

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

AUGUSTA DIVISION

KENDRICK R. MARTIN)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.) CV 117-127
)
 SCOTT WILKES, Head Warden; ANTONIO)
 ROSS, Sergeant over CERT; and SERENA)
 CHANCE, Lieutenant, Individually and in)
 their Official Capacities,)
)
 Defendants.)

MAGISTRATE JUDGE’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

According to Local Rule 4.1, the commencement of a civil action requires compliance with four specific criteria, including presentation of the original complaint and the appropriate filing fee, or the original complaint and a petition to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”). If a party fails to satisfy these criteria, “the Clerk shall mark the complaint as to the date filed and promptly give notice of the omission to the filing party. Failure to comply within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the date that notice is served by the Clerk may result in dismissal by the Court.” Loc. R. 4.1(1). On September 13, 2017, Plaintiff, an inmate incarcerated at Georgia State Prison in Reidsville, Georgia, submitted a complaint to the Clerk of Court of the Northern District of Georgia without submitting the appropriate filing fee or a request to proceed IFP. On September 19, 2017, U.S. Magistrate Walter E. Johnson transferred the case to the Augusta Division as it concerned events occurring at Augusta

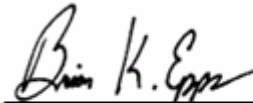
State Medical Prison in Grovetown, Georgia. (Doc. no. 5.) On October 12, 2017, the Clerk sent Plaintiff a deficiency notice concerning the need for an IFP motion or payment of the filing fee. (Doc. no. 11.) Plaintiff was cautioned failure to cure the filing deficiency within twenty-one days could result in dismissal of his case. (Id.) However, Plaintiff has not responded to the Clerk's notice.

A district court has authority to manage its docket to expeditiously resolve cases, and this authority includes the power to dismiss a case for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with a court order. Equity Lifestyle Props., Inc. v. Fla. Mowing & Landscape Serv., Inc., 556 F.3d 1232, 1240 (11th Cir. 2009) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b)); see also Hylar v. Reynolds Metal Co., 434 F.2d 1064, 1065 (5th Cir. 1970)¹ (“It is well settled that a district court has inherent power to dismiss a case for failure to prosecute . . .”). Moreover, the Local Rules of the Southern District of Georgia dictate that an “assigned Judge may, after notice to counsel of record, *sua sponte* . . . dismiss any action for want of prosecution, with or without prejudice . . . [for] failure to prosecute a civil action with reasonable promptness.” Loc. R. 41.1(c). Plaintiff failed to comply with the requirements for commencing a civil action by submitting an appropriate filing fee or motion to proceed IFP with his complaint, and when given the opportunity to submit the appropriate paperwork, he failed to respond. Plaintiff's failure to comply with the filing requirements of the Local Rules and his failure to respond to the Clerk's deficiency notice amounts not only to a failure to prosecute, but also an abandonment of his case. Accordingly, the Court **REPORTS** and **RECOMMENDS**

¹In Bonner v. City of Prichard, 661 F.2d 1206, 1209 (11th Cir. 1981) (*en banc*), the Eleventh Circuit adopted as binding precedent all decisions of the former Fifth Circuit handed down prior to October 1, 1981.

Plaintiff's motion to appoint counsel (doc. no. 4) be **DENIED AS MOOT**, this case be **DISMISSED** without prejudice, and this civil action be **CLOSED**.

SO REPORTED and RECOMMENDED this 13th day of November, 2017, at Augusta, Georgia.



BRIAN K. EPPS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA