

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF  
OKLAHOMA

Christopher Eugene Sims v. State of Oklahoma

Sims · No. CIV-25-1404-HE · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

A magistrate judge recommends dismissing Christopher Eugene Sims’s habeas action without prejudice because he failed to pay the filing fee or submit an in forma pauperis motion, use the required form, and properly sign the initiating document. The recommendation relies on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) and the court’s inherent authority to dismiss for failure to prosecute or comply with court orders. The petitioner was advised of the right to object by January 12, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Amanda L. Maxfield                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DECIDED               | December 22, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DOCKET                | CIV-25-1404-HE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Report and recommendation in a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas action recommending dismissal without prejudice for failure to pay the filing fee or seek in forma pauperis status, use the required form, sign the initiating document, and comply with an order to cure deficiencies. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court applied Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) and the court's inherent authority to dismiss for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with court rules or orders.                                                                                                |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| PARTIES               | Christopher Eugene Sims v. State of Oklahoma                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- sanctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should dismiss the habeas action without prejudice because Petitioner failed to cure identified filing deficiencies and failed to comply with a court order.
2. Whether dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute or comply with a court order required any particular additional procedures.

## HOLDINGS

1. The court recommended dismissal without prejudice because Petitioner failed to pay the filing fee or seek in forma pauperis status, failed to submit the required form and signature, and failed to comply with the order directing him to cure those deficiencies.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“Failure to comply with this Order may result in the dismissal of this action.”*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner submitted two orders from the District Court of Cotton County, Oklahoma, along with a letter, and the matter was treated as a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The court advised Petitioner that he had not paid the filing fee or submitted an in forma pauperis motion, had not used the proper initiating form, and had not properly signed the filing. Although ordered to cure those deficiencies by December 16, 2025, and warned that noncompliance could result in dismissal, Petitioner did not do so.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Northern District of Oklahoma received Petitioner's filings, opened the matter as a habeas action, and transferred it to the Western District of Oklahoma. Magistrate Judge Amanda L. Maxfield, following referral by District Judge Joe Heaton, ordered Petitioner to cure filing deficiencies by December 16, 2025. After Petitioner failed to comply, the magistrate judge issued this Report and Recommendation recommending dismissal without prejudice and advising Petitioner of the right to object.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Huggins v. Supreme Court of the U.S., 480 F. App'x 915, 916-17 (10th Cir. 2012)
- AdvantEdge Bus. Grp. v. Thomas E. Mestmaker & Assocs., Inc., 552 F.3d 1233, 1236 (10th Cir. 2009)
- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962)
- Moore v. United States, 950 F.2d 656, 659 (10th Cir. 1991)

