

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 ERNEST HOUSTON,

4 Case No. 2:19-cv-01706-GMN-EJY

5 Plaintiff,

6 ORDER

7 v.

8 MARTIN et al.,

9 Defendants.

10 This action began with a pro se civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §
11 1983 by a former state prisoner. On September 1, 2020, this Court issued an order
12 denying the application to proceed in forma pauperis for prisoners as moot because
13 Plaintiff was no longer incarcerated. (ECF No. 6 at 1). The Court ordered Plaintiff to file
14 a fully complete application to proceed in forma pauperis for non-prisoners or pay the full
15 filing fee of \$400.00 within 30 days from the date of that order. (Id.) The 30-day period
16 has now expired, and Plaintiff has not filed an application to proceed in forma pauperis
17 for non-prisoners, paid the full filing fee, or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

18 District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the
19 exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . .
20 dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831
21 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure
22 to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules.
23 See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (affirming dismissal for
24 noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir.
25 1992) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of
26 complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal
27 for failure to comply with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of
28 address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (affirming

1 dismissal for failure to comply with court order); Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421,
2 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (affirming dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with
3 local rules).

4 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
5 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
6 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
7 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
8 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
9 See Thompson, 782 F.2d at 831; Henderson, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; Malone, 833 F.2d at
10 130; Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; Ghazali, 46 F.3d at 53.

11 Here, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously
12 resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket, weigh in favor of
13 dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of
14 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay
15 in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See Anderson v. Air
16 West, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—public policy favoring
17 disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of
18 dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
19 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
20 requirement. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262; Malone, 833 F.2d at 132-33; Henderson, 779
21 F.2d at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to file an application to proceed in forma
22 pauperis for non-prisoners or pay the full filing fee within 30 days expressly stated: "It is
23 further ordered that, if Plaintiff fails to timely file an application to proceed in forma
24 pauperis for non-prisoners or pay the full filing fee of \$400, the Court will dismiss this
25 case without prejudice." (ECF No. 6 at 7). Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that
26 dismissal would result from his noncompliance with the Court's order to file an application
27 to proceed in forma pauperis for non-prisoners or pay the full filing fee within 30 days.

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It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on Plaintiff's failure to file an application to proceed in forma pauperis for non-prisoners or pay the full filing fee in compliance with this Court's September 1, 2020, order.

It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court will close the case and enter judgment accordingly.

DATED THIS 14 day of October 2020.

Gloria M. Navarro, Judge
United States District Court