

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Jesse Joseph Aich v. State of Kansas, et al.

Aich · No. 26-3088-JWL · Decided May 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Kansas dismisses Jesse Joseph Aich's pro se civil action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failing to pay the filing fee by the court-ordered deadline. The court rejects Aich's arguments concerning the filing fee, double jeopardy, and access to the courts, relying on its prior decision in a related case and the three-strikes provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John W. Lungstrum
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
DECIDED	May 18, 2026
DOCKET	26-3088-JWL
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a pro se civil action and sought leave to proceed in forma pauperis. After denying in forma pauperis status under the three-strikes provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), the court ordered Plaintiff to pay the filing fee by May 15, 2026. Plaintiff did not pay the fee, and the court dismissed the action without prejudice under Rule 41(b).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied Rule 41(b) to determine whether dismissal was warranted for failure to comply with a court order; the opinion states that a district court may dismiss sua sponte and need not follow particular procedures when dismissing an action without prejudice under Rule 41(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished federal district court memorandum and order; limited precedential value.
PARTIES	Jesse Joseph Aich v. State of Kansas, 27th Judicial District

TOPICS

civil procedure

due process

equal protection

first amendment

constitutional law

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

constitutional law

prisoner litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the action should be dismissed without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) because Plaintiff failed to pay the filing fee by the deadline set in the court's order.
2. Whether Plaintiff's challenges to the filing-fee requirement warranted relief from the prior order requiring payment of the fee.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may dismiss an action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) when the plaintiff fails to comply with a court order, including when the plaintiff fails to pay a filing fee by the deadline ordered by the court.
2. Plaintiff's arguments that the filing fee was already covered by government funds, constituted double jeopardy, or violated constitutional rights did not excuse his failure to comply with the payment order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Plaintiff has failed to pay the filing fee by the deadline set forth in the Court's order. As a consequence, the Court dismisses this action without prejudice pursuant to Rule 41(b) for failure to comply with court orders."
(Memorandum and Order)

"The failure to submit the fee by that date will result in the dismissal of this matter without prejudice and without additional prior notice." (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a detainee at the Reno County Correctional Facility, filed a one-page pro se complaint against the State of Kansas and the 27th Judicial District. The court previously denied him in forma pauperis status under the three-strikes provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), finding no showing of imminent danger of serious physical injury. Plaintiff did not pay the required \$405 filing fee by the court-ordered deadline, instead filing responses asserting that the fee requirement violated, among other things, his right to petition and the prohibition against double jeopardy.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court denied Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis after finding that he was subject to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) and had not shown imminent danger of serious physical injury. The court gave Plaintiff until May 15, 2026, to pay the \$405 filing fee and warned that failure to do so would result in dismissal without prejudice. Plaintiff filed responses challenging the fee requirement but did not pay it, so the court dismissed the action sua sponte for failure to comply with a court order.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Burghart v. Corr. Corp. of Am., 350 F. App'x 278, 279 (10th Cir. 2009)
- White v. Colo., 157 F.3d 1226, 1232-35 (10th Cir. 1998)
- Kinnell v. Graves, 265 F.3d 1125, 1128 (10th Cir. 2001)
- Young v. U.S., 316 F. App'x 764, 771-72 (10th Cir. 2009)
- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 630-31 (1962)
- Olsen v. Mapes, 333 F.3d 1199, 1204 n.3 (10th Cir. 2003)

OPINION

Aich

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

JESSE JOSEPH AICH,

Plaintiff,

v. CASE NO. 26-3088-JWL

STATE OF KANSAS, et al., Defendants.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Plaintiff brings this pro se civil action. Plaintiff is in custody at the Reno County Correctional Facility in Hutchinson, Kansas. Plaintiff claims that he is bringing this action under “899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision by Jury Trial.” (Doc. 1, at 1.) Plaintiff names the State of Kansas and the 27th Judicial District as defendants. Plaintiff’s one-page Complaint merely references his attached writ filed in state court, claiming it contains the issues he is bringing in this action. *Id.* Plaintiff attaches documents filed in Reno County District Court titled “Legal Malpractice by Jury Trial.” (Doc. 1–1.) On April 15, 2026, the Court entered a Memorandum and Order (Doc. 5) (“M&O”) denying Plaintiff’s motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis, finding that Plaintiff is subject to the “three-strikes” provision under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). The Court examined the Complaint and attachments and found no showing of imminent danger of serious physical injury. The Court granted Plaintiff until May 15, 2026, to submit the \$405.00 filing fee. The Court’s M&O provides that “[t]he failure to submit the fee by that date will result in the dismissal of this matter without prejudice and without additional prior notice.” *Id.* at 3. Plaintiff has failed to pay the filing fee by the Court’s deadline. Instead, Plaintiff has filed two responses to the M&O. (Docs. 6, 7.) In his first response, he argues that he is not permitted to file pro se motions in his state criminal case because he is represented by counsel, that detainees are

not allowed to seal their outgoing mail, and that deputies are allowed to pass out medications. See Doc. 6. He also argues that filing fees are already allocated and set aside by the government and to charge him again for the fees constitutes double jeopardy. *Id.* at 3. In his second response, he states that the same arguments he made in Case No. 26-3072 apply regarding the filing fee, that the fees are already taken care of by the government, that he has a First Amendment right to redress grievances, and that the laws cited by the Court are mere presumptions and therefore the caselaw is mere opinions. (Doc. 7, at 1.) In Case No. 26-3072, Plaintiff argued that the filing fee is somehow taken care of through the Court's yearly budget and that requiring him to pay his filing fee constitutes double jeopardy. See *Aich v. Kansas*, Case No. 26-3072-JWL, Doc. 5 (D. Kan.). The Court found in that case that: The Court cited the statutory authority for requiring Plaintiff to submit the filing fee—28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). The Tenth Circuit “has already upheld the constitutionality of 1915(g) against due process, equal protection, and access to the courts challenges.” *Burghart v. Corr. Corp. of Am.*, 350 F. App'x 278, 279 (10th Cir. 2009) (unpublished) (citing *White v. Colo.*, 157 F.3d 1226, 1232–35 (10th Cir. 1998)); see also *Kinnell v. Graves*, 265 F.3d 1125, 1128 (10th Cir. 2001) (finding that the court in *White* held that ifp status in a civil case is not a fundamental right and that § 1915(g) “is rationally related to the legitimate end of deterring frivolous and malicious prisoner lawsuits”) (quoting *White*, 157 F.2d at 1233–34). *Id.* at Doc. 9, at 2. The Court rejects the arguments in this case for the same reasons they were rejected in Case No. 26-3072. Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure “authorizes a district court, upon a defendant's motion, to order the dismissal of an action for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or ‘a court order.’” *Young v. U.S.*, 316 F. App'x 764, 771 (10th Cir. 2009) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b)). “This rule has been interpreted as permitting district courts to dismiss actions sua sponte when one of these conditions is met.” *Id.* (citing *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630–31 (1962); *Olsen v. Mapes*, 333 F.3d 1199, 1204 n.3 (10th Cir. 2003)). “In addition, it is well established in this circuit that a district court is not obligated to follow any particular procedures when dismissing an action without prejudice under Rule 41(b).” *Young*, 316 F. App'x at 771–72 (citations omitted). Plaintiff has failed to pay the filing fee by the deadline set forth in the Court's order. As a consequence, the Court dismisses this action without prejudice pursuant to Rule 41(b) for failure to comply with court orders. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE COURT that this action is dismissed without prejudice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated May 18, 2026, in Kansas City, Kansas. S/ John W. Lungstrum
JOHN W. LUNGSTRUM
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE