

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PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential federal district court opinion; precedential status is unknown from the source metadata.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.)