

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MISSOURI, EASTERN DIVISION

Regina Hodge v. City of St. Louis, et al.

Hodge · No. 4:26-cv-114-SRW · Decided April 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri dismissed Regina Hodge’s civil action against the City of St. Louis and other defendants without prejudice. The dismissal was based on her failure to comply with an order requiring an amended, signed complaint and her failure to prosecute; the court denied her motion to proceed in forma pauperis as moot and certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division
DECIDED	April 15, 2026
DOCKET	4:26-cv-114-SRW
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court dismissed the action without prejudice sua sponte after Plaintiff failed to comply with an order requiring an amended, signed, court-form complaint.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Regina Hodge v. City of St. Louis, et al.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could dismiss the action without prejudice for Plaintiff's failure to comply with a court order and failure to prosecute.
2. Whether Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis became moot upon dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may dismiss an action sua sponte and without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) when the plaintiff fails to comply with a court order and fails to prosecute after receiving meaningful notice and adequate time to comply.
2. Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis was denied as moot after the action was dismissed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Court will therefore dismiss this action, without prejudice, due to Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Court's February 25, 2026 Order and her failure to prosecute her case."

"by the control necessarily vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases" (630-31)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Regina Hodge filed this civil action on January 27, 2026. The Court later ordered her to submit a signed amended complaint on a Court form within 30 days, but she did not respond, seek an extension, or otherwise comply despite notice and an opportunity to do so.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff commenced the civil action on January 27, 2026. On February 25, 2026, the Court ordered Plaintiff to file an amended complaint on a Court form and sign it within 30 days, warned that failure to comply could result in dismissal, and dismissed the action after Plaintiff neither complied nor requested additional time.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 630-31 (1962)
- Brown v. Frey, 806 F.2d 801, 803 (8th Cir. 1986)