

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

**Scotty Lee White v. Paul Hopkins, et al.**

White · No. 1:23-cv-00208-SNLJ · Decided January 9, 2026

SUMMARY

The court addresses improper email communications by self-represented plaintiff Scotty Lee White to court staff in violation of Local Rule 4.04(A) and prior orders. The court orders White not to send further email communications to the court or court staff except for submitting documents for filing in pending cases.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Southeastern Division                                                                  |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr.                                                                                                                                  |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Southeastern Division                                                                  |
| DECIDED               | January 9, 2026                                                                                                                                           |
| DOCKET                | 1:23-cv-00208-SNLJ                                                                                                                                        |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                     |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | The district court issued a memorandum and order restricting the self-represented plaintiff's use of email communications with the court and court staff. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Unpublished district court memorandum and order; limited persuasive value.                                                                                |

TOPICS

sanctions

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil procedure

Federal courts

Judicial administration

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court may restrict a litigant's use of email communications with the court and court staff after improper and frivolous communications.

## HOLDINGS

1. A federal district court may use its inherent authority to impose filing or communication restrictions on a litigant who abuses the judicial process and wastes judicial resources with frivolous or improper filings and communications.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“All emails to the Court must contain a document to be filed. The MOED\_SRL\_Filings email is not intended for asking questions or corresponding with the Court.”*

*“Every paper filed with the Clerk of this Court, no matter how repetitious or frivolous, requires some portion of the institution’s limited resources. A part of the Court’s responsibility is to see that these resources are allocated in a way that promotes the interests of justice.”* (2)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Scotty Lee White, proceeding without counsel, sent an email to court staff concerning the case rather than using the email system solely to submit a document for filing. The communication violated Local Rule 4.04(A) and prior orders directing White to cease inappropriate use of the MOED\_SRL\_Filings email. The court also noted White's history of sending court staff emails containing outrageous and baseless accusations.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court noted that White had sent an improper email to court staff instead of submitting a filing and had previously been ordered to stop improperly using the court's self-represented-litigant filing email. Relying on Local Rule 4.04(A), the court's inherent authority, and prior orders, the court entered a further restriction governing White's communications.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- In re Tyler, 839 F.2d 1290, 1292-1295 (8th Cir. 1988)
- Day v. Day, 510 USS. 1, 2 (1993)

## OPINION

White

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION

SCOTTY LEE WHITE, )

) Plaintiff, ) ) v. ) ) Case No. 1:23-cv-00208-SNLJ PAUL HOPKINS, et al., ) ) Defendants. )

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

It has come to the Court's attention that self-represented plaintiff Scotty Lee White has sent an email communication to court staff with regard to this case for purposes other than submitting documents for filing. The email communication is improper and violates Local Rule 4.04(A), which prohibits written communication with the Court except by filing a motion or memorandum in a pending case. Furthermore, this constitutes another improper use of the MOED\_SRL\_Filings email by White, in violation of previous Orders that mandated White to cease the inappropriate utilization of that email. See [Docs. 121, 127]. The Court's website provides clear instructions to self-represented litigants regarding use of the MOED\_SRL\_Filings email, including the admonition that: "All emails to the Court must contain a document to be filed. The MOED\_SRL\_Filings email is not intended for asking questions or corresponding with the Court." (emphasis added). Additionally, the Court notes White's history of sending emails to court staff that contain outrageous and baseless accusations. White shall cease such communications. The Court has the inherent authority to impose filing restrictions on litigants who abuse the judicial process and waste the Court's resources with frivolous filings. See generally, *In re Tyler*, 839 F.2d 1290, 1292-1295 (8th Cir. 1988) (upholding imposition of a filing restriction based on frivolous filings). "Every paper filed with the Clerk of this Court, no matter how repetitious or frivolous, requires some portion of the institution's limited resources. A part of the Court's responsibility is to see that these resources are allocated in a way that promotes the interests of justice." See *Day v. Day*, 510 USS. 1, 2 (1993). Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff Scotty Lee White SHALL NOT send any further email communications to the Court or court staff that are not related to submitting documents for filing in pending cases in this Court. SO ORDERED this 9th day of January, 2026.

STEPHEN N. LIMBAUGH, JR."

SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE