

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA, CHARLOTTE DIVISION

Christopher R. Rutledge v. FBI; et al.

Rutledge · No. 3:25-CV-00306-KDB-SCR · Decided April 7, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina denied Christopher R. Rutledge’s motion for reconsideration of the dismissal of his action against the FBI and other defendants. The court noted that the Fourth Circuit had affirmed the dismissal and that Rutledge had not shown grounds for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60; it also barred further filings raising the same issues and arguments.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kenneth D. Bell
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte Division
DECIDED	April 7, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-CV-00306-KDB-SCR
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60 for reconsideration of the Court's prior order dismissing the action. The dismissal had already been appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which affirmed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A Rule 60 motion is governed by the requirements for setting aside a final judgment; reconsideration is an extraordinary remedy.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Christopher R. Rutledge v. FBI; et al.

TOPICS

- motion for reconsideration
- civil procedure
- appellate procedure
- final judgment rule

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff established grounds under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60 warranting reconsideration of the prior dismissal.
2. Whether the court should permit further filings raising the same issues and arguments or similar causes of action arising from the same events.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff was not entitled to reconsideration because he failed to establish any grounds recognized by Rule 60 for setting aside the prior dismissal.
2. Further filings raising the same issues and arguments were not permitted because a litigant may not repeatedly file motions or similar causes of action to circumvent an unfavorable final decision.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“For many reasons, a plaintiff cannot repeatedly file motions or additional causes of action when they don't get the outcome they want.”

“Nor can they file similar causes of action that arise from the same set of events as a means of circumventing an unfavorable final decision on the merits.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's action had been dismissed by the district court, and the Fourth Circuit affirmed that dismissal on appeal. Plaintiff sought reconsideration of the dismissal, but the court found that he had not established grounds under Rule 60. The court also noted that Plaintiff had attempted to pursue repeated or similar claims arising from the same events after receiving an unfavorable final decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The district court previously dismissed Plaintiff's action. Plaintiff appealed, and the Fourth Circuit affirmed the dismissal. Plaintiff then moved for reconsideration under Rule 60; the district court denied the motion and prohibited further filings raising the same issues and arguments.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Das v. Mecklenburg Cnty. Superior Ct. Admin., No. 323CV00514KDBSCR, 2024 WL 790393, at *1 (W.D.N.C. Feb. 26, 2024)

- Blue v. Caldwell Cmty. Coll., No. 5:24-CV-00260-KDB-SCR, 2025 WL 492013, at *1 (W.D.N.C. Feb. 13, 2025)

OPINION

Rutledge

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:25-CV-00306-KDB-SCR

CHRISTOPHER R. RUTLEDGE,

Plaintiff,

v. MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

FBI; ET AL,

Defendants. THIS MATTER is before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration, asking the Court to change its previous Order dismissing this action. (See Doc. Nos. 9, 17). Plaintiff has already appealed that dismissal Order to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which affirmed the dismissal (Doc. No. 15). Further, Plaintiff has not established any grounds under the governing Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60 to justify reconsideration. See *Das v. Mecklenburg Cnty. Superior Ct. Admin.*, No. 323CV00514KDBSCR, 2024 WL 790393, at *1 (W.D.N.C. Feb. 26, 2024) (describing the basis on which a court may grant the "extraordinary remedy" of setting aside a final judgment). For many reasons, a plaintiff cannot repeatedly file motions or additional causes of action when they don't get the outcome they want. Nor can they file similar causes of action that arise from the same set of events as a means of circumventing an unfavorable final decision on the merits. Thus, Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration is DENIED, and further filings raising the same issues and arguments are not permitted. See *Blue v. Caldwell Cmty. Coll.*, No. 5:24-CV- 00260-KDB-SCR, 2025 WL 492013, at *1 (W.D.N.C. Feb. 13, 2025). SO ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED. Signed: April 7, 2026 Kenneth D. Bell United States District Judge \ i