

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MISSOURI

Joseph Michael Devon Engel v. PayPal

Engel · No. No. 4:21-cv-00886-HEA · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri denied Joseph Michael Devon Engel’s post-judgment motion to reopen his action against PayPal. The court characterized the motion as frivolous, cited Engel’s prior abusive litigation practices, and directed the Clerk to return any future submissions in the closed matter unfiled.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Henry Edward Autrey
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	No. 4:21-cv-00886-HEA
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a post-judgment motion to reopen a closed civil action.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Joseph Michael Devon Engel v. PayPal

TOPICS

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedureprisoner litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Plaintiff's post-judgment motion to reopen should be granted.
- Whether the Clerk should be directed to return future documents submitted in the closed matter unfiled.

HOLDINGS

1. The motion to reopen was denied as frivolous.
2. The Clerk was directed to return any additional documents submitted by Plaintiff in the closed matter unfiled.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court will therefore deny the motion and direct the Clerk to return any future documents to Plaintiff unfiled.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a prisoner subject to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), alleged that PayPal permitted someone to hack his account and take over his identity in August 2021. He sought information about the status of the action and permission to proceed with claims against PayPal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was closed before Plaintiff filed the motion to reopen. The district court reviewed the post-judgment motion, denied it as frivolous, and ordered the Clerk to return any additional documents submitted in the closed matter unfiled.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Engel v. Jefferson County Sheriff Dep't, No. 4:21-cv-00896-SEP, 2021 WL 4133791, at *3 (E.D. Mo. Sept. 10, 2021)

OPINION

Engel

PER CURIAM.

UEANSITTEEDR NST DAITSETSR IDCITST ORFI CMTI SCSOOUURRTI

EASTERN DIVISION

JOSEPH MICHAEL DEVON ENGEL,)

) Plaintiff,)) v.) No. 4:21-cv-00886-HEA)

PAYPAL,)

) Defendant.)

OPINION, MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on review of Plaintiff’s post-judgment motion to reopen.¹ [ECF No. 21]. Plaintiff is a prisoner who is subject to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), and who previously “knowingly and persistently engaged in litigation practices that amount[ed] to abuse of the judicial

process.” Engel v. Jefferson County Sheriff Dep’t. No. 4:21-cv-00896-SEP, 2021 WL 4133791, at *3 (E.D. Mo. Sept. 10, 2021). In the instant motion, Plaintiff complains that in August of 2021, defendant PayPal allowed someone to hack his account and “take over” his identity. He seeks the status of the instant action, and he asks this Court to let him proceed with his claims to hold PayPal responsible. Plaintiff’s motion is frivolous, and it is consistent with his prior pattern of abusive litigation before this Court. The Court will therefore deny the motion and direct the Clerk to return any future documents to Plaintiff unfiled. Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff’s motion to reopen, ECF No. 21, is DENIED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, should Plaintiff submit any additional documents in this closed matter, the Clerk of Court shall return them to Plaintiff unfiled. Dated this 7th day of January, 2026.

HENRY EDWARD AUTREY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE