

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
ABERDEEN DIVISION**

**JOHN JR. SANDERSON**

**PETITIONER**

**v.**

**No. 1:20CV81-SA-JMV**

**ALCORN COUNTY CHANCERY COURT, ET AL.**

**RESPONDENTS**

**ORDER DENYING PETITIONER'S MOTION  
TO ALTER OR AMEND JUDGMENT**

This matter comes before the court on the petitioner's motion for reconsideration of the court's May 12, 2020, memorandum opinion and final judgment dismissing the instant case for want of subject matter jurisdiction. The court interprets the motion, using the liberal standard for *pro se* litigants set forth in *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519 (1972), as a motion to amend judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e). An order granting relief under Rule 59(e) is appropriate when: (1) there has been an intervening change in the controlling law, (2) where the movant presents newly discovered evidence that was previously unavailable, or (3) to correct a manifest error of law or fact. *Schiller v. Physicians Res. Grp. Inc.*, 342 F.3d 563, 567 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003). The deadline for seeking relief under Rule 59(e) is 28 days from entry of judgment.

Our sister court in the Southern District of Mississippi has made clear that “[w]hatever may be the purpose of Rule 59(e) it should not be supposed that it is intended to give an unhappy litigant one additional chance to sway the judge.” *Atkins v. Marathon Le Tourneau Co.*, 130 F.R.D. 625, 626 (S.D. Miss. 1990) (citations omitted); *Brown v. Mississippi Co-op Extension Serv.*, 89 F. App'x 437, 439 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) (citing *Atkins* with approval). The *Atkins* court further cautioned that any litigant who brings a motion to reconsider based on the need to correct a clear error of law or manifest injustice should “evaluate whether what may seem to be a clear error of law is in fact simply a point of disagreement between the Court and the litigant.” *Id.*

Rule 59 may not be used merely to re-urge an argument. *See, e.g., Exxon Shipping Co. v. Baker*, 554 U.S. 471, 485 n.5 (2008) (“Rule 59(e) permits a court to alter or amend a judgment, but it ‘may not be used to relitigate old matters, or to raise arguments or present evidence that could have been raised prior to the entry of judgment.’”) (citation omitted).

In the present motion, the petitioner sets forth the facts of his criminal case as he sees them and asks the court to intervene in state court matters. For the reasons set forth in its prior memorandum opinion and final judgment, the court does not have the power to do so. The petitioner has not presented any justification that would warrant altering or amending the judgment in the present case. Instead, he merely disagrees with the court’s findings and re-urges matters previously decided by the court. For these reasons, the petitioner is not entitled to the relief he seeks in the instant motion. He has neither asserted nor proven any of the justifications to amend a judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e). As such, his request to alter or amend judgment is **DENIED**.

**SO ORDERED**, this, the 7th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Sharion Aycock  
U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE