

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA, BRUNSWICK DIVISION

Gregory K. Jones v. Warden, Jesup Federal Prison Camp

Jones · No. 2:25-cv-131 · Decided February 12, 2026

SUMMARY

A magistrate judge recommends granting the respondent’s motion to dismiss as unopposed and dismissing Gregory K. Jones’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 petition without prejudice. The recommendation is based on Jones’s failure to respond to the motion to dismiss and to comply with the court’s show-cause order. It also recommends closing the case and denying leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Brunswick Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	United States Magistrate Judge (name not legible in source)
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Brunswick Division
DECIDED	February 12, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-131
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Report and recommendation on Respondent's unopposed motion to dismiss a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with court orders is committed to the district court's discretion, subject to the court's authority under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), its inherent docket-management authority, and applicable local rules. The magistrate judge also stated that an appeal is taken in good faith only when it presents a nonfrivolous issue, judged under an objective standard.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Gregory K. Jones v. Warden, Jesup Federal Prison Camp

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

motions to dismiss

sanctions

appellate procedure

standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Civil procedure

Appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Jones's § 2241 petition should be dismissed without prejudice because he failed to respond to Respondent's motion to dismiss and failed to comply with the court's show-cause order.
2. Whether Jones should be denied leave to appeal in forma pauperis because any appeal would not be taken in good faith.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may dismiss an action without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), its inherent authority to manage its docket, and applicable local rules when a petitioner fails to prosecute, fails to respond to a motion, or fails to follow a court order after being given notice of the consequences. The magistrate judge recommended applying that authority to dismiss Jones's petition without prejudice.
2. A trial court may deny leave to appeal in forma pauperis when it certifies that the appeal is not taken in good faith because it presents no nonfrivolous issue. The magistrate judge recommended denying Jones leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A district court's “power to dismiss is an inherent aspect of its authority to enforce its orders and ensure prompt disposition of lawsuits.””

“It is true dismissal with prejudice for failure to prosecute is a “sanction . . . to be utilized only in extreme situations””

“By contrast, dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute is not an adjudication on the merits and, therefore, courts are afforded greater discretion in dismissing claims in this manner.”

“A party does not proceed in good faith when he seeks to advance a frivolous claim or argument.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On October 21, 2025, Gregory K. Jones filed a § 2241 petition alleging that the Bureau of Prisons had not awarded him earned time credits under the First Step Act. Respondent moved to dismiss, asserting that Jones failed to state a habeas claim, that his claims were unripe, that he lacked a liberty interest in the credits, and that the court lacked jurisdiction or authority to determine his place of confinement. Jones did not respond to the motion or to a subsequent show-cause order warning him of the consequences of failing to respond.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jones filed a § 2241 petition alleging that the Bureau of Prisons failed to award him earned First Step Act time credits. After the petition was served, Respondent moved to dismiss. Jones failed to respond within the applicable period, and the magistrate judge issued a show-cause order warning that noncompliance could result in dismissal. Jones did not respond, so the magistrate judge recommended dismissal without prejudice for failure to follow court orders, closure of the case, and denial of leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626 (1962)
- Coleman v. St. Lucie Cnty. Jail, 433 F. App'x 716 (11th Cir. 2011)
- Betty K Agencies, Ltd. v. M/V MONADA, 432 F.3d 1333 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Sanders v. Barrett, No. 05-12660, 2005 WL 2640979 (11th Cir. Oct. 17, 2005)
- Kilgo v. Ricks, 983 F.2d 189 (11th Cir. 1993)
- Brown v. Tallahassee Police Dep't, 205 F. App'x 802 (11th Cir. 2006)
- Jones v. Graham, 709 F.2d 1457 (11th Cir. 1983)
- Thomas v. Montgomery Cnty. Bd. of Educ., 170 F. App'x 623 (11th Cir. 2006)
- Morewitz v. West of Eng. Ship Owners Mut. Prot. & Indem. Ass'n (Lux.), 62 F.3d 1356 (11th Cir. 1995)
- Taylor v. Spaziano, 251 F. App'x 616 (11th Cir. 2007)
- Busch v. County of Volusia, 189 F.R.D. 687 (M.D. Fla. 1999)
- Coppedge v. United States, 369 U.S. 438 (1962)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319 (1989)
- Carroll v. Gross, 984 F.2d 392 (11th Cir. 1993)
- Moore v. Bargstedt, 203 F. App'x 321 (11th Cir. 2006)
- Bilal v. Driver, 251 F.3d 1346 (11th Cir. 2001)
- Harrigan v. Metro Dade Police Dep't Station #4, 977 F.3d 1185 (11th Cir. 2020)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA BRUNSWICK DIVISION GREGORY K. JONES, Petitioner, CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2:25-cv-131 v. WARDEN, JESUP FEDERAL PRISON CAMP, Respondent. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION Respondent filed a Motion to Dismiss, and I directed Petitioner Gregory Jones (“Jones”) to show cause why the Court should not grant the Motion to Dismiss on or before January 26, 2026.

Docs. 6, 7. Jones has not responded to the Motion to Dismiss or this Court’s show cause Order, and the times to do so have elapsed. As discussed below in more detail, I RECOMMEND the

Court GRANT as unopposed Respondent's Motion to Dismiss, DISMISS without prejudice Jones's 28 U.S.C. § 2241 Petition, doc. 1, for failure to follow this Court's Orders, DIRECT the Clerk of Court to CLOSE this case and enter the appropriate judgment of dismissal, and DENY Jones leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

BACKGROUND On October 21, 2025, Jones brought his § 2241 Petition and contends that the Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") has not given him earned credits based on the First Step Act ("FSA"). Doc. 1. After I ordered service of Jones's Petition, Respondent filed this Motion to Dismiss. Docs. 4, 6. Respondent states Clark does not set forth a claim for habeas relief, his claims are not ripe for review, and he has no liberty interest in FSA time credits.

Doc. 6 at 2. Respondent also states that this Court lacks jurisdiction to review Clark's claims or authority to determine Clark's place of confinement. *Id.* When Jones failed to respond to the Motion to Dismiss within 14 days of service, *id.* at 13, the Court ordered Jones to show cause why the Court should not grant the Motion to Dismiss as unopposed and dismiss Jones's Petition based on his failure to follow this Court's Orders and Local Rules.

Doc. 7. The Court informed Jones he could show cause by either responding to the Motion or by informing the Court he does not oppose the Motion. Jones's response was due on or before January 26, 2026. *Id.* Jones has not responded to the Motion to Dismiss or this Court's Order, and the times to do so have elapsed. DISCUSSION The Court must now determine how to address Jones's failure to comply with this Court's Orders.

For the reasons set forth below, I RECOMMEND the Court DISMISS without prejudice Jones's Petition and DENY Jones leave to appeal in forma pauperis. I. Dismissal for Failure to Follow This Court's Orders A district court may dismiss a petitioner's claims for failure to prosecute based on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) and the court's inherent authority to manage its docket.

Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626 (1962);¹ *Coleman v. St. Lucie Cnty. Jail*, 433 F. App'x 716, 718 (11th Cir. 2011) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) and *Betty K Agencies, Ltd. v. M/V MONADA*, 432 F.3d 1333, 1337 (11th Cir. 2005)).

In particular, Rule 41(b) allows for the involuntary dismissal of a petitioner's claims where he has failed to prosecute those claims, 1 In *Wabash*, the Court held a trial court may dismiss an action for failure to prosecute "even without affording notice of its intention to do so." 370 U.S. at 633.

However, in this case, Jones was forewarned of the consequences of failing to respond to Respondent's Motion to Dismiss. Doc. 7; see also Local R. 7.5 ("Failure to respond within the applicable time period shall indicate... there is no opposition to a motion."). comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or local rules, or follow a court order. Fed. R. Civ.

P. 41(b); see also Coleman, 433 F. App'x at 718; Sanders v. Barrett, No. 05-12660, 2005 WL 2640979, at *1 (11th Cir. Oct. 17, 2005) (citing Kilgo v. Ricks, 983 F.2d 189, 192 (11th Cir. 1993)); cf. Local R. 41.1(b) (“[T]he assigned Judge may, after notice to counsel of record, sua sponte... dismiss any action for want of prosecution, with or without prejudice[,].... [based on] willful disobedience or neglect of any order of the Court.” (emphasis omitted)).

Additionally, a district court’s “power to dismiss is an inherent aspect of its authority to enforce its orders and ensure prompt disposition of lawsuits.” Brown v. Tallahassee Police Dep’t, 205 F. App'x 802, 802 (11th Cir. 2006) (quoting Jones v. Graham, 709 F.2d 1457, 1458 (11th Cir. 1983)). It is true dismissal with prejudice for failure to prosecute is a “sanction... to be utilized only in extreme situations” and requires a court to “(1) conclud[e] a clear record of delay or willful contempt exists; and (2) mak[e] an implicit or explicit finding that lesser sanctions would not suffice.” Thomas v. Montgomery Cnty.

Bd. of Educ., 170 F. App'x 623, 625–26 (11th Cir. 2006) (quoting Morewitz v. West of Eng. Ship Owners Mut. Prot. & Indem. Ass’n (Lux.), 62 F.3d 1356, 1366 (11th Cir. 1995)); see also Taylor v. Spaziano, 251 F. App'x 616, 619 (11th Cir. 2007) (citing Morewitz, 62 F.3d at 1366). By contrast, dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute is not an adjudication on the merits and, therefore, courts are afforded greater discretion in dismissing claims in this manner.

Taylor, 251 F. App'x at 619; see also Coleman, 433 F. App'x at 719; Brown, 205 F. App'x at 802–03. While the Court exercises its discretion to dismiss cases with caution, dismissal of this action without prejudice is warranted. See Coleman, 433 F. App'x at 719 (upholding dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute, where plaintiff did not respond to court order to supply defendant’s current address for purpose of service); Brown, 205 F. App'x at 802–03 (upholding dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute, where plaintiff failed to follow court order to file amended complaint and court had informed plaintiff non-compliance could lead to dismissal).

Jones failed to follow this Court’s Orders, despite having ample opportunity to do so and being forewarned of the consequences of his failure to do so. Doc. 7; Local R. 7.5. Thus, the Court should GRANT as unopposed Respondent’s Motion to Dismiss and DISMISS without prejudice Jones’s § 2241 Petition. Docs. 1, 6. II. Leave to Appeal in Forma Pauperis The Court should also deny Jones leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

Though Jones has not yet filed a notice of appeal, it would be appropriate to address that issue in the Court’s order of dismissal. See Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(3) (noting trial court may certify appeal is not taken in good faith “before or after the notice of appeal is filed”). An appeal cannot be taken in forma pauperis if the trial court certifies, either before or after the notice of appeal is filed, the appeal is not taken in good faith.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3); Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(3). Good faith in this context must be judged by an objective standard. *Busch v. County of Volusia*, 189 F.R.D. 687, 691 (M.D. Fla. 1999). A party does not proceed in good faith when he seeks to advance a frivolous claim or argument. See *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). A claim or argument is frivolous when it appears the factual allegations are clearly baseless or the legal theories are indisputably meritless.

Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 327 (1989); *Carroll v. Gross*, 984 F.2d 392, 393 (11th Cir. 1993). Thus, a claim is frivolous and not brought in good faith if it is “without arguable merit either in law or fact.” *Moore v. Bargstedt*, 203 F. App’x 321, 323 (11th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Bilal v. Driver*, 251 F.3d 1346, 1349 (11th Cir. 2001)); see also *Brown v. United States*, Nos. 407CV085, 403CR001, 2009 WL 307872, at *1–2 (S.D.

Ga. Feb. 9, 2009). Based on the above analysis of Jones’s failure to follow this Court’s Orders or to respond to the Motion to Dismiss, there are no non-frivolous issues to raise on appeal, and an appeal would not be taken in good faith.

Thus, the Court should DENY Jones in forma pauperis status on appeal. CONCLUSION Based on the foregoing, I RECOMMEND the Court GRANT as unopposed Respondent’s Motion to Dismiss, DISMISS without prejudice Jones’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 Petition for failure to follow the Court’s Orders, DIRECT the Clerk of Court to CLOSE this case and enter the appropriate judgment of dismissal, and DENY Jones leave to appeal in forma pauperis.

Any objections to this Report and Recommendation shall be filed within 14 days of today’s date. Objections shall be specific and in writing. Any objection that the Magistrate Judge failed to address a contention raised in the Complaint must be included. Failure to file timely, written objections will bar any later challenge or review of the Magistrate Judge’s factual findings and legal conclusions.

28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); *Harrigan v. Metro Dade Police Dep’t Station #4*, 977 F.3d 1185, 1192–93 (11th Cir. 2020). To be clear, a party waives all rights to challenge the Magistrate Judge’s factual findings and legal conclusions on appeal by failing to file timely, written objections. *Harrigan*, 977 F.3d at 1192–93; 11th Cir. R. 3-1. A copy of the objections must be served upon all other parties to the action.

Upon receipt of objections meeting the specificity requirement set out above, a United States District Judge will make a de novo determination of those portions of the report, proposed findings, or recommendation to which objection is made and may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made herein. Objections not meeting the specificity requirement set out above will not be considered by the District Judge.

A party may not appeal a Magistrate Judge’s report and recommendation directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Appeals may be made only from a final judgment

entered by or at the direction of a District Judge. SO REPORTED and RECOMMENDED, this 12th day of February, 2026. BO _ UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

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