

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Silvano Delgado v. Federal Express Corporation, et al.

Delgado · No. CV 25-2370 PA (MBKx) · Decided December 31, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California dismissed the action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) because the parties failed to file required pretrial documents and the plaintiff failed to prosecute the case. The court applied the Ninth Circuit’s Henderson factors and concluded that dismissal was warranted. The scheduled final pretrial conference and trial were vacated, and the court stated that it would issue a consistent judgment.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Percy Anderson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	December 31, 2025
DOCKET	CV 25-2370 PA (MBKx)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court sua sponte dismissed the action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with the court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A district court may dismiss an action sua sponte under Rule 41(b) for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with a court order. Before dismissal, the court considers the five Henderson factors, with particular attention to the availability of less drastic sanctions in sua sponte dismissals.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Silvano Delgado v. Federal Express Corporation, et al.

TOPICS

- sanctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

employment litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could sua sponte dismiss the action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with a court order.
2. Whether the Henderson factors supported dismissal under the circumstances.
3. Whether dismissal without prejudice was an appropriate less drastic sanction.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may sua sponte dismiss an action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with a court order, even when the defendant has not moved for dismissal.
2. Dismissal was warranted because the public interest in expeditious resolution, the court's need to manage its docket, the risk of prejudice to defendants, and the availability of less drastic sanctions supported dismissal, while the policy favoring disposition on the merits did not outweigh the other factors.
3. Dismissal without prejudice was an appropriate less drastic sanction for the parties' violation of the scheduling order and Plaintiff's failure to prosecute.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court has the inherent power to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases by dismissing actions pursuant to Rule 41(b) with prejudice for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with a court order.”

“Dismissal is appropriate “where at least four factors support dismissal, or where at least three factors ‘strongly’ support dismissal.””

“As result of the parties’ violation of the Court’s Civil Trial Scheduling Order, and Plaintiff’s failure to prosecute, this action is dismissed without prejudice.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order required the parties to file various pretrial documents by the specified deadline and warned that noncompliance could result in dismissal, default, or sanctions. No pretrial documents were filed after the deadline expired. Plaintiff had also filed no pleading in the action since April 21, 2025.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties were required to file specified pretrial documents by December 26, 2026, pursuant to the court's scheduling order. No pretrial documents were filed, and Plaintiff had not filed any pleading since April 21, 2025. After considering the Ninth Circuit's five-factor dismissal test, the court dismissed the action without prejudice and vacated the scheduled final pretrial conference and trial.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Link v. Wabash R.R., 370 U.S. 626, 629-30, 82 S. Ct. 1386, 8 L. Ed. 2d 734 (1962)
- Alexander v. Pac. Mar. Ass'n, 434 F.2d 281, 283-84 (9th Cir. 1970)
- Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 986-88, 990-91 (9th Cir. 1999)
- Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421, 1423 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Hernandez v. City of El Monte, 138 F.3d 393, 399 (9th Cir. 1998)
- Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir. 2002)
- Southwest Marine Inc. v. Danzig, 217 F.3d 1128, 1138 (9th Cir. 2000)
- Dreith v. Nu Image, Inc., 648 F.3d 779, 788 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Morris v. Morgan Stanley & Co., 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir. 1991)
- McHenry v. Renne, 84 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 1996)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL Case No. CV 25-2370 PA (MBKx) Date December 31, 2025 Title Silvano Delgado v. Federal Express Corporation, et al. Present: The Honorable PERCY ANDERSON, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE Kamilla Sali-Suleyman Not Reported N/A Deputy Clerk Court Reporter Tape No. Attorneys Present for Plaintiffs: Attorneys Present for Defendants: None None Proceedings: IN CHAMBERS Pursuant to Local Rule 16 and this Court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order, the parties were required to file certain pretrial documents with the Court by December 26, 2026, including, but not limited to, the Proposed Joint Pretrial Conference Order, Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation, Exhibit and Witness Lists, Contentions of Fact and Law, Jury Instructions, Verdict Forms, and a Status Report Regarding Settlement.

(See Docket No. 15.) This Court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order specifically warns that "[t]he failure to attend the pretrial conference or to submit in conformity with this order, the jury instructions, pre-trial exhibit stipulation, joint statement of the case, voir dire questions, summary of witness testimony and times estimates, proposed Pretrial Conference Order or the memorandum of contentions of fact and law may result in the dismissal of the action, striking the answer and entering default and/or the imposition of sanctions." (Docket No. 15 at p. 11.)

To date, no pretrial documents have been filed in this action despite the expiration of the deadline to do so. In fact, plaintiff Silvano Delgado ('Plaintiff') has not filed any pleading in this matter

since April 21, 2025. (Docket No. 13.) Dismissal is appropriate here because the parties have failed to adequately prosecute this action or comply with the Court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) provides that a defendant may move for dismissal of an action "[i]f the plaintiff fails to prosecute or to comply with these rules or a court order." Although Rule 41(b) provides for dismissal on the motion of the defendant, the Court can also dismiss an action sua sponte pursuant to Rule 41(b). See *Link v. Wabash R.R.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-30, 82 S. Ct.

1386, 8 L. Ed. 2d 734 (1962); see also *Alexander v. Pac. Mar. Ass'n*, 434 F.2d 281, 283-84 (9th Cir. 1970). The permissive language of Rule 41—that defendant "may" move for dismissal—does not limit the Court's ability to dismiss an action sua sponte where the defendant does not move for dismissal. *Link*, 370 U.S. at 630, 82 S. Ct. 1386, 8 L. Ed. 2d 734.

The Court has the inherent power to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases by dismissing actions pursuant to Rule 41(b) with prejudice for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with a court order. See *id.* at 629-30, 82 S. Ct. 1386, 8 L. Ed. 2d 734 (dismissal for failure to prosecute); *Ferdik v. UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL* Case No. CV 25-2370 PA (MBKx) Date December 31, 2025 Title *Silvano Delgado v. Federal Express Corporation, et al.* Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir.

1992) (same); *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 987 (9th Cir. 1999) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order). In *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421 (9th Cir. 1986), the Ninth Circuit set forth five factors for a district court to consider before resorting to the penalty of dismissal: "(1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions." *Id.* at 1423.

Cases involving sua sponte dismissal merit special focus on considerations relating to the fifth Henderson factor. *Hernandez v. City of El Monte*, 138 F.3d 393, 399 (9th Cir. 1998). Dismissal is appropriate "where at least four factors support dismissal, or where at least three factors 'strongly' support dismissal." *Id.* (citations omitted).

Here, in assessing the first and second Henderson factors, the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation will be satisfied by a dismissal. See *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing *Yourish*, 191 F.3d at 990 (public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation always favors dismissal)).

Moreover, the Court's need to manage its docket will be served by dismissal. See *id.* The third Henderson factor at least marginally favors dismissal. "Unreasonable delay is the foundation upon which a court may presume prejudice." *Southwest Marine Inc. v. Danzig*, 217 F.3d 1128, 1138

(9th Cir. 2000). Risk of prejudice to a defendant is related to a plaintiff's reason for failure to prosecute an action.

See *id.* at 642 (citing *Yourish*, 191 F.3d at 991). In considering the fourth and fifth Henderson factors, this Court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order, as noted above, warned the parties that the failure to submit the required pretrial documents could result in the dismissal of this action. Despite this warning, the parties failed to submit any pretrial documents by the date set by the Court.

The public policy favoring the disposition of cases on their merits ordinarily weighs against dismissal. See *Dreith v. Nu Image, Inc.*, 648 F.3d 779, 788 (9th Cir. 2011). However, it is the responsibility of the moving party to prosecute the action at a reasonable pace and to refrain from dilatory and evasive tactics. See *Morris v. Morgan Stanley & Co.*, 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir.

1991). Here, Plaintiff has failed to discharge his responsibility despite the Court's express warnings that failure to comply may result in the dismissal of this action. Additionally, the Court intends to dismiss this action without prejudice.

Accordingly, the fifth Henderson factor favors dismissal because the Court has adopted the "less-drastic" sanction of dismissal without prejudice. See *McHenry v. Renne*, 84 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 1996) (district court should first consider less drastic alternatives to dismissal with prejudice). UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL Case No. CV 25-2370 PA (MBKx) Date December 31, 2025 Title *Silvano Delgado v. Federal Express Corporation, et al.* As result of the parties' violation of the Court's Civil Trial Scheduling Order, and Plaintiff's failure to prosecute, this action is dismissed without prejudice.

See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); see also *Yourish*, 191 F.3d at 986-88; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260. The Final Pretrial Conference scheduled for January 9, 2026, and the Trial scheduled for February 3, 2026, are vacated. The Court will issue a Judgment consistent with this Order. IT IS SO ORDERED.