

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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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## 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.)

