

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY  
LOUISVILLE DIVISION

JEFF ED STEITZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 3:16-cv-P715-DJH

JENNIFER BOWERSOCK et al.,

Defendants.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Plaintiff Jeff Ed Steitz initiated this pro se 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action on November 15, 2016. On December 2, 2016, the Court received notice from Little Sandy Correctional Complex that he was no longer incarcerated there (DN 6). Plaintiff, however, has not advised of the Court of his new address. Thus, neither orders from this Court nor filings by Defendants in this action can be served on him.

Upon filing the instant action, Plaintiff assumed the responsibility of keeping this Court advised of his current address and to actively litigate his claims. See LR 5.2(e) (“All pro se litigants must provide written notice of a change of residential address . . . to the Clerk and to the opposing party or the opposing party’s counsel. Failure to notify the Clerk of an address change may result in the dismissal of the litigant’s case or other appropriate sanctions.”).

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure authorizes the involuntary dismissal of an action if a plaintiff fails to prosecute or to comply with an order of the court. See *Jourdan v. Jabe*, 951 F.2d 108, 109 (6th Cir. 1991) (“Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) recognizes the power of the district court to enter a sua sponte order of dismissal.”). Although federal courts afford pro se litigants some leniency on matters that require legal sophistication, such as formal pleading rules, the same policy does not support leniency from court deadlines and other procedures readily

understood by laypersons, particularly where there is a pattern of delay or failure to pursue a case. *Id.* at 110. “As [the Sixth Circuit] has noted, the lenient treatment generally accorded to pro se litigants has limits. Where, for example, a pro se litigant fails to comply with an easily understood court-imposed deadline, there is no basis for treating that party more generously than a represented litigant.” *Pilgrim v. Littlefield*, 92 F.3d 413, 416 (6th Cir. 1996) (citing *Jourdan v. Jabe*, 951 F.2d at 110). “Further, the United States Supreme Court has recognized that courts have an inherent power to manage their own affairs and may dismiss a case sua sponte for lack of prosecution.” *Lyons-Bey v. Pennell*, 93 F. App’x 732, 733 (6th Cir. 2004) (citing *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630-31 (1962)).

Because Plaintiff has failed to comply with this Court’s Local Rules by failing to provide written notice of his current address, the Court concludes that he has abandoned any interest in prosecuting this case and will dismiss the action by separate Order.

Date: May 15, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Hale", is written over a circular official seal of the United States District Court.

**David J. Hale, Judge  
United States District Court**

cc: Plaintiff, pro se  
Defendants  
4415.011