

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

Charles Patrick Wilson v. Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, et al.

No. 24-cv-265 JCH/KRS · No. 24-cv-265 JCH/KRS · Decided December 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico dismissed Plaintiff Charles Patrick Wilson’s federal civil-rights claims after he failed to file an amended complaint addressing deficiencies identified in the Court’s screening ruling. The Court dismissed the 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims with prejudice for failure to state a cognizable claim and declined supplemental jurisdiction over any state-law claims, dismissing those claims without prejudice. The order directed that a separate judgment closing the case be entered.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
DECIDED	December 11, 2025
DOCKET	24-cv-265 JCH/KRS
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Prisoner civil-rights action in which the court previously dismissed the original complaint without prejudice, granted multiple extensions to amend, and then dismissed the federal claims with prejudice after Plaintiff failed to amend or otherwise respond.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the screening and failure-to-state-a-claim standards under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e), and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), and reviewed whether it should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; memorandum opinion and order from a federal district court

TOPICS

- section 1983
- motions to dismiss
- prisoners rights
- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should dismiss the federal claims after Plaintiff failed to amend a complaint previously found not to state a cognizable claim under the Constitution or 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
2. Whether the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims after dismissal of all federal claims.

HOLDINGS

1. The federal § 1983 claims in the original complaint must be dismissed with prejudice for failure to state a cognizable claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), where Plaintiff failed to timely amend after being given an opportunity and warned of the consequences.
2. The court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims and dismissed them without prejudice because no federal claims remained.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court declines to exercise supplemental Jurisdiction over any state law claims in the original Complaint (Doc. 1); such state law claims are therefore DISMISSED without prejudice; and the Court will enter a separate judgment closing the civil case.” (at 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, who was incarcerated when he initiated the federal proceeding, filed pro se after his attorney withdrew from a related state case. His federal complaint identified the same defendants as the state complaint but did not itself state claims or grounds for relief, while the attached state complaint alleged that police officers injured him during a November 1, 2021 arrest and that he was later attacked by another detainee in the county detention center booking area. The attached state complaint asserted battery and negligent operation of a building under the New Mexico Tort Claims Act.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a pro se complaint that largely incorporated an earlier New Mexico state-court complaint and did not clearly assert federal claims or grounds for relief. The court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, found that it failed to state a cognizable constitutional or § 1983 claim, dismissed it without prejudice, and invited amendment. After granting two extensions, the court set a final amendment deadline, which Plaintiff missed. The court dismissed the federal claims with prejudice and declined supplemental jurisdiction over any state-law claims, dismissing those claims without prejudice.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- United States v. Smalls, 605 F.3d 765, 768 n.2 (10th Cir. 2010)
- In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litig., 61 F.4th 1126, 1170 (10th Cir. 2023)
- Firstenberg v. City of Santa Fe, N.M., 696 F.3d 1018, 1023 (10th Cir. 2012)
- Trask v. Franco, 446 F.3d 1036, 1046 (10th Cir. 2006)
- Reynoldson v. Shillinger, 907 F.2d 124, 126 (10th Cir. 1990)
- Novotny v. OSL Retail Servs. Corp., 2023 WL 3914017, at *1 (10th Cir. June 9, 2023)
- Bauchman v. W. High Sch., 132 F.3d 542, 549 (10th Cir. 1997)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO
CHARLES PATRICK WILSON, Plaintiff, vs. No. 24-cv-265 JCH/KRS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SAN JUAN COUNTY, et al., Defendants. MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff Charles Patrick Wilson’s failure to file an amended complaint as directed. Plaintiff was incarcerated when he initiated this proceeding and is proceeding pro se.

His original Complaint begins with an “Entry of Explanation” in which he states that his attorney withdrew from a civil case he had filed in state court. (Doc. 1) at 1 (citing state case No. D-1116-CV-2023-1231, filed in the Eleventh Judicial District Court in San Juan County, New Mexico). Plaintiff asks the Court to accept this state court complaint “on the basis for this Prisoners Civil Rights Complaint herein, filed with this court.” Id. The Complaint itself lists the same eight defendants named in the state court complaint, but does not raise any claims or grounds for relief.

See id. at 2-7. Attached to the Complaint is the state court complaint filed in Case No. D-1116-CV-2023- 1231. Id. at 8-18. The state court complaint names eight defendants: Farmington Police Department officers Hansel Felix, Zachary Goar, and Billy Cancino; the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County; Thomas Havel, warden of San Juan County Detention Center (“SJCDC”); Thomas Paul, SJCDC operations lieutenant; Michael York, SJCDC booking sergeant; and A. Klitzke, SJCDC correctional officer.

Id. at 8-9. The state court complaint alleges that on November 1, 2021, Defendants Felix and Goar injured Plaintiff while arresting him. Id. at 14. It further alleges that Plaintiff was then attacked by another detainee following his arrest while he was in the booking area of the SJCDC. Id. at 10-13.

The state court complaint brings two claims against Defendants pursuant to the New Mexico Tort Claims Act: (1) Battery; and (2) Negligent Operation of a Building. Id. at 13-17. The state court docket in Case No. D-1116-CV-2023-1231 reflects that Plaintiff’s attorney withdrew from the case on February 13, 2024, and on March 11, 2024 Plaintiff filed a pro se Motion to Dismiss the state case without prejudice to allow him time to seek new counsel.¹ The state district court granted

Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss on February 27, 2025, and dismissed the state case without prejudice.

See Order Dismissing Case Without Prejudice, filed in Case No. D-1116-CV-2023-1231. By a Memorandum Opinion and Order entered May 14, 2025, the Court determined the original Complaint fails to state a cognizable claim under the U.S. Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (Doc. 9) (Screening Ruling); see also 28 U.S.C. § 1915A (requiring sua sponte screening of prisoner complaints against governmental entities).

The Screening Ruling explains it is not clear whether Plaintiff intended to file the Complaint in this Court, or if he intended to re-open his state case. The Court informed Plaintiff that if he intended to re-open his state case, he may file a complaint in the state court, and the Court provided the state court address. (Doc. 9) at 4.

The 1 To better interpret the citations in the Petition, the Court took judicial notice of Plaintiff's state court docket in Case No. D-1116-CV-2023-1231. See *United States v. Smalls*, 605 F.3d 765, 768 n.2 (10th Cir. 2010) (recognizing a court may take judicial notice of docket information from another court). 2 Screening Ruling further explains that it is not clear this Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims because Plaintiff does not assert any federal claims, and his state court action only raises state-law claims under the New Mexico Tort Claims Act.

See *id.*; see also *In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litig.*, 61 F.4th 1126, 1170 (10th Cir. 2023) (explaining federal courts may sua sponte analyze jurisdiction); *Firstenberg v. City of Santa Fe, N.M.*, 696 F.3d 1018, 1023 (10th Cir. 2012) (“[F]ederal question jurisdiction must appear on the face of the complaint,” and courts must “look to the way the complaint is drawn” to determine whether it asserts a “right to recover under the Constitution and laws of the United States.”) (quotations omitted); *Trask v. Franco*, 446 F.3d 1036, 1046 (10th Cir.

1998) (explaining that a plaintiff bringing an action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 must allege that each government official, through the official's own individual actions, has personally violated the Constitution). Based on these pleading defects, the Court dismissed the claims in the original Complaint without prejudice. (Doc. 9) at 4-5. Consistent with *Reynoldson v. Shillinger*, 907 F.2d 124, 126 (10th Cir.

1990), Plaintiff was sua sponte invited to amend his claims within thirty (30) days of entry of the Screening Ruling. The Screening Ruling set forth the general pleading standards governing 42 U.S.C. § 1983, as well as the pleading standards to bring an Eighth Amendment claim or a claim for excessive force under the Fourth Amendment. (Doc. 9) at 5-6. Plaintiff was warned that any amendment will supersede the original Complaint and must include all federal and state claims he wishes to pursue in this case.

He was further warned that if he fails to timely amend his complaint, the Court may dismiss all federal § 1983 claims with or without prejudice; decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims; and dismiss all state law claims without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction. 3 The deadline to amend was June 13, 2025.

After granting Plaintiffs two motions to extend, the Court set a final deadline of November 4, 2025 for Plaintiff to amend his Complaint. See (Docs. 11 and 13) (granting Plaintiffs Motions to Extend, Docs. 10 and 12). Plaintiff did not amend, show cause for such failure, or otherwise respond to the Screening Ruling.

Accordingly, the Court will dismiss all federal § 1983 claims in the original Complaint (Doc. 1) with prejudice for failure to state a cognizable claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e) and Rule 12(b)(6). See *Novotny v. OSL Retail Servs. Corp.*, 2023 WL 3914017, at *1 (10th Cir. June 9, 2023) (affirming dismissal with prejudice where the district court rejected a “claim [under Rule 12(b)(6)] but gave [plaintiff] leave to amend, cautioning that failure to allege a plausible claim would result in... [such a] dismissal”).

The Court declines to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims in the original Complaint (Doc. 1) and will therefore dismiss those claims without prejudice. See *Bauchman v. W. High Sch.*, 132 F.3d 542, 549 (10th Cir. 1997) (federal courts should generally decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction when no federal claims remain). IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that each federal 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claim in Plaintiff’ □ original Complaint (Doc.

1) is DISMISSED with prejudice for failure to state a cognizable claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and Rule 12(b)(6). IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court declines to exercise supplemental Jurisdiction over any state law claims in the original Complaint (Doc. 1); such state law claims are therefore DISMISSED without prejudice; and the Court will enter a separate judgment closing the civil case.

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