

**Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal  
State of Louisiana**

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No. 26-C-243

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ALPINE EXPLORATION COMPANIES, INC.

*versus*

MONCLA PRESSURE PUMPING, L.L.C. AND MONCLA  
PRESSURE PUMPING WELL SERVICES, L.L.C.

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**IN RE** ALPINE EXPLORATION COMPANIES, INC.  
APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE  
DANYELLE M. TAYLOR, DIVISION "O", No. 825-694

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TRUE COPY

June 15, 2026



MORGAN NAQUIN  
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Fredericka Homberg Wicker,  
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Scott U. Schlegel

**WRIT GRANTED; JUDGMENT VACATED IN PART**

In this writ application, plaintiff, Alpine Exploration Companies, Inc. (Alpine), seeks supervisory review of the District Court's June 8, 2026 judgment from the May 27, 2026 hearing. The judgment granted the Fourth Motion to Compel Discovery Responses filed by defendants, Moncla Pressure Pumping, L.L.C. and Moncla Pressure Pumping Well Services, L.L.C. (collectively referred to as "Moncla"), and provides:

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that the Motion to Compel filed by Defendants, Moncla Pressure Pumping, L.L.C. and Moncla Pressure Pumping Well Services, L.L.C., is GRANTED and Plaintiff, Alpine Exploration Companies, Inc., shall provide full and complete responses to Requests for Production of Documents 2, 3, and 4, including production of financial documents for the years 2020 and 2021, of

the July 28, 2025 discovery propounded by defendant within fifteen (15) days of the hearing, or by June 11, 2026.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that failure to provide the responses by June 11, 2026 will result in the dismissal of Plaintiff, Alpine Exploration Companies, Inc.'s, claims in this matter.

Pending this Court's disposition of relator's writ application, on June 9, 2026, we stayed the portion of the June 8, 2026 judgment that stated "failure to provide the responses by June 11, 2026 will result in the dismissal of Plaintiff, Alpine Exploration Companies, Inc.'s, claims in this matter."

Moncla's Fourth Motion to Compel did not seek sanctions or dismissal. It sought reasonable costs and attorney's fees incurred in connection with the motion. The trial court heard no testimony and admitted no evidence at the hearing.

La. C.C.P. art. 1471(A) provides that when a party fails to obey an order to provide or permit discovery, the court "may make such orders in regard to the failure as are just." Dismissal of the action is included as a possible remedy. La. C.C.P. art. 1471(A)(3).

Dismissal is reserved for the most culpable conduct, and for those cases in which the client, as well as the attorney, is at fault. *Burkenstock v. Certain Underwriters At Lloyd's, London*, 26-311 (La. 5/27/26), 2026 WL 1481029 (citing *Horton v. McCary*, 635 So.2d 199, 203 (La. 1994)).

While dismissal might be an appropriate sanction after considering Alpine's responses after the June 11 deadline, at this stage of the litigation, ordering dismissal as a pre-determined sanction without considering evidence is an abuse of discretion. Failure to respond and comply with the court's order and failure to produce records that may not exist are two different issues. It appears from the transcript, however, that the District Court has already made up its mind, without evidence or a response, that the financial records at issue must exist and that Alpine simply refuses to produce them. And if it has not, the District Court also

made the comment suggesting that if the records are not produced for whatever reason, then there is no way that Alpine can carry its burden on damages. A dismissal on this determination would be more appropriate after a hearing on a motion for summary judgment.

Accordingly, we conclude that the trial court abused its discretion when it ordered that the failure to provide responses by June 11, 2026 will result in the automatic dismissal of plaintiff's claims without first considering Alpine's responses and holding a contradictory hearing.

The writ application is granted. We vacate, in part, the June 8, 2026 judgment and specifically vacate the following portion:

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that failure to provide the responses by June 11, 2026 will result in the dismissal of Plaintiff, Alpine Exploration Companies, Inc.'s, claims in this matter.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 15th day of June, 2026.

**SUS**  
**FHW**  
**JJM**

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER  
JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST  
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.  
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL  
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



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CURTIS B. PURSELL  
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN  
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

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**NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **06/15/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

**CURTIS B. PURSELL**  
CLERK OF COURT

**26-C-243**

**E-NOTIFIED**

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)  
Honorable Danyelle M. Taylor (DISTRICT JUDGE)  
Bradley C. Guin (Relator)

Scott J. Chafin, Jr. (Relator)  
Brett W. Tweedel (Respondent)  
Christopher M. Hatcher (Respondent)

**MAILED**

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