

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Kelly Ross v. Joy Campanelli, Genine D. Edwards, and Brian
Gottlieb

No. 26-cv-272-wmc (W.D. Wis. May 20, 2026) · No. No. 26-cv-272-wmc · Decided May 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin dismissed Kelly Ross’s pro se complaint with prejudice under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). The court found that the complaint failed to state a claim and was duplicative and malicious, noting apparent judicial immunity, lack of connection to the district, an undeliverable address, and similar nationwide filings. The court denied pending motions, certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith, and directed the clerk to return similar future filings by Ross unfiled.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	William M. Conley
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	May 20, 2026
DOCKET	No. 26-cv-272-wmc
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A pro se plaintiff proceeding without prepayment of the filing fee filed a one-page complaint alleging only that defendants had ex parte communication. The district court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) and dismissed the action with prejudice as duplicative and malicious.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), accepting well-pleaded allegations as true and assessing whether the complaint states a plausible claim for relief; dismissal and docket-management restrictions are subject to the court's inherent authority and broad discretion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court opinion
PARTIES	Kelly Ross v. Joy Campanelli, Genine D. Edwards, Brian Gottlieb

TOPICS

civil procedure pleadings motions to dismiss sanctions

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure federal courts in forma pauperis litigation judicial immunity abusive litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the one-sentence complaint stated a plausible claim for relief under the applicable pleading standards.
2. Whether the court should grant leave to amend a deficient pro se complaint.
3. Whether the action should be dismissed with prejudice as duplicative and malicious under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.
4. Whether the court could direct the clerk to return unfiled similar future actions filed by the plaintiff.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint failed to state a plausible claim for relief because it consisted of a bare assertion that defendants had engaged in ex parte communication without supporting factual allegations.
2. Leave to amend was properly denied because amendment would not cure the apparent judicial immunity, lack of connection to the district, fictitious or undeliverable address, and duplicative and abusive nature of the action.
3. The action was properly dismissed with prejudice as duplicative and malicious because it appeared to have been filed to harass defendants and waste judicial resources.
4. The court could direct the clerk to return unfiled any similar new civil action filed by Ross pursuant to the procedure recognized in *Support Systems International v. Mack*.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because plaintiff is proceeding without prepayment of the filing fee, the court must screen the complaint and dismiss any portion that is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks money damages from a defendant who is immune from such relief.”

“Because the complaint was plainly filed for the improper purpose of harassing the defendants while wasting scarce judicial resources, this action will be dismissed with prejudice as duplicative and malicious.”

“Every paper filed . . . no matter how repetitious or frivolous, requires some portion of the institution’s limited resources. A part of the Court’s responsibility is to see that these resources are allocated in a way that promotes the interests of justice.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The plaintiff filed a one-page pro se complaint alleging only that the defendants had engaged in ex parte communication. The complaint supplied no additional facts, and correspondence sent to the plaintiff was

returned as undeliverable. The court found that the same bare-bones complaint had been filed in at least 38 other federal district courts and concluded that this action was part of a pattern of duplicative and potentially fraudulent filings.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Ross filed the complaint in the Western District of Wisconsin and proceeded in forma pauperis. During screening, the court found the complaint factually insufficient, determined that the action appeared duplicative and malicious, denied leave to amend, dismissed the case with prejudice, denied pending motions, certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith, and directed the clerk to return unfiled any similar future civil action filed by Ross.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-79 (2006)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)
- Felton v. City of Chicago, 827 F.3d 632, 636 (7th Cir. 2016)
- Dawson v. Newman, 419 F.3d 656, 660 (7th Cir. 2005)
- Ross v. Campanelli, No. 3:26-cv-70, 2026 WL 908933, at *1 n.1 (N.D. Miss. Apr. 2, 2026)
- Adams v. Jimenez, No. 9:25-cv-68, 2026 WL 1288272, at *1 (M.D. Fla. Apr. 22, 2026)
- Montgomery v. Davis, 362 F.3d 956, 957 (7th Cir. 2004)
- In re McDonald, 489 U.S. 180, 184 (1989)
- Thompson v. Taylor, 473 F. App'x 507, 509 (7th Cir. 2012), 2012 WL 1035718, at *2
- Hoskins v. Dart, 633 F.3d 541, 543 (7th Cir. 2011)
- Lindell v. McCallum, 352 F.3d 1107, 1109 (7th Cir. 2003)
- Daker v. Ward, 999 F.3d 1300, 1308 (11th Cir. 2021)
- Pittman v. Moore, 980 F.2d 994, 995 (5th Cir. 1993)
- Support Systems International v. Mack, 45 F.3d 185 (7th Cir. 1995)