

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

Pete Wright v. Cheri O'Neal, et al.

Wright v. O'Neal, No. 4:25-cv-1794-CMS (E.D. Mo. Apr. 13, 2026) · No. 4:25-cv-1794-CMS · Decided April 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri dismissed Pete Wright’s action without prejudice for failure to comply with an order requiring him to file a Disclosure Statement and for failure to prosecute. The court also denied his 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
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Cristian M. Stevens
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division
DECIDED	April 13, 2026
DOCKET	4:25-cv-1794-CMS
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court dismissed the action without prejudice after Plaintiff failed to comply with an order requiring him to show cause and file a disclosure statement, and failed to prosecute the case.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court memorandum and order; precedential status unknown
PARTIES	Pete Wright v. Cheri O'Neal, et al.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- sanctions
- pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court could dismiss the action without prejudice for Plaintiff's failure to comply with a court order requiring a show-cause response and disclosure statement.
2. Whether the court could dismiss the action sua sponte for failure to prosecute.
3. Whether Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis should be denied as moot after dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may dismiss an action without prejudice when the plaintiff fails to comply with a clear court order after receiving meaningful notice, an express warning of dismissal, and ample time to comply.
2. A district court has inherent authority to dismiss an action sua sponte for lack of prosecution.
3. The motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis was denied as moot following dismissal of the action.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Plaintiff was given meaningful notice of what was expected, he was cautioned that his case would be dismissed if he failed to timely comply, and he was given ample time to comply.”

“the authority of a court to dismiss sua sponte for lack of prosecution is inherent power governed “by the control necessarily vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Pete Wright commenced a civil action and filed an amended complaint after the court directed him to use a court form. The court twice notified him that Local Rule 2.09 required a disclosure statement and then ordered him to show cause why the case should not be dismissed, expressly warning that noncompliance would result in dismissal without further notice. Wright neither responded nor sought additional time, despite having ample opportunity to comply.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the action on December 4, 2025, and later filed an amended complaint on a court form. The court issued two notices requiring a disclosure statement and then ordered Plaintiff to show cause why the case should not be dismissed for failure to file it. Plaintiff did not respond or request additional time, so the court dismissed the case without prejudice and denied his motion to proceed in forma pauperis as moot.

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)

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