

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
JACKSON DIVISION**

ANDREW GRIFFIN, #67030

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:11-cv-55-WHB-LRA

JUDGE MIKE TAYLOR, et al.

DEFENDANTS

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Plaintiff, an inmate of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, filed a complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and requested *in forma pauperis* status. On March 11, 2011, this Court entered an order [10] directing the Plaintiff to file a written response, on or before April 1, 2011, providing specific information regarding his claims. The Plaintiff failed to comply with this Court's order. The Plaintiff was warned that his failure to timely comply with a court order or failure to keep this Court informed of his current address may result in the dismissal of this case.

On April 18, 2011, an order [11] was entered directing the Plaintiff to show cause, on or before May 3, 2011, why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to comply with the Court's March 11, 2011 order. In addition, Plaintiff was directed to comply with the Court's order by filing a written response, on or before May 3, 2011. The show cause order warned Plaintiff that failure to timely comply with the requirements of the order or failure to keep this Court informed of his current address would lead to the dismissal of his complaint, without further notice. Although Plaintiff filed an unsigned pleading [12] stating only that he is still at Stone County Regional Correctional Facility, he did not comply with the Court's

show cause order.

On May 19, 2011, a final show cause order [13] was entered directing Plaintiff to show cause why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to comply with the Court's orders of March 11, 2011, and April 18, 2011. Plaintiff was directed to comply with the final show cause order, on or before June 3, 2011. The Plaintiff was also warned in this final show cause order that failure to keep this Court informed of his current address or failure to comply with the requirements of the order by June 3, 2011, would result in the dismissal of his case, without further notice. The Plaintiff did not comply with this order.

Plaintiff has failed to comply with three court orders and he has not contacted this Court since April 27, 2011. This Court has the authority to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and under its inherent authority to dismiss the action *sua sponte*. See generally, *Link v. Wabash R.R.*, 370 U.S. 626 (1962); *Larson v. Scott*, 157 F.3d 1030 (5th Cir.1998); *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126 (5th Cir. 1988). The Court must be able to clear its calendars of cases that remain dormant because of the inaction or dilatoriness of the parties seeking relief, so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases. *Link*, 370 U.S. at 630. Such a "sanction is necessary in order to prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases and to avoid congestion in the calendars" of the Court. *Id.* at 629-30.

The Court concludes that dismissal of this action for Plaintiff's failure to prosecute and failure to comply with the orders of the Court under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil

Procedure is proper. *See Rice v. Doe*, 306 Fed. App'x 144 (5th Cir. 2009). Since the Defendants have not been called on to respond to Plaintiff's pleading, and the Court has not considered the merits of Plaintiff's claims, the Court's order of dismissal is without prejudice. *See Munday/Elkins Auto. Partners, LTD. v. Smith*, 201 F. App'x 265, 267 (5th Cir. 2006).

A Final Judgment in accordance with this Memorandum Opinion will be entered.

THIS the 20th day of July, 2011.

s/William H. Barbour, Jr.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE