

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION

Letterron Djon Brannon v. Thomas Huggins, et al.

Brannon · No. 2:25-cv-804-RAH-CWB · Decided February 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The magistrate judge recommends dismissing without prejudice a pro se plaintiff’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders. The recommendation explains the court’s inherent authority to dismiss actions and sets a deadline for objections to be filed with the district judge.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chad W. Bryan
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
DECIDED	February 13, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-804-RAH-CWB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff proceeding pro se brought claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. After Plaintiff failed to submit summonses, update his address, respond to court orders, or show cause for his noncompliance, the magistrate judge recommended dismissal without prejudice for failure to prosecute and failure to obey court directives.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Dismissal under the court's inherent authority for failure to prosecute or obey court orders is reviewed for abuse of discretion. The recommendation states that dismissal with prejudice requires a clear record of delay or willful contempt and a finding that lesser sanctions would not suffice, while dismissal without prejudice does not require willfulness or bad faith.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Letterron Djon Brannon v. Thomas Huggins, et al.

TOPICS

sanctions

civil procedure

section 1983

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

prisoner litigation

sanctions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the action should be dismissed without prejudice under the court's inherent authority because Plaintiff failed to prosecute the action and failed to comply with court directives.

HOLDINGS

1. The magistrate judge recommended that the action be dismissed without prejudice because the case could not proceed without Plaintiff's participation and Plaintiff repeatedly failed to comply with court orders and deadlines.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"A court "may ... dismiss a case under its inherent authority, which it possesses as a means of managing its own docket so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases."" (unpaginated)

"A dismissal without prejudice, by contrast, doesn't require a finding of willfulness or bad faith because its consequences are less severe." (unpaginated)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff filed a § 1983 action but failed to submit the summonses required by the court. A mailing to Plaintiff was returned as undeliverable, and Plaintiff then failed to provide an updated address despite a court order and warning. Plaintiff also failed to respond to a subsequent show-cause order identifying his noncompliance, despite being warned that further inaction would result in dismissal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff initiated the action on October 7, 2025. The court repeatedly directed him to submit summonses, provide an updated address after mail was returned as undeliverable, and show cause for his failure to comply. Plaintiff did not comply with any of those directives, and the magistrate judge issued this recommendation that the action be dismissed without prejudice. The recommendation was subject to objections and de novo review by the district judge.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *McNair v. Johnson*, 143 F.4th 1301, 1306-07 (11th Cir. 2025)

- Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962)
- Moon v. Newsome, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989)
- Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla., 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989)
- Goforth v. Owens, 766 F.2d 1533, 1535 (11th Cir. 1985)

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