

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
ARKANSAS, NORTHERN DIVISION

**Charles Pruitt, Jr. v. Sandra Lake, et al.**

Pruitt · No. 3:24-cv-186-DPM-ERE · Decided February 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas directs pro se plaintiff Charles Pruitt to respond to defendants' motion for summary judgment and file a separate statement of disputed facts. The order explains the evidentiary and formatting requirements for opposing summary judgment and warns that failure to comply may result in deemed admissions and possible dismissal without prejudice.

CASE DETAILS

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT              | United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Northern Division                                                                                                                                          |
| JURISDICTION       | United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Northern Division                                                                                                                                          |
| DECIDED            | February 17, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DOCKET             | 3:24-cv-186-DPM-ERE                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DISPOSITION        | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | Defendants moved for summary judgment and submitted a supporting brief and statement of undisputed facts. The court ordered the pro se plaintiff to respond and file a separate statement of disputed facts by March 6, 2026. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW | At the summary-judgment stage, the nonmoving party may not rely on mere allegations and must produce admissible evidence showing a genuine issue of material fact.                                                            |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | unpublished district-court order; limited precedential value                                                                                                                                                                  |

TOPICS

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## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What materials and procedural filings must a pro se plaintiff submit in response to a motion for summary judgment?
2. What consequences may follow if plaintiff fails to timely and properly respond or controvert defendants' statement of undisputed facts?

## HOLDINGS

1. A nonmoving plaintiff opposing summary judgment may not rely on mere allegations; the plaintiff must support the response with legal arguments and admissible evidence, such as properly executed affidavits, jail records, or other evidence, demonstrating a genuine issue of material fact.
2. Plaintiff must separately file a short and concise statement of material facts, identify whether he agrees or disagrees with each numbered paragraph of defendants' statement, explain any disagreement, and cite the evidence supporting the disputed fact.
3. Failure to timely and properly file a response and statement of disputed facts may result in defendants' factual assertions being deemed admitted and may result in dismissal without prejudice.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“At the summary judgment stage, a plaintiff cannot rest upon mere allegations and, instead, must meet proof with proof.”* (at 1)

*“The Court will not sift through the file to find support for Mr. Pruitt’s factual contentions.”* (at 1)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is brought by pro se prisoner Charles Pruitt against Sandra Lake and other defendants. Defendants moved for summary judgment and filed a statement of undisputed facts. The order concerns the materials and procedural requirements plaintiff must satisfy in responding to that motion, not the merits of the underlying claims.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment in this prisoner civil-rights action. Before ruling on the motion, the court directed plaintiff Charles Pruitt to file a response and a separate statement of disputed facts complying with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 and the Eastern District of Arkansas Local Rules.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Crossley v. Georgia-Pacific Corp., 355 F.3d 1112, 1113-14 (8th Cir.)

## OPINION

Pruitt

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

NORTHERN DIVISION

CHARLES PRUITT, JR. PLAINTIFF

ADC #091574

V. NO. 3:24-cv-186-DPM-ERE SANDRA LAKE, et al. DEFENDANTS

ORDER

Defendants have filed a motion for summary judgment, a brief in support, and a statement of undisputed facts arguing that they are entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Mr. Pruitt's claims against them. Docs. 66, 67, 68. Pro se plaintiff Charles Pruitt has a right to file a response. At the summary judgment stage, a plaintiff cannot rest upon mere allegations and, instead, must meet proof with proof. See FED. R. CIV. P. 56(e). This means that Mr. Pruitt's response should include his legal arguments, as well as affidavits,<sup>1</sup> jail records, or other evidence to show that there is a genuine issue of material fact that must be resolved at a hearing or trial. <sup>1</sup> The affidavit must be either: (1) sworn and subscribed to by a notary public; or (2) executed under penalty of perjury, as provided for by 28 U.S.C. § 1746. Additionally, the affidavit must be based upon the personal knowledge of the person executing the affidavit. The Court may not consider an affidavit unless it meets these requirements. In addition, pursuant to Local Rule 56.1,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Pruitt must separately file a "separate, short and concise statement of the material facts as to which [he] contends there is no genuine dispute to be tried." Mr. Pruitt's statement of disputed facts must state whether he "agrees" or "disagrees" with the factual statements in each of the numbered paragraphs in Defendants' statement of undisputed facts. Doc. 68. If Mr. Pruitt disagrees with any of the facts in Defendants' statement of undisputed facts, he must: (1) identify each numbered paragraph that contains the facts he disputes;

(2) for each paragraph, explain why he disputes those facts; and (3) include a citation to the evidence he is relying on to support their version of the disputed fact. If Mr. Pruitt relies on documents that have been previously filed in the record, he must specifically refer to those documents by docket number and page. The Court will not sift through the file to find support for Mr. Pruitt's factual contentions. See *Crossley v. Georgia-Pacific Corp.*, 355 F.3d 1112, 1113-14 (8th Cir. 2004) (affirming the grant of summary judgment because a plaintiff failed to properly refer to specific pages of the record that supported his position). IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Mr. Pruitt has until and including March 6, 2026, to file: (1) a response to Defendants' motion for summary judgment; and (2) a separate statement of <sup>2</sup> The Local Rules for the Eastern District of Arkansas are available on the internet. See <https://www.ore.uscourts.gov/court-info/local-rules-and-orders/local-rules>. disputed facts. As to

any filing, Mr. Pruitt should attempt to comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56, Local Rule 56.1, and the instructions in this Order.

2. Mr. Pruitt is advised that the failure to timely and properly file a response and a statement of disputed facts may result in: (1) all the facts in Defendants' statement of undisputed facts being deemed admitted, pursuant to Local Rule 56.1(c); and (2) the possible dismissal of this action, without prejudice, pursuant to Local Rule 5.5(c)(2). So Ordered 17 February 2026. M ZYVe\_.

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