

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH
CENTRAL DIVISION

JESUS APARICIO and ELIZABETH
APARICIO,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA and eTITLE,
Defendants.

MEMORANDUM DECISION AND
ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE
JUDGE'S REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION AND
DISMISSING CASE

Case No. 2:11-CV-646 TS

This matter is before the Court on the Report and Recommendation of Magistrate Judge Samuel Alba.¹ On July 15, 2011, the above-entitled matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Alba pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B). Defendants eTitle and Wells Fargo Bank, NA, subsequently filed motions to dismiss.²

Magistrate Judge Alba scheduled a hearing on Defendants' pending motions at which Plaintiffs failed to appear. The Magistrate Judge then issued an order to show cause, instructing

¹Docket No. 30.

²Docket Nos. 7 & 11.

Plaintiffs to appear at a show cause hearing on October 18, 2011. Plaintiffs once more failed to appear. The show cause order informed the Plaintiffs that “failure to appear at the October 18th show cause hearing will result in the court’s recommendation that this case be dismissed.”³ The Magistrate Judge issued his Report and Recommendation on October 20, 2011, recommending that this matter be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).⁴ Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) states: “If the plaintiff fails to prosecute or to comply with these rules or a court order, a defendant may move to dismiss the action or any claim against it.”

The Tenth Circuit has identified certain factors to consider in determining whether a dismissal under Rule 41(b) is warranted. These factors include: (1) the degree of actual prejudice; (2) the amount of interference with the judicial process; (3) the culpability of the litigant; (4) whether the court warned the party in advance that dismissal of the action would be a likely sanction for noncompliance; and (5) the efficacy of lesser sanctions.⁵

In this case, the Court finds that the degree of prejudice to Plaintiffs is not high given the opportunities provided by the Magistrate Judge for Plaintiffs to pursue their case. Moreover, the Court finds that Defendants would be prejudiced if forced to continue to appear at hearings and defend a case that Plaintiffs decline to prosecute. The Court also finds that dismissal is appropriate given the amount of interference Plaintiffs’ actions have caused in the judicial process. Plaintiffs have failed to appear at multiple hearings and have failed to respond to direct

³Docket No. 28, at 2.

⁴Docket No. 30.

⁵*Ehrenhaus v. Reynolds*, 965 F.2d 916, 921 (10th Cir. 1992).


orders of the Court. Such actions constitute a waste of the Court's time and resources. The Court also finds that Plaintiffs are directly culpable for the sanction as it is their failure to appear and prosecute their claims that brings about this dismissal. Furthermore, the Magistrate Judge warned the Plaintiffs in advance that failure to appear at the show cause hearing could result in dismissal of their case. Finally, the Court finds that a lesser sanction is not appropriate as such is unlikely to motivate Plaintiffs to actively pursue their case.

The Court notes that pursuant to the Report and Recommendation, Plaintiffs were given fourteen days to submit any objections to the Report and Recommendation. The fourteen days have now passed and Plaintiffs have not submitted any objections. It is therefore

ORDERED that the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation is ADOPTED and, for the reasons outline above, Plaintiffs' case is DISMISSED pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). The Clerk of Court is directed to close this case forthwith.

DATED November 9, 2011.

BY THE COURT:



TED STEWART
United States District Judge