

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PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum and order; limited persuasive value.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)