

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, FORT MYERS DIVISION

Daniel T. Lee v. Officer Strickland

Lee v. Officer Strickland · No. 2:25-cv-265-SPC-NPM · Decided February 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida granted Officer Strickland’s motion to dismiss Daniel T. Lee’s amended prisoner civil-rights complaint. The court dismissed the case without prejudice as a sanction for Lee’s failure to disclose prior litigation, denied his motion to transfer, and declined to address exhaustion of administrative remedies.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
DECIDED	February 18, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-265-SPC-NPM
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant moved to dismiss the prisoner's amended civil-rights complaint for failure to exhaust administrative remedies and failure to accurately disclose prior litigation. Plaintiff did not respond.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential federal district court opinion; precedential status is unknown from the source metadata.
PARTIES	Daniel T. Lee v. Officer Strickland

TOPICS

- sanctions
- motions to dismiss
- prisoners rights
- section 1983
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- prisoner civil rights
- federal courts
- judicial sanctions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a prisoner's failure to disclose prior lawsuits on the standard inmate complaint form constitutes an abuse of the judicial process warranting dismissal without prejudice.
2. Whether Lee's motion to transfer to another correctional institution should be granted.
3. Whether the court needed to decide the defendant's exhaustion-of-administrative-remedies argument after finding that dismissal was warranted for abuse of the judicial process.

HOLDINGS

1. A prisoner's material misrepresentation of his litigation history on the required complaint form constitutes an abuse of the judicial process, and dismissal without prejudice is an appropriate sanction where the prisoner offers no justification for the omission.
2. The court denied Lee's request to transfer him to a specific FDOC institution because the court lacked authority to order the FDOC to make that transfer.
3. The court did not need to address whether Lee exhausted his administrative remedies because the abuse-of-process dismissal was dispositive.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Lee abused the judicial process by misrepresenting his litigation history."

"So this case will be dismissed without prejudice as a sanction for Lee's failure to disclose his prior lawsuits."

"A sanction less than dismissal would signal that a failure to disclose filings is an infraction without consequence."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lee, an FDOC prisoner, alleged that Officer Strickland verbally harassed him and assaulted him in a prison dining hall. The inmate complaint form required Lee to disclose all prior lawsuits relating to the conditions of his imprisonment, but he stated that he had filed none. The record showed that he had previously filed at least two federal lawsuits concerning prison conditions. Lee did not justify the omissions or respond to the motion to dismiss.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lee filed an amended prisoner civil-rights complaint alleging verbal harassment and an assault by Officer Strickland. Before the motion to dismiss, Lee moved for a transfer to another correctional institution. The district court granted the motion to dismiss and dismissed the action without prejudice as a sanction for abuse of the judicial process, denied the transfer motion, directed the Clerk to enter judgment, and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Townsend v. Palmer*, No. 5:12-cv-176-MP-GRJ, 2012 WL 2155296, at *3 (N.D. Fla. June 12, 2012)
- *Jenkins v. Hutcheson*, 708 F. App'x 647, 648 (11th Cir. 2018)
- *Simmons v. Kolodziej*, No. 3:23-cv-20567-LC-ZCB, 2024 WL 4729762, at *4 (N.D. Fla. Oct. 21, 2024), adopted by 2024 WL 4728023 (N.D. Fla. Nov. 8, 2024)
- *Strickland v. United States*, 739 F. App'x 587, 588 (11th Cir. 2018)
- *McNair v. Johnson*, 143 F.4th 1301, 1306 (11th Cir. 2025)
- *Redmon v. Lake Cnty. Sheriff's Off.*, 414 F. App'x 221, 226 (11th Cir. 2011)
- *Perry v. Locklear*, No. 18-12101, 2019 WL 22405385, at *2 (11th Cir. May 14, 2019)
- *Gaguski v. Humphrey*, No. 5:13-cv-97-MTT, 2014 WL 1247812, at *1 (M.D. Ga. Mar. 25, 2014)
- *Lee v. Fla. Dep't of Corr.*, No. 9:21-cv-80681-JEM (S.D. Fla.)
- *Lee v. Governor, State of Fla.*, No. 2:22-cv-14254-JEM (S.D. Fla.)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FORT MYERS DIVISION DANIEL T. LEE, Plaintiff, v. Case No.: 2:25-cv-265-SPC-NPM OFFICER STRICKLAND, Defendant. / OPINION AND ORDER Before the Court is Defendant Officer Strickland's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Amended Complaint. (Doc. 21). Plaintiff Daniel T. Lee—a prisoner of the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC)—alleges that Strickland verbally harassed him on several occasions and “assaulted” him in a prison dining hall.

(Doc. 7 at 3-5). Strickland moves to dismiss on the grounds that Lee failed to exhaust his administrative remedies and failed to accurately disclose his litigation history. (Doc. 21 at 11-15). Lee did not respond. Because Lee abused the judicial process by misrepresenting his litigation history, the Court grants the motion and dismisses this case without prejudice.¹ 1 Before the motion to dismiss was filed, Lee asked the Court to transfer him from Charlotte Correctional Institution to Dade Correctional Institution.

(Doc. 10). This request is denied because the Court “has no authority to order the FDOC to transfer [Lee] to a specific institution.” *Townsend v. Palmer*, No. 5:12-cv-176-MP-GRJ, 2012 WL 2155296, at *3 (N.D. Fla. June 12, 2012).

The civil-rights complaint form required Lee to identify all prior lawsuits “relating to the conditions of [his] imprisonment.” (Doc. 7 at 9-10). He did not list any cases. (*Id.*) Instead, in the space reserved for identifying the parties to a prior lawsuit, Lee wrote “No.” (*Id.* at 10). And in the space reserved for identifying the court that heard a prior lawsuit, Lee wrote “None.” (*Id.*)

These statements are false. Before bringing this case, Lee filed at least two federal lawsuits relating to the conditions of his imprisonment: *Lee v. Fla. Dep't of Corr.*, No. 9:21-cv-80681-JEM (S.D. Fla.), and *Lee v. Governor, State of Fla.*, No. 2:22-cv-14254-JEM (S.D. Fla.).

In his motion to dismiss, Strickland cited these cases and argued that Lee abused the judicial process by “fail[ing] to accurately list out his prior litigation.” (Doc. 21 at 13). As noted above, Lee did not respond to the motion.

The disclosure requirement is important for two reasons. First, it “enable[s] courts to... apply the ‘three strikes rule,’ under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), for prisoners proceeding in forma pauperis.” *Jenkins v. Hutcheson*, 708 F. App’x 647, 648 (11th Cir. 2018).

Second, it allows courts to “dispose of successive cases that relitigate old matters.” *Id.* “These purposes are thwarted, and the efficiency of the judicial system diminished, when a prisoner misstates his litigation history on the complaint form.” *Simmons v. Kolodziej*, No. 3:23-cv-20567-LC-ZCB, 2024 WL 4729762, at *4 (N.D. Fla. Oct. 21, 2024), adopted by 2024 WL 4728023 (N.D.

Fla. Nov. 8, 2024). Dismissal without prejudice is an appropriate sanction for violating the disclosure requirement. “[A] sanction less than dismissal would signal that a failure to disclose filings is an infraction without consequence. It would invite other prisoners to omit their litigation history, thus draining the judicial system’s time and resources.” *Strickland v. United States*, 739 F. App’x 587, 588 (11th Cir.

2018). Indeed, the Eleventh Circuit has repeatedly found dismissal without prejudice appropriate when a prisoner misrepresents his litigation history. See, e.g., *McNair v. Johnson*, 143 F.4th 1301, 1306 (11th Cir. 2025) (district court “had inherent authority to dismiss [plaintiff’s] complaint without prejudice as a sanction for his failure to disclose his full litigation history as required by the standard inmate complaint form”); *Redmon v. Lake Cnty.*

Sheriff’s Off., 414 F. App’x 221, 226 (11th Cir. 2011) (prisoner’s failure to disclose a prior lawsuit was an abuse of the judicial process warranting dismissal without prejudice). Lee abused the judicial process by misrepresenting his litigation history. He offers no justification for his lack of candor, nor is any apparent from the record. So this case will be dismissed without prejudice as a sanction for Lee’s failure to disclose his prior lawsuits.² See *Perry v. Locklear*, No. 18-12101, 2019 2 Because Lee’s abuse of the judicial process is dispositive, the Court need not address whether he failed to exhaust his administrative remedies.

See *Gaguski v. Humphrey*, No. 5:13-cv-97-MTT, 2014 WL 1247812, at *1 (M.D. Ga. Mar. 25, 2014) (“Because the Court finds that Plaintiff has abused the judicial process, Defendant’s remaining contentions [including exhaustion of administrative remedies] are not discussed herein.”). WL 22405385, at *2 (11th Cir. May 14, 2019) (affirming dismissal of action “without prejudice due to [plaintiff’s] failure to disclose prior litigation”).

Accordingly, it is ORDERED: 1. Officer Strickland’s Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs Amended Complaint (Doc. 21) is GRANTED. 2. This case is DISMISSED without prejudice for abuse of the judicial process. 3. Lee’s Motion for Transfer (Doc. 10) is DENIED. 4. The Clerk shall enter

judgment, terminate any pending motions, and close this file. DONE and ORDERED in Fort Myers, Florida on February 18, 2026.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE SA: TpaP-2 Copies: All Parties of Record

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