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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THOMAS BENSON, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
OCWEN LOAN SERVICING, LLC, et al.,
Defendants.

No. 2:14-cv-2495-TLN-KJN PS

ORDER

On November 26, 2014, defendants Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC; Western Progressive, LLC; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; and HSBC Bank USA, N.A., acting as Trustee on behalf of ACE Securities Corp Home Equity Loan Trust Series 2006-HE3, (collectively “defendants”) filed a motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) on the grounds that plaintiffs’ complaint fails to state any claim upon which relief may be granted.¹ (ECF No. 12.) Defendants noticed their motion for a hearing to take place before the undersigned on January 15, 2015. (Id.) Pursuant to this court’s Local Rules, plaintiffs were obligated to file and serve a written opposition or statement of non-opposition to the pending motion at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date, or January 1, 2015. See E.D. Cal.

¹ This action proceeds before the undersigned pursuant to E.D. Cal. L.R. 302(c)(21) and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

1 L.R. 230(c).² The court’s docket reveals that plaintiffs, who are both proceeding without counsel,
2 failed to file a written opposition or statement of non-opposition with respect to the motion to
3 dismiss.

4 Eastern District Local Rule 110 provides that “[f]ailure of counsel or of a party to comply
5 with these Rules or with any order of the Court may be grounds for imposition by the Court of
6 any and all sanctions authorized by statute or Rule or within the inherent power of the Court.”

7 Moreover, Eastern District Local Rule 183(a) provides, in part:

8 Any individual representing himself or herself without an attorney
9 is bound by the Federal Rules of Civil or Criminal Procedure, these
10 Rules, and all other applicable law. All obligations placed on
11 “counsel” by these Rules apply to individuals appearing in propria
12 persona. Failure to comply therewith may be ground for dismissal,
13 judgment by default, or any other sanction appropriate under these
14 Rules.

15 See also King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987) (“Pro se litigants must follow the
16 same rules of procedure that govern other litigants”) (overruled on other grounds). Case law is in
17 accord that a district court may impose sanctions, including involuntary dismissal of a plaintiff’s
18 case pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), where that plaintiff fails to prosecute his
19 or her case or fails to comply with the court’s orders, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or the
20 court’s local rules.³ See Chambers v. NASCO, Inc., 501 U.S. 32, 44 (1991) (recognizing that a

21 ² More specifically, Eastern District Local Rule 230(c) provides:

22 **(c) Opposition and Non-Opposition.** Opposition, if any, to the
23 granting of the motion shall be in writing and shall be filed and
24 served not less than fourteen (14) days preceding the noticed (or
25 continued) hearing date. A responding party who has no opposition
26 to the granting of the motion shall serve and file a statement to that
27 effect, specifically designating the motion in question. No party
28 will be entitled to be heard in opposition to a motion at oral
arguments if opposition to the motion has not been timely filed by
that party. . . .

29 ³ The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had held that under certain circumstances a district court
30 does not abuse its discretion by dismissing a plaintiff’s case pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
31 Procedure 41(b) for failing to file an opposition to a motion to dismiss. See, e.g., Trice v. Clark
32 County Sch. Dist., 376 Fed. App’x. 789, 790 (9th Cir. 2010) (unpublished). By analogy, this
33 authority applies to failure to oppose a motion for judgment on the pleadings, which similarly
34 challenges a plaintiff’s complaint after the filing of an answer.

1 court “may act sua sponte to dismiss a suit for failure to prosecute”); Hells Canyon Preservation
2 Council v. U.S. Forest Serv., 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir. 2005) (stating that courts may dismiss
3 an action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) sua sponte for a plaintiff’s failure to
4 prosecute or comply with the rules of civil procedure or the court’s orders); Ghazali v. Moran, 46
5 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam) (“Failure to follow a district court’s local rules is a
6 proper ground for dismissal”); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992)
7 (“Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), the district court may dismiss an action for
8 failure to comply with any order of the court”); Thompson v. Housing Auth. of City of L.A., 782
9 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986) (per curiam) (stating that district courts have inherent power to
10 control their dockets and may impose sanctions including dismissal or default).

11 In light of the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

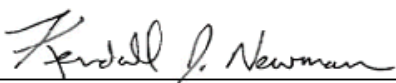
12 1. The hearing on defendants’ motion to dismiss (ECF No. 12), which is presently set
13 for January 15, 2015, is CONTINUED until February 19, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom No.
14 25 before the undersigned.

15 2. Plaintiffs shall file a written opposition to the motion to dismiss, or a statement of
16 non-opposition thereto, on or before February 5, 2015. Plaintiffs’ failure to file a written
17 opposition will be deemed a statement of non-opposition to the pending motion and consent to the
18 granting of the motion, and shall constitute an additional ground for the imposition of appropriate
19 sanctions, including a recommendation that plaintiffs’ entire case be involuntarily dismissed with
20 prejudice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

21 3. Defendants may file a written reply to plaintiffs’ opposition, if any, on or before
22 February 12, 2015.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: January 8, 2015

25 
26 _____
27 KENDALL J. NEWMAN
28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE