

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

In the Matter of:

Michael Puzak,

Petitioner.

18-VH-0223-AG-114

721012118

April 22, 2019

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

24 C.F.R. § 26.4 (c) provides that “If a party refuses or fails to comply with an order of the hearing officer, including an order compelling discovery, the hearing officer may enter any appropriate order necessary to the disposition of the hearing *including a determination against the noncomplying party...*” Further, 24 C.F.R. § 26.4 (d) specifically provides, “If a party fails to prosecute or defend an action brought under subpart A of this part, the hearing officer may dismiss the action or may issue an initial decision against the non-prosecuting or defending party. (Emphasis added).”

To date, Petitioner has failed to offer any evidence that refutes the Secretary’s claim or further supports Petitioner’s position that the alleged debt was paid in full or is unenforceable, despite the Court ordering Petitioner to do so, as required, on multiple occasions. The *Order to Show Cause* issued on November 27, 2018 by the Court specifically stated, “**Failure to comply with this Order shall result in sanctions being imposed by the Court pursuant to 24 C.F.R. § 26.4 (c) and (d), including judgment being entered on behalf of the opposing party.** Pursuant to 24 C.F.R. 26.4 (d), the Court finds that a dismissal of this action is warranted as Petitioner has failed to comply with the Court’s *Orders* in defense of his claim. (Emphasis added).”

Consistent with the provisions of 24 C.F.R. §§ 26.4 (c) and (d), Petitioner’s appeal is **DISMISSED** *sua sponte*. It is hereby

ORDERED that this matter be **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE** and the stay of proceeding issued on August 13, 2018 is VACATED.

SO ORDERED.



Vanessa L. Hall
Administrative Judge