

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Valerie L. Flores v. Willie Terrell Thomas, Chris Jenkins, Debradre
Jackson, Eric Perkins, Kevin Johnson, Kirara Johnson, and Ashley
Messier

Flores · No. 26-cv-301-jdp · Decided May 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The Western District of Wisconsin ordered plaintiff Valerie L. Flores to prepay the full \$405 filing fee in her transferred civil-rights action. The court gave her until June 8, 2026, to pay the fee and cautioned that failure to do so would result in dismissal with prejudice under an existing filing bar.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James D. Peterson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	May 18, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-301-jdp
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a civil-rights action in the Northern District of New York without prepaying the filing fee. That action was transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds, where the court applied an existing filing-fee bar order and allowed plaintiff 21 days to prepay the full fee.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- venue
- civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a prior order requiring Flores to prepay the full filing fee before filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin applies to an action filed in another district and later transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds.
2. Whether Flores should be given a period to prepay the full filing fee before dismissal of the transferred action.

HOLDINGS

1. A prior order barring Flores from filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin without prepaying the full filing fee applies to this action after its transfer to that district, even though Flores originally filed the action in another district.
2. Flores must prepay the full \$405 filing fee by June 8, 2026; if the court does not receive the payment by that date, the action will be dismissed with prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Under that bar order, any civil lawsuit that Flores files without full prepayment will be docketed and summarily dismissed.” (Order)

“I reasoned that, were it otherwise, Flores could circumvent the bar order by filing in other districts cases in which venue is proper in this district only.” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Flores was subject to a prior order barring her from filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin without prepaying the full filing fee. She filed this federal-rights action in the Northern District of New York without paying the fee, alleging that the defendants violated her federal rights. The action was transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds, and the court concluded that requiring payment after transfer was necessary to prevent circumvention of the prior bar order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Flores was previously barred from filing new civil lawsuits in the Western District of Wisconsin without prepaying the full filing fee. She filed this action in the Northern District of New York without prepayment, and the action was transferred to the Western District of Wisconsin on venue grounds. Relying on its prior treatment of a similar transferred action, the court ordered Flores to pay the full \$405 filing fee within 21 days and cautioned that failure to do so would result in dismissal with prejudice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Flores v. Progressive Ins., No. 23-cv-398-jdp, 2024 WL 1701705, at *4 (W.D. Wis. Apr. 19, 2024)
- Flores v. Thomas, No. 24-cv-532-jdp

OPINION

Flores

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

VALERIE L. FLORES,

Plaintiff, v.

ORDER

WILLIE TERRELL THOMAS, CHRIS JENKINS,
DEBRADRE JACKSON, ERIC PERKINS, KEVIN 26-cv-301-jdp
JOHNSON, KIRARA JOHNSON, and ASHLEY
MESSIER,

Defendants. With a minor exception immaterial here, plaintiff Valerie L. Flores is barred from filing new civil lawsuits in this court without prepaying the full filing fee. *Flores v. Progressive Ins.*, No. 23-cv-398-jdp, 2024 WL 1701705, at *4 (W.D. Wis. Apr. 19, 2024). Under that bar order, any civil lawsuit that Flores files without full prepayment will be docketed and summarily dismissed. *Id.* In December 2025, Flores brought a lawsuit in the Northern District of New York alleging that defendants, whom she says are “WI residents,” violated her federal rights. Dkt. 1. That action was transferred to this district on venue grounds. Dkt. 8. Flores didn’t prepay the filing fee while that action was pending in the Northern District of New York. Previously, a case that Flores filed in the Southern District of New York was transferred to this district on venue grounds. Case no. 24-cv-532-jdp. I noted in that case that the bar order doesn’t expressly refer to cases that Flores files in another district without prepaying the filing fee but that are transferred to this district on venue grounds. Dkt. 6 at 1 in the ’532 case. But I determined that it was appropriate to make Flores prepay the full filing fee now that the ’532 case had been transferred here. *Id.* I reasoned that, were it otherwise, Flores could circumvent the bar order by filing in other districts cases in which venue is proper in this district only. *Id.* Flores received the order in the ’532 case in August 2024, but she has continued to file in other districts cases in which venue is proper in this district only. As I did in the ’532 and other cases, I will give Flores 21 days to pay the full filing fee in this case. Flores can fulfill that requirement by submitting a check or money order for \$405 payable to “Clerk, U.S. District Court” and mailing the payment to this address: United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Clerk’s Office, 120 N. Henry St., Room 320, Madison, WI 53703. If the court doesn’t receive the full filing fee in 21 days, this case will be dismissed with prejudice.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff Valerie L. Flores may have until June 8, 2026, to pay the \$405 filing fee as provided in this order.

2. Plaintiff is cautioned that, if the court doesn't receive the full filing fee by June 8, 2026, this case will be dismissed with prejudice. Entered May 18, 2026. BY THE COURT: /s/

JAMES D. PETERSON

District Judge

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