

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Valerie L. Flores v. Dane Cnty. Human Serv. et al.

Flores · No. 26-cv-32-jdp · Decided January 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin ordered Valerie L. Flores to prepay the full \$405 filing fee in a case transferred from the Northern District of New York. The court gave Flores until February 16, 2026, to pay the fee and warned that failure to do so would result in dismissal with prejudice; it also directed the clerk to send the order and a prior filing-bar order to the Northern District of New York.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James D. Peterson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	January 26, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-32-jdp
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a civil action in the Northern District of New York without prepaying the filing fee. That action was transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds, and the court considered whether a prior filing bar required prepayment after transfer.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Not applicable; the court issued a filing-fee and case-management order.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential district-court order

TOPICS

[venue](#) [civil procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[Civil procedure](#) [Federal courts](#) [Venue](#) [Filing restrictions](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a prior order requiring Flores to prepay the full filing fee before filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin applies when she files in another district without prepaying and the action is later transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds.
2. Whether Flores should be given a deadline to prepay the \$405 filing fee and warned that failure to do so would result in dismissal with prejudice.

HOLDINGS

1. A prior bar order requiring Flores to prepay the full filing fee before filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin applies to an action filed in another district without prepayment when that action is transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds.
2. Flores was permitted until February 16, 2026, to pay the \$405 filing fee, and the action would be dismissed with prejudice if the court did not receive full payment by that date.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Under that bar order, any civil lawsuit that Flores files without full prepayment will be docketed and summarily dismissed.” (at 1)

“But I determined that it was appropriate to make Flores prepay the full filing fee now that the ’532 case had been transferred here.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Flores alleged that numerous individuals and entities, most of whom appeared to be located in Dane County, Wisconsin, had stalked, harassed, assaulted, or otherwise mistreated her. Nearly all of the events underlying her claims allegedly occurred in Wisconsin. Flores had previously been subjected to a filing bar requiring prepayment of the full filing fee for new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Flores was previously barred from filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin without prepaying the full filing fee. She filed this action in the Northern District of New York without prepayment, and that court transferred the action to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds. The court gave Flores 21 days to pay the \$405 filing fee and cautioned that failure to do so would result in dismissal with prejudice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Flores v. Progressive Ins., No. 23-cv-398-jdp, 2024 WL 1701705 (W.D. Wis. Apr. 19, 2024)
- Case No. 24-cv-532-jdp, Dkt. 6 (W.D. Wis.)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN VALERIE L. FLORES, Plaintiff, v. DANE CNTY. HUMAN SERV., CLARK CARROLL, KAREN MILKNER, KIM, ASHLEY MESSIER, SSM HEALTH, UW HOSPITAL & CLINICS, UW HEALTH, UW MADISON, JOURNEY MENTAL ORDER HEALTH CENTER, DANE CNTY. CORP. COUNSEL, LESLIE TAYLOR, LAURA FRAZIER, SCOTT MILLER, 26-cv-32-jdp MATTHEW SAGER, ROBERT FACTOR, JIM BLACK, DAVE ROETHE, AMY EDWARDS, MIDDLETON POLICE DEP'T, GEORGE BETANCOURT, HANNAH FLANAGAN, DALE BARRETT, TAD HERBSMAN, ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, and ANNA MARIE VI WELCH, Defendants.

With a minor exception immaterial here, plaintiff Valerie L. Flores is barred from filing new civil lawsuits in this court without prepaying the full filing fee. Case no. 23-cv-398-jdp, Dkt. 23 at 7; Flores v. Progressive Ins., No. 23-cv-398-jdp, 2024 WL 1701705, at *4 (W.D. Wis. Apr. 19, 2024).

Under that bar order, any civil lawsuit that Flores files without full prepayment will be docketed and summarily dismissed. *Id.* Flores recently brought a lawsuit in the Northern District of New York alleging that numerous individuals and entities, all of whom appear to be located in Dane County, have stalked, harassed, assaulted, and otherwise mistreated her.

Dkt. 1. From what I can discern, nearly all the events on which Flores bases her claims occurred in Wisconsin. See *id.* That action was transferred to this district on venue grounds. Dkt. 9. Flores didn't prepay the filing fee while that action was pending in the Northern District of New York. Previously, a case that Flores filed in the Southern District of New York was transferred to this district on venue grounds.

Case no. 24-cv-532-jdp. I noted in that case that the bar order doesn't expressly refer to cases that Flores files in another district without prepaying the filing fee but that are transferred to this district on venue grounds. Dkt. 6 at 1 in the '532 case. But I determined that it was appropriate to make Flores prepay the full filing fee now that the '532 case had been transferred here.

Id. I reasoned that, were it otherwise, Flores could circumvent the bar order by filing in other districts cases in which venue is proper in this district only. *Id.* The Northern District of New York also noted that Flores "may be attempting to circumvent" this court's bar order. Dkt. 9 at 2 n.9.

As I did in the '532 case, I will give Flores 21 days to pay the full filing fee in this case. Flores can fulfill that requirement by submitting a check or money order for \$405 payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court" and mailing the payment to this address: United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Clerk's Office, 120 N. Henry St., Room 320, Madison, WI 53703.

If the court doesn't receive the full filing fee in 21 days, this case will be dismissed with prejudice. I will direct the clerk to forward copies of this order and the bar order to the Northern District of

New York, as Flores may continue to file lawsuits in that district even though venue is proper only in this district. ORDER IT IS ORDERED that: 1. Plaintiff Valerie L. Flores may have until February 16, 2026, to pay the \$405 filing fee as provided in this order.

2. Plaintiff is cautioned that, if the court doesn't receive the full filing fee by February 16, 2026, this case will be dismissed with prejudice. 3. The clerk is directed to send copies of this order and Dkt. 23 in Case No. 23-cv- 398-jdp to the Northern District of New York. Entered January 26, 2026. BY THE COURT: /s/ _____ JAMES D. PETERSON District Judge