

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

ROBERT W. JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

5:22-cv-426 (BKS/ATB)

v.

STEWART D. AARON, et al.,

Defendants.

Appearance:

Plaintiff pro se:

Robert W. Johnson
Watertown, NY 13601

Hon. Brenda K. Sannes, United States District Judge:

DECISION AND ORDER

On May 3, 2022, Plaintiff pro se Robert W. Johnson filed a form Bivens Action complaint with a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”). (Dkt. Nos. 1, 2). This matter was referred to United States Magistrate Judge Andrew T. Baxter who, on June 21, 2022, granted Plaintiff’s application to proceed IFP, and issued a Report-Recommendation, recommending that Plaintiff’s complaint be dismissed with prejudice because the complaint was, inter alia, frivolous and in light of Plaintiff’s “history of abusive, frivolous filings.” (Dkt. No. 10, at 6–7). Plaintiff was informed that he had fourteen days within which to file written objections to the report under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), and that the failure to object to the report within fourteen days would preclude appellate review. (*Id.* at 6). The Report-Recommendation was sent

to Plaintiff's last known address, but returned to the Court marked "Return to Sender, Moved Left No Address, Unable To Forward." (Dkt. No. 11).¹

Local Rule 10.1(c)(2) states, in relevant part: "All . . . pro se litigants must immediately notify the Court of any change of address. Parties must file the notice of change of address with the Clerk and serve the same on all other parties to the action. The notice must identify each and every action to which the address shall apply." N.D.N.Y. L.R. 10.1(c)(2); *see also* N.D.N.Y. L.R. 41.2(b) ("Failure to notify the Court of a change of address in accordance with L.R. 10.1(c)(2) may result in the dismissal of any pending action."). "For the orderly disposition of cases, it is essential that litigants honor their continuing obligation to keep the Court informed of address changes." *Hill v. Donelli*, No. 05-cv-1245, 2008 WL 4663364, at *1, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 110595, at *3 (Oct. 20, 2008). In *Dansby v. Albany County Correctional Staff*, the court observed:

It is neither feasible nor legally required that the clerks of the district courts undertake independently to maintain current addresses on all parties to pending actions. It is incumbent upon litigants to inform the clerk of address changes, for it is manifest that communications between the clerk and the parties or their counsel will be conducted principally by mail. In addition to keeping the clerk informed of any change of address, parties are obliged to make timely status inquiries. Address changes normally would be reflected by those inquiries if made in writing.

No. 95-cv-1525, 1996 WL 172699, at *1, 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4782, at *2 (N.D.N.Y. Apr. 10, 1996) (Pooler, J.) (citations omitted).

As a matter of course, courts in this district have dismissed actions when litigants have failed to abide by either the Local Rules or orders related to address changes, and have

¹ The Court notes that it is not clear why there did not appear to be any service issue with a Report-Recommendation issued by Magistrate Judge Baxter on the same day as the report in this case and mailed to the same address. *See Johnson v. NICS*, 22-cv-523, Dkt. Nos. 5, 6.

subsequently failed to prosecute their actions. *See, e.g., Benitez v. Taylor*, No. 13-cv-1404, 2014 WL 7151607, at *3, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 173327, at *6 (N.D.N.Y. Aug. 7, 2014) (recommending dismissal of the complaint for failure to prosecute under L.R. 10.1(c)(2) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b), explaining that “[s]ince there is no way to contact or locate Benitez, the imposition of a lesser sanction[] would be futile”), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2014 WL 7151607, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 172553 (N.D.N.Y. Dec. 15, 2014); *Rosa v. Keiser*, No. 10-cv-1313, 2012 WL 2178961, at *1, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 82529, at *3 (N.D.N.Y. May 14, 2012) (recommending dismissal of former inmate’s action for failure to notify the Court of current address), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2012 WL 2178933, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81886 (N.D.N.Y. June 13, 2012).

The Court will, however, provide Plaintiff an additional fourteen days to notify the Court of his current address and file objections, if any, to the Report-Recommendation.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that Plaintiff is granted fourteen (14) days from the date of this Decision and Order to file his current address and objections, if any, to the Report-Recommendation; and it is further

ORDERED that if Plaintiff fails to comply with this Decision and Order, the Court will consider the Report-Recommendation unopposed and review for clear error only. *See Glaspie v. N.Y.C. Dep’t of Corr.*, No. 10-cv-188, 2010 WL 4967844, at *1, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 131629, at *2–3 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 30, 2010) (explaining that when no objections to a report-recommendation are made, “the Court may adopt [it] if ‘there is no clear error on the face of the record.’”) (quoting *Adee Motor Cars, LLC v. Amato*, 388 F. Supp. 2d 250, 253 (S.D.N.Y. 2005)); and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court serve a copy of this Decision and Order on the Plaintiff.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 1, 2022
Syracuse, New York



Brenda K. Sannes
U.S. District Judge