

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Rood v. Secretary of CDCR, et al.

Rood · No. 1:22-cv-00449-SAB (PC) · Decided March 13, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted the defendant’s motion to stay merits-based discovery and vacate the discovery and dispositive-motion deadlines. The court found good cause because the defendant’s pending summary-judgment motion based on failure to exhaust administrative remedies could resolve the action. Discovery concerning exhaustion remained permissible, and the court stated that deadlines could be reset after resolution of the motion.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stanley A. Boone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	March 13, 2025
DOCKET	1:22-cv-00449-SAB (PC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant moved to stay merits-based discovery and vacate the discovery and dispositive-motion deadlines while Defendant's summary-judgment motion based on failure to exhaust administrative remedies was pending.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied its broad discretion to manage discovery and the good-cause standard under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c)(1).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; precedential status is unknown.

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- summary judgment
- prisoners rights
- section 1983
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- prisoner civil rights
- discovery

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether merits-based discovery should be stayed while Defendant's potentially dispositive summary-judgment motion based on failure to exhaust administrative remedies is pending.
2. Whether the discovery and dispositive-motion deadlines should be vacated pending resolution of the exhaustion motion.

HOLDINGS

1. For good cause, the court may stay discovery directed to the merits of a prisoner's claims while a potentially dispositive exhaustion issue is pending; here, all discovery unrelated to exhaustion was properly stayed until final resolution of Defendant's summary-judgment motion.
2. The court vacated the discovery and dispositive-motion deadlines and reserved authority to reset them, if necessary, after resolving the exhaustion-based summary-judgment motion.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[e]xhaustion should be decided, if feasible, before reaching the merits of a prisoner’s claims” (747 F.3d at 1170)

“discovery directed to the merits of the suit” (747 F.3d at 1170)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff is proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in a prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendant filed a motion for summary judgment asserting that Plaintiff failed to exhaust administrative remedies, and the court determined that resolution of that potentially dispositive issue could eliminate the need for merits-based discovery.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff brought this pro se, in forma pauperis civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendant filed a summary-judgment motion asserting failure to exhaust administrative remedies, followed by a motion to stay merits-based discovery and vacate deadlines. The district court granted the stay and vacated the deadlines.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Dichter-Mad Family Partners, LLP v. U.S., 709 F.3d 749, 751 (9th Cir. 2013) (per curiam)
- Hunt v. County of Orange, 672 F.3d 606, 616 (9th Cir. 2012)
- Surfvivor Media, Inc. v. Survivor Prods., 406 F.3d 625, 635 (9th Cir. 2005)
- Hallett v. Morgan, 296 F.3d 732, 751 (9th Cir. 2002)
- Little v. City of Seattle, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir. 1988)

- Albino v. Baca, 747 F.3d 1162, 1166, 1168-71 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc)
- Gibbs v. Carson, No. C-13-0860 THE (PR), 2014 WL 172187, at *2-3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2014)
- Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1115 n.7 (9th Cir. 2003)

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