

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
PENNSYLVANIA**

**Ardmmir Pearsall v. Unknown Police Officers**

Pearsall · No. 2:26-cv-0704 · Decided February 26, 2026

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**SUMMARY**

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania grants Ardmir Pearsall leave to proceed in forma pauperis and directs payment of the filing fee in installments under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. The court dismisses the complaint without prejudice for failure to state a claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), permits Pearsall to file an amended complaint within 30 days, and explains the consequences of standing on the original complaint or failing to respond.

**OPINION**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ARDMMIR PEARSALL,; Plaintiff,; v.: No. 2:26-cv-0704 UNKNOWN POLICE OFFICERS,;  
Defendants.: O R D E R AND NOW, this 26th day of February, 2026, upon consideration of  
Plaintiff Ardmir Pearsall's Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis, ECF No. 4, his Prisoner Trust  
Fund Account Statement, ECF No. 5, and his pro se Complaint, ECF No. 1, it is ORDERED that:  
1.

Leave to proceed in forma pauperis is GRANTED pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915. 2. Ardmir  
Pearsall, # 913846, shall pay the full filing fee of \$350 in installments, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §  
1915(b), regardless of the outcome of this case.

The Court directs the Warden of Riverside Correctional Facility or other appropriate official to  
assess an initial filing fee of 20% of the greater of (a) the average monthly deposits to Pearsall's  
inmate account; or (b) the average monthly balance in Pearsall's inmate account for the six-month  
period immediately preceding the filing of this case.

The Warden or other appropriate official shall calculate, collect, and forward the initial payment  
assessed pursuant to this Order to the Court with a reference to the docket number for this case. In  
each succeeding month when the amount in Pearsall's inmate trust fund account exceeds \$10.00,  
the Warden or other appropriate official shall forward payments to the Clerk of Court equaling  
20% of the preceding month's income credited to Pearsall's inmate account until the fees are paid.

Each payment shall refer to the docket number for this case. 1 3. The Clerk of Court is  
DIRECTED to send a copy of this order to the Warden of Riverside Correctional Facility. 4. The  
Complaint, ECF No. 1, is DEEMED filed. 5.

The Complaint is DISMISSED without prejudice for failure to state a claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), for the reasons stated in the Court's Memorandum. 6. Pearsall may file an amended complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Any amended complaint must identify all defendants in the caption of the amended complaint in addition to identifying them in the body of the amended complaint and shall state the basis for Pearsall's claims against each defendant.

The amended complaint must also provide as much identifying information for the defendants as possible. Pearsall may refer to a defendant by last name only if that is the only identifying information possessed. If Pearsall wishes to name individuals for whom he does not have any identifying information, he may refer to those individuals as John Doe #1, John Doe #2, etc.<sup>1</sup> He is encouraged to include badge numbers (if he has that information) or physical description if he does not have names.

The amended complaint shall be a complete document that does not rely on the initial Complaint or other papers filed in this case to state a claim. When drafting his amended complaint, Pearsall should be mindful of the Court's reasons for dismissing the claims in his initial Complaint as explained in the Court's Memorandum. Upon the filing of an amended complaint, the Clerk shall not make service until so ORDERED by the Court.

1 Without the name of at least one individual or entity, however, the Court may be unable to direct service of any amended complaint that Pearsall may file. 2 7. The Clerk of Court is DIRECTED to send Pearsall a blank copy of the Court's form complaint for a prisoner filing a civil rights action bearing the above civil action number. Pearsall may use this form to file his amended complaint if he chooses to do so.

8. If Pearsall does not wish to amend his Complaint and instead intends to stand on his Complaint as originally pled, he may file a notice with the Court within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order stating that intent, at which time the Court will issue a final order dismissing the case. Any such notice should be titled "Notice to Stand on Complaint," and shall include the civil action number for this case.

See *Weber v. McGrogan*, 939 F.3d 232, 241 (3d Cir. 2019) ("If the plaintiff does not desire to amend, he may file an appropriate notice with the district court asserting his intent to stand on the complaint, at which time an order to dismiss the action would be appropriate." (quoting *Borelli v. City of Reading*, 532 F.2d 950, 951 n.1 (3d Cir. 1976))); *In re Westinghouse Sec. Litig.*, 90 F.3d 696, 703–04 (3d Cir.

1996) (holding "that the district court did not abuse its discretion when it dismissed with prejudice the otherwise viable claims... following plaintiffs' decision not to replead those claims" when "the district court expressly warned plaintiffs that failure to replead the remaining claims... would

result in the dismissal of those claims”). 3 9. If Pearsall fails to file any response to this Order, the Court will conclude that Pearsall intends to stand on his Complaint and will issue a final order dismissing this case.<sup>2</sup> See Weber, 939 F.3d at 239–40 (explaining that a plaintiff’s intent to stand on his complaint may be inferred from inaction after issuance of an order directing him to take action to cure a defective complaint).

BY THE COURT: /s/ Joseph F. Leeson, Jr. JOSEPH F. LEESON, JR. United States District Judge  
2 The six-factor test announced in *Poulis v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 747 F.2d 863, 868 (3d Cir. 1984), is inapplicable to dismissal orders based on a plaintiff’s intention to stand on her complaint. See Weber, 939 F.3d at 241 & n.11 (treating the “stand on the complaint” doctrine as distinct from dismissals under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with a court order, which require assessment of the Poulis factors); see also *Elansari v. Altria*, 799 F. App’x 107, 108 n.1 (3d Cir.

2020) (per curiam). Indeed, an analysis under Poulis is not required when a plaintiff willfully abandons the case or makes adjudication impossible, as would be the case when a plaintiff opts not to amend her complaint, leaving the case without an operative pleading. See *Dickens v. Danberg*, 700 F. App’x 116, 118 n.2 (3d Cir. 2017) (per curiam) (“Where a plaintiff’s conduct clearly indicates that he willfully intends to abandon the case, or where the plaintiff’s behavior is so contumacious as to make adjudication of the case impossible, a balancing of the Poulis factors is not necessary.”); *Baker v. Accts.*

*Receivables Mgmt., Inc.*, 292 F.R.D. 171, 175 (D.N.J. 2013) (“[T]he Court need not engage in an analysis of the six Poulis factors in cases where a party willfully abandons her case or otherwise makes adjudication of the matter impossible.” (citing cases)). 4