

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

Reggie Griffin v. L.T. J. Minshew

Griffin · No. 3:25-cv-1187-MMH-MCR · Decided January 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida dismissed Reggie Griffin’s pro se civil-rights action without prejudice. The court found that Griffin failed to pay the filing fee or seek in forma pauperis status, failed to comply with court orders, and failed to update his address or otherwise prosecute the case. The Clerk was directed to update Griffin’s address, enter judgment, terminate pending motions, and close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Marcia Morales Howard
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
DECIDED	January 12, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-1187-MMH-MCR
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court sua sponte dismissed a pro se prisoner's section 1983 action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders requiring payment of the filing fee or submission of an application to proceed in forma pauperis and notification of address changes.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse of discretion applies to dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with court rules or court orders.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished federal district court order; persuasive value only and not binding precedent.
PARTIES	Reggie Griffin v. L.T. J. Minshew

TOPICS

civil procedure

section 1983

civil rights

prisoners rights

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

prisoner litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could dismiss the pro se section 1983 action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders.
2. Whether Griffin's failure to pay the filing fee or submit an in forma pauperis application and failure to update his address warranted dismissal after repeated warnings.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may sua sponte dismiss a pro se action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) when the plaintiff fails to comply with court orders or procedural rules, particularly after being warned that noncompliance may result in dismissal.
2. Griffin's action was properly dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with the court's orders.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Accordingly, this action is to be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute and comply with the Court's Orders."

"pro se litigants still must conform to procedural rules."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Griffin, an inmate in the Florida penal system, filed a pro se complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 without paying the filing fee or submitting an application to proceed in forma pauperis. The court twice informed him of his obligation to pay or seek pauper status and instructed him to maintain a current address. Griffin failed to comply, failed to respond to an order to show cause, and made no subsequent filings despite changing correctional facilities.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Griffin filed a pro se civil-rights complaint but neither paid the filing fee nor submitted an application to proceed in forma pauperis. After the court issued orders advising him of those obligations and the consequences of noncompliance, including an order to show cause, Griffin made no further filings and did not update his address. The court dismissed the action without prejudice, directed the Clerk to update his address, terminate pending motions, enter judgment, and close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Moon v. Newsome, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989)
- Tannenbaum v. United States, 148 F.3d 1262, 1263 (11th Cir. 1998)
- Albra v. Advan, Inc., 490 F.3d 826, 829 (11th Cir. 2007)
- Hargrove v. Capela, 792 F. App'x 758, 759 (11th Cir. 2020)
- Powell v. Harris, 628 F. App'x 679, 680 (11th Cir. 2015) (per curiam)
- Duong Thanh Ho v. Costello, 757 F. App'x 912, 914-15 (11th Cir. 2018)
- McNamara v. Gov't Emps. Ins. Co., 30 F.4th 1055, 1060-61 (11th Cir. 2022)

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