

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

Matthew Channon v. Liberation Distribution, LLC et al.

Channon · No. Civ. No. 24-1124 WJ/SCY · Decided December 16, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico grants Defendants’ motion for a protective order and denies Plaintiff’s motion to compel concerning additional discovery. The Court concludes that Plaintiff’s misrepresentations regarding withdrawal of his motion for leave to serve additional discovery undermined the basis for the prior order granting that motion. The Court warns Plaintiff that further misrepresentations may result in dismissal of the case and permits him to renew his request for additional discovery if appropriate.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Steven C. Y. Rough
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
DECIDED	December 16, 2025
DOCKET	Civ. No. 24-1124 WJ/SCY
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered Defendants' motion for a protective order and Plaintiff's cross-motion to compel responses to a second set of discovery requests.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- sanctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- discovery
- sanctions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Defendants were entitled to a protective order relieving them from responding to Plaintiff's second set of discovery requests because the order authorizing the discovery was based solely on Plaintiff's misrepresentation that he had withdrawn the underlying motion.

2. Whether Plaintiff's misrepresentations to opposing counsel and the court were sanctionable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11.
3. Whether Plaintiff could renew his request for leave to serve additional discovery.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendants were entitled to a protective order, and they were not required to respond to Plaintiff's Second Set of Interrogatories, Requests for Production, and Requests for Admissions.
2. The court held that Plaintiff's deliberate misrepresentations to opposing counsel and the court were sanctionable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11 and warned that another misrepresentation could result in dismissal of the case.
3. Plaintiff may renew his motion for leave to serve additional discovery if he chooses.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Court system relies on candor from the parties, whether represented by counsel or pro se. The truth-seeking function of the Court is thwarted when a party makes deliberate misrepresentations to opposing counsel and to the Court."

"The Court warns Plaintiff that if he commits another misrepresentation to opposing counsel or the Court, his case will be dismissed."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff obtained leave to serve additional interrogatories, requests for production, and requests for admission after Defendants failed to respond to his motion. Plaintiff then emailed defense counsel that a signed notice withdrawing the motion had been mailed to the court, but no withdrawal appeared on the docket. Plaintiff instead filed a notice stating that briefing was complete, and the court granted the discovery motion; Plaintiff subsequently served the additional discovery. Defendants asserted that their failure to oppose the motion resulted from Plaintiff's representation that he had withdrawn it.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff sought leave to serve additional discovery. Defendants did not oppose the motion, and the court granted it under D.N.M.LR-Civ. 7.4(a). Plaintiff later represented that he had withdrawn the motion, but no withdrawal was filed; instead, he filed a notice stating that briefing was complete, leading the court to grant the discovery motion. After Plaintiff served the additional discovery, Defendants moved for a protective order, and Plaintiff moved to compel. The court granted the protective order and denied the motion to compel.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Webb v. Claimetrics Mgmt., LLC, 412 F. App'x 107, 109 (10th Cir. 2011)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO
MATTHEW CHANNON, Plaintiff, vs. Civ. No. 24-1124 WJ/SCY LIBERATION
DISTRIBUTION, LLC et al., Defendants. ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO
COMPEL AND GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER This
matter comes before the Court on two cross-motions: (1) Defendants' Motion for Protective Order,
Doc.

85; and (2) Plaintiff's Motion To Compel, Doc. 89. The Court grants Defendants' motion and
denies Plaintiff's motion. As background, on July 17, 2025, Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to
serve a second set of discovery of up to 25 interrogatories, 25 requests for production, and 25
requests for admission, in addition to the discovery Plaintiff already served.

Doc. 53. Defendants did not file a response to this motion, and on August 18, the Court granted it
under Local Rule 7.4(a), which states that a failure to file and serve a response in opposition to a
motion within the time prescribed for doing so constitutes consent to grant the motion. Doc. 73 at
3-4.

In their motion for a protective order, Defendants explain: Defendants did not file a Response to
Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Serve Additional discovery requests as Plaintiff and Defendants
had been in communication on working out discovery issues.

On June 21, 2025, Plaintiff emailed Defendants' counsel with a draft motion to withdraw request
to serve additional discovery requests (Exhibit 1). Subsequently, Plaintiff informed Defendants'
counsel on July 25, 2025, that he had finalized the Notice of Withdrawal of Plaintiff's Motion for
Leave to Serve Additional Discovery Requests, that a hard copy with signature had been mailed to
the Court (Exhibit 2).

Doc. 85 at 2. Defendants attach an email from Plaintiff, sent on Friday July 25, 2025 at 11:03 PM,
in which Plaintiff wrote: Dear Mr. Shelley, As promised, please find attached the notice of
withdrawal. I was out of town with my son earlier this week, so I appreciate your patience — it
took some juggling to get this finalized and out the door amidst the travel.

A hard copy – with signature – has been dropped in the mail and should be received by the clerk
Tuesday at the latest. Let me know if you have any questions or if anything further is needed from
me at this stage. Excelsior, Matt Channon Pro Se Plaintiff Doc. 85-2 at 1. Defendants also attach a
copy of a pleading, with this case caption, titled "Plaintiff's Notice of Withdrawal of Motion for
Leave to Serve Additional Discovery Requests." Doc.

85-2 at 2. The pleading bears Plaintiff's signature block and includes a certificate of service that
states: "I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 25st day of July, 2025, I caused the foregoing to be
emailed and/or mailed using the US Postal Service, to the District Court Clerk...." Doc. 85-2 at 3.

However, there is no Notice of Withdrawal of the Motion on the docket. Instead, on August 1, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Completion of Briefing in Support of Motion for Leave to Serve Additional Discovery Requests. Doc. 66. This notice did not acknowledge Plaintiff's prior stated intent to withdraw the motion for leave. Quite the opposite: it stated that "As of August 1, 2025, Defendants have filed no response in opposition to the motion, and the 14-day response period under D.N.M.LR-Civ.

7.4(a) has expired. Therefore, briefing on the motion is complete." *Id.* Based on this representation that briefing was complete and the motion was ready for decision, the Court filed its order granting the motion for additional discovery on August 18. Doc. 73. Subsequently, Plaintiff served a second set of discovery on October 7. Doc. 85 at 2. Defendants moved for a protective order for relief from responding to the additional discovery, noting that their failure to respond was due solely to Plaintiff's representation that he had withdrawn the motion for discovery.

Id. In briefing on the present motion for a protective order, Plaintiff does not contend that he did mail the notice of withdrawal on July 25. Rather, Plaintiff attempts to nullify his prior July 25 email representation to opposing counsel that he already mailed a notice of withdrawal.

In his response filed with this Court, Plaintiff states: Defendants attempt to justify their non-opposition to Plaintiff's motion for leave (Doc. 53) by pointing to informal emails about a possible withdrawal. Doc. 88 at 5.

As demonstrated by the email and the attachment to Defendants' motion (Doc. 85-2), this is simply false. Plaintiff did not send an informal email to discuss a "possible" withdrawal. He represented that he had already mailed an official filing to the Clerk of Court. And, he attached what appears to be a pleading, with this case's caption and Plaintiff's signature block and a certificate of service, officially withdrawing the motion.

Doc. 85-2 at 1-2.1 In other words, Plaintiff made a false representation to defense counsel by email on July 25, made a false representation to the Court that the motion for additional discovery was ready 1 In his Reply in support of his motion to compel, Plaintiff acknowledges that he emailed a draft withdrawal to Defendants on July 21 and that, on July 25, he Defendants an email representing that "a signed hard copy has been dropped in the mail and should be received by the clerk Tuesday at the latest...." Doc.

93 at 2 (internal quotation marks omitted). for decision on August 1, and made more false representations to the Court in briefing on the present motions that Plaintiff's prior emails concerned only a "possible" or "draft" withdrawal. Doc. 88 at 5; Doc. 93 at 2 ("Whatever Plaintiff may have intended in July, the Court's August 18 Order is not undone by unfiled drafts.").

Notably, Plaintiff does not dispute that, despite representing that he would withdraw the motion for additional discovery, he never did. Doc. 88 at 5; Doc. 93 at 2. Plaintiff does not address why he

represented in emails to defense counsel that the notice was already in the mail, rather than calling it a draft that had yet to be mailed. And, troublingly, he does not appear to understand the problem with making false representations to opposing counsel.

Doc. 88 at 5; Doc. 93 at 2. The Court system relies on candor from the parties, whether represented by counsel or pro se. The truth-seeking function of the Court is thwarted when a party makes deliberate misrepresentations to opposing counsel and to the Court. Plaintiff's misrepresentations are sanctionable under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The Court warns Plaintiff that if he commits another misrepresentation to opposing counsel or the Court, his case will be dismissed. See *Webb v. Claimetrics Mgmt., LLC*, 412 F. App'x 107, 109 (10th Cir. 2011) (affirming dismissal of a pro se lawsuit as a sanction for making misrepresentations).

The Court grants Defendants' motion for a protective order and denies Plaintiff's motion to compel. Defendants' failure to respond to the motion for additional discovery was the sole ground for the Court granting the motion for leave.

Because Defendants failed to respond due to Plaintiff's misrepresentation that he had already withdrawn the motion for additional discovery, the Court agrees that the basis for the order granting the motion is invalid. Defendants are not required to respond to Plaintiff Matthew Channon's Second Set of Interrogatories, Requests for Production and Requests for Admissions.

The Court acknowledges that Plaintiff represented only that he intended to withdraw the motion for additional discovery "for the purpose of reducing unnecessary motion practice while broader case management issues are addressed" and that Plaintiff "expressly reserve[d] the right to renew the request should circumstances warrant it." Doc. 85-2 at 2.

The Court agrees that Plaintiff may renew his motion for leave to serve additional discovery, if he chooses. THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT Defendants' Motion for Protective Order, Doc. 85, is GRANTED; and Plaintiff's Motion To Compel, Doc. 89, is DENIED. SO ORDERED. ive STEVEN C. ROUGH UNITED STATES MAGIST E JUDGE