 3 (D. Minn. May 22, 2025)
- Hubbard v. Two Harbors Fed. Credit Union, No. 25-cv-2357 (NEB/LIB), ECF No. 5 (D. Minn. June 22, 2025)
- Hubbard v. Neo, No. 25-cv-3316 (KMM/LIB), ECF No. 3 (D. Minn. Sept. 18, 2025)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA MICHAEL FITZGERALD HUBBARD, Case No. 26-cv-341 (LMP/LIB) Plaintiff, v. ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT DULUTH TOWNSHIP, MN, Legal; THE TWO HARBORS POLICE DEPARTMENT; THE CITY OF HERMANTOWN, MN; THE CITY OF SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN POLICE DEPARTMENT; THE CITY OF DULUTH POLICE HEADQUARTERS; LAKE COUNTY, MN SHERIFF'S OFFICE; DOUGLAS COUNTY, WI SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT; ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN SHERIFF'S OFFICE; UMD POLICE DEPARTMENT; UMD IT DEPARTMENT; MINNESOTA STATE PATROL; BOARD OF PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING, POST; MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; MINNESOTA IT SERVICES, MNIT; THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN; LAKE SUPERIOR FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE, ICAC; MINNESOTA FUSION CENTER, MNFC; THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, DOC; and THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MN, Defendants.

Plaintiff Michael Fitzgerald Hubbard brought this case on January 15, 2026. ECF No. 1. Hubbard seeks to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP"), ECF No. 2 ("IFP Application"), so his complaint is subject to pre-service review under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). He also filed a motion for a protective order in which he appears to request the same relief he requests in his complaint, see ECF No. 3, and numerous exhibits that purportedly support his claims, see ECF Nos. 1-1, 4-1, 7, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3.

Having reviewed Hubbard's filings, the Court dismisses his complaint as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i) and denies both his IFP Application and his motion for a protective order as moot. BACKGROUND Hubbard's complaint contains about twenty-five pages alleging a vast, sophisticated conspiracy involving twenty essentially unrelated government entities.

See ECF No. 1 at 11–33.1 Hubbard alleges that these entities have engaged in conduct including unlawful surveillance, identify theft, and judicial corruption. See *id.* By way of example, the Court notes the following clusters of allegations: • Hubbard alleges he found "at least 15 US Bank Visa signature flex perks" credit cards issued in his name, each with "\$25k monthly limits," totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars in fraudulent credit.

Id. at 12–13. He claims that proof of this fraud was stolen from his apartment as part of a burglary that occurred in January 2026 and replaced with copies of statements from 2019 only. See *id.* • Hubbard alleges that software called "Rave Guardian" and "XM Guardian" was installed surreptitiously on his electronic devices and vehicles to track him. See *id.* at 14.

He claims this software alters dispatch data so that, when he calls 911, operators describe him as a "mental patient." *Id.* He further alleges that state agents deleted certain Google Drive files in real

time while he was present in the St. Louis County Public Safety Building. See *id.* at 16. 1 Hubbard's complaint is not consecutively paginated, so the Court cites specific pages by the page numbers assigned by this District's CM/ECF electronic filing system. • Hubbard appears to allege that he has been placed on a sex-offender registry without a conviction.

See *id.* at 18–19. As evidence, he asserts that “City- Data” icons appear over his property on maps and that strangers’ phones repeatedly “chirp” because of community-alert apps (for example, Everbridge Mass Notification) when he walks past them in public. See *id.* • Hubbard alleges that a “convicted felon child rapist level 3 sex offender” stole his identity and appeared in his place during his Minnesota state-court divorce proceedings.

Id. at 28. He claims the imposter “had ‘Court Administration’ on speed dial” and manipulated the court to steal Hubbard's business and assets. *Id.* at 28–29. Hubbard asserts that he was never served and therefore remained unaware of the proceedings. See *id.* at 29. • Hubbard alleges that Defendants interfered with his healthcare providers to force the discontinuation of his “ADHD medication.” *Id.* at 25.

He claims this was done to cause him “unbearable suffering.” *Id.* at 26. Generally, Hubbard contends that twenty separate entities, ranging from the Minnesota Department of Revenue to the “Lake Superior Forensic Technology and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force,” are working in concert to harass him, hack his devices, and destroy his life. See *id.* at 11–33.

ANALYSIS Although Hubbard's IFP Application suggests that, as a financial matter, Hubbard might qualify for IFP status, the federal statute governing IFP proceedings states that a court “shall dismiss” an IFP proceeding “at any time” if the court determines that the action is “frivolous.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i); see also *Carter v. Schafer*, 273 F. App'x 581, 582 (8th Cir.

2008) (per curiam) (“[T]he provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e) apply to all persons proceeding IFP..., and the provisions allow dismissal without service.”). A claim is frivolous if it “lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact.” *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); see also, e.g., *Jones v. Norris*, 310 F.3d 610, 612 (8th Cir. 2002). Dismissal for failure to state a claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) turns on whether a complaint's factual allegations plausibly support a legal claim.

See *Brower v. County of Inyo*, 489 U.S. 593, 598 (1989). As it relates to frivolousness, however, the statute “accords judges not only the authority to dismiss a claim based on an indisputably meritless legal theory, but also the unusual power to pierce the veil of the complaint's factual allegations and dismiss those claims whose factual contentions are clearly baseless.” *Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 32 (1992) (quoting *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 327).

Allegations that are “clearly baseless” include those that are “fanciful,” “fantastic,” or “delusional.” *Id.* at 32–33 (quoting *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 325, 328). “As those words suggest, a

finding of factual frivolousness is appropriate when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the wholly incredible, whether or not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict them.” *Id.* at 33.

Hubbard’s complaint and other filings present a “fanciful” or “fantastic” scenario which falls squarely within the category of “frivolous” claims to which 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i) applies. See *id.* at 32–33. There is no arguable basis in fact that multiple state agencies, municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and judicial officers spread across two states engaged in a conspiracy to, among other things, install tracking software on Hubbard’s electronic devices, hire imposters to impersonate him in court, manipulate passersby’s phones to “chirp” at him, or interfere with his ability to obtain medications.

The Court therefore dismisses Hubbard’s complaint in its entirety as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).² And because the Court dismisses the complaint in its entirety, the Court also denies his IFP Application and motion for a protective order as moot.

The Court further certifies that any appeal of this dismissal is not taken in good faith and, accordingly, any request to proceed IFP on appeal will be denied on that basis. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3). One final point: Hubbard previously filed two complaints in this District making remarkably similar allegations of conspiratorial conduct by many of the same parties he names in this case.

See generally *Hubbard v. Lake Cnty. Sheriff’s Dep’t*, No. 25-cv-999 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 1 (D. Minn. filed Mar. 17, 2025); *Hubbard v. St. Louis Cnty. Sheriff’s Dep’t*, No. 25-cv-1110 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 1 (D. Minn. filed Mar. 27, 2025). Those complaints were also largely dismissed as frivolous. See *Hubbard v. Lake Cnty. Sheriff’s Dep’t*, No. 25-cv-999 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 4 at 6–7 (D.

Minn. Apr. 18, 2025) (dismissing 2 Even if Hubbard’s complaint was not frivolous, the Court would dismiss it in its entirety for other reasons. First, Hubbard names numerous law enforcement entities as defendants, but police departments and sheriff’s offices are not entities that are subject to suit. See, e.g., *De La Garza v. Kandiyohi Cnty. Jail, Corr. Inst.*, 18 F. App’x 436, 437 (8th Cir.

2001) (per curiam). Second, Hubbard purports to sue numerous state agencies, but those claims generally are barred by Eleventh Amendment sovereign immunity, see, e.g., *Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp. v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89, 100 (1984), and Hubbard’s filings do not suggest that any exception to that general rule applies here, see, e.g., *Va. Off. for Prot. & Advoc. v. Stewart*, 563 U.S. 247, 253–54 (2011).

Third, Hubbard purports to bring claims under numerous criminal statutes, see ECF No. 1 at 35–36, but private citizens “do not have standing to enforce criminal statutes or have them enforced,”

Kunzer v. Foster, No. 24-cv-3726 (LMP/LIB), 2025 WL 1139345, at *4 (D. Minn. Apr. 17, 2025) (citation omitted).

Finally, setting aside all these issues, Hubbard's complaint generally does not plausibly allege his entitlement to the relief he seeks. See *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 679 (2009). most claims in both cases because "[m]any of Hubbard's allegations... depict scenarios that are irrational or wholly incredible"). And three other complaints filed by Hubbard in this District in the last year were dismissed before service under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

See *Hubbard v. Two Harbors Fed. Credit Union*, No. 25-cv-2123 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 3 (D. Minn. May 22, 2025); *Hubbard v. Two Harbors Fed. Credit Union*, No. 25-cv-2357 (NEB/LIB), ECF No. 5 (D. Minn. June 22, 2025); *Hubbard v. Neo*, No. 25-cv-3316 (KMM/LIB), ECF No. 3 (D. Minn. Sept. 18, 2025). Courts have the authority to control matters pending before them, and while there is a right to access the courts, there is "no constitutional right of access to the courts to prosecute an action that is frivolous or malicious." *In re Tyler*, 839 F.2d 1290, 1292 (8th Cir.

1988) (citation omitted). When a litigant repeatedly files frivolous claims, a court may order him to obtain prior judicial approval before initiating future lawsuits. See, e.g., *Sassower v. Carlson*, 930 F.2d 583, 584–85 (8th Cir. 1991) (per curiam).

The Court therefore warns Hubbard that if he continues to file frivolous or otherwise meritless complaints in this District, he will be restricted from initiating new lawsuits in the District of Minnesota unless he is represented by an attorney or receives prior written approval from a judicial officer in this District. See *id.* ORDER Based on the foregoing, and on all the files, records, and proceedings in this matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: 1.

Hubbard's Complaint (ECF No. 1) is DISMISSED as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B); 2. Hubbard's IFP Application (ECF No. 2) is DENIED as moot; and 3. Hubbard's Motion for Protective Order (ECF No. 3) is DENIED as moot. LET JUDGMENT BE ENTERED ACCORDINGLY. Dated: March 9, 2026 s/Laura M. Provinzino Laura M. Provinzino United States District Judge