

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Michael Owen Gardner v. CDCR, et al.

Gardner v. CDCR · No. 1:24-cv-00933-JLT-SAB (PC) · Decided August 19, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California addresses the parties’ stipulation to voluntarily dismiss the action with prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii). The court explains that the stipulation automatically terminates the action, directs the Clerk to close the case and terminate pending matters, and orders each party to bear its own costs and fees.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stanley A. Boone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	August 19, 2025
DOCKET	1:24-cv-00933-JLT-SAB (PC)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought a pro se, in forma pauperis action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. After the parties resolved the case, they filed a signed stipulation for voluntary dismissal with prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

civil procedure section 1983

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure civil rights prisoner civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether a signed stipulation of dismissal filed by all parties who appeared automatically terminates the action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii).

2. Whether the court should terminate the action, terminate pending motions and deadlines, and close the case following the parties' stipulation for dismissal with prejudice.

HOLDINGS

1. A voluntary stipulation of dismissal signed by all parties who have appeared and filed under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(ii) automatically terminates the action without operation of a court order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A voluntary stipulation to dismiss an action pursuant to Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(ii) automatically terminates the action without operation of a court order.” (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Michael Owen Gardner filed a pro se and in forma pauperis civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against CDCR and other defendants. The parties resolved the case in its entirety and jointly signed and filed a stipulation for dismissal with prejudice. The stipulation was filed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 18, 2025, the parties filed a stipulation dismissing the action with prejudice. The court held that the stipulation terminated the action by operation of law, directed the Clerk to terminate pending motions and deadlines, and ordered the action closed.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Black Rock City, LLC v. Pershing Cty. Bd. of Comm'rs, 637 F. App'x 488 (9th Cir. 2016)
- Commercial Space Mgmt. Co. v. Boeing Co., 193 F.3d 1074, 1077 (9th Cir. 1999)