

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Candler v. Bustos

No. 1:25-cv-00345-CDB (PC) (E.D. Cal. Mar. 25, 2025) · No. 1:25-cv-00345-CDB (PC) · Decided March 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California directs the plaintiff to show cause in writing why his 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action should not be dismissed for failure to exhaust administrative remedies under the Prison Litigation Reform Act. The court gives the plaintiff 30 days to respond or voluntarily dismiss the action and warns that noncompliance may result in a recommendation of dismissal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	March 25, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00345-CDB (PC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The court issued an order to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for failure to exhaust administrative remedies before filing suit.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A court may dismiss a claim for failure to exhaust administrative remedies when the failure is clear from the face of the complaint.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; order to show cause issued by a federal district court

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- section 1983
- affirmative defenses
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- prisoner civil rights
- civil procedure
- administrative exhaustion

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint establishes on its face that Plaintiff failed to exhaust available administrative remedies as required by the Prison Litigation Reform Act.
2. Whether Plaintiff should be required to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

HOLDINGS

1. The Prison Litigation Reform Act requires a prisoner to exhaust available administrative remedies before bringing an action concerning prison conditions, and unexhausted claims cannot be brought in court.
2. When failure to exhaust is clear from the face of the complaint, the court may dismiss the claim; here, Plaintiff's allegations appeared to establish that he had not properly exhausted his administrative remedies before filing suit.
3. California state prisoners generally must receive a disposition from the second level of review before administrative remedies are deemed exhausted, subject to applicable exceptions.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) provides that "[n]o action shall be brought with respect to prison conditions under . . . any other Federal law . . . by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted." (1)

"Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED that, within 30 days of the date of this Order, Plaintiff shall show cause in writing why this action should not be dismissed for his failure to exhaust administrative remedies." (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Steven R.G. Candler is a state prisoner proceeding pro se in a § 1983 civil-rights action concerning prison conditions. Although he alleged that he had filed multiple grievances, he also stated that administrative remedies were available and that he had not submitted requests for administrative relief on his claims or appealed to the highest available level.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Candler filed his complaint on March 24, 2025. In the complaint, he stated that administrative remedies were available but acknowledged that he had not submitted requests for administrative relief on his claims or appealed to the highest available level. The court determined that nonexhaustion appeared clear from the face of the complaint and ordered him to show cause within 30 days or alternatively file a notice of voluntary dismissal.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Jones v. Bock, 549 U.S. 199 (2007)

- Porter v. Nussle, 534 U.S. 516 (2002)
- Booth v. Churner, 532 U.S. 731 (2001)
- Woodford v. Ngo, 548 U.S. 81 (2006)
- Albino v. Baca, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2014)

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/federal/united-states-district-court-for-the-eastern-district-of-cal/2025/candler-v-bustos-0z2h5ojq>