

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Christina Marie Evers v. Yolinda Johnson

Evers · No. 2:25-cv-2093 TLN AC PS · Decided July 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States Magistrate Judge grants the pro se plaintiff’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis. The document recommends denying the motion for a temporary restraining order and dismissing the complaint because the parties are both alleged to be California citizens and the complaint presents no federal question. It further recommends denying leave to amend as futile and advises the plaintiff of the 21-day period for filing objections.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Allison Claire
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	July 30, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-2093 TLN AC PS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Pro se plaintiff filed a complaint, a motion to proceed in forma pauperis, and a motion for a temporary restraining order. The magistrate judge granted in forma pauperis status and issued findings and recommendations recommending denial of the temporary restraining order and dismissal of the complaint for lack of federal jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2), including whether the complaint is frivolous, fails to state a claim, or seeks relief from an immune defendant; the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true, construes them liberally in favor of a pro se plaintiff, and disregards conclusory allegations, unreasonable inferences, and unwarranted factual deductions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential magistrate judge findings and recommendations; not a final district court judgment in the source.

PARTIES

Christina Marie Evers v. Yolinda Johnson

TOPICS

subject matter jurisdiction

injunctions

pleadings

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

federal jurisdiction

injunctive relief

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint established federal-question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
2. Whether the complaint established diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).
3. Whether the motion for a temporary restraining order could be considered in the absence of federal subject matter jurisdiction.
4. Whether leave to amend should be granted.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint did not establish federal-question jurisdiction because it alleged no claim arising under federal law or the United States Constitution and identified no federal statute conferring jurisdiction.
2. The complaint did not establish diversity jurisdiction because both plaintiff and defendant were alleged to be citizens of Sacramento, California.
3. Because the court lacked federal subject matter jurisdiction, the motion for a temporary restraining order should be denied.
4. Leave to amend should be denied because amendment would be futile in light of the jurisdictional defects identified in the complaint.

KEY QUOTATIONS

““Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction.”” (1)

“To state a claim on which relief may be granted, the plaintiff must allege enough facts “to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.”” (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a Sacramento, California resident, sued her neighbor, Yolinda Johnson, alleging only that Johnson gets drunk nightly and makes threats. Plaintiff requested a protective order for herself and her husband's medical service dog, and attached California and federal court cover sheets without identifying a federal question or other basis for federal jurisdiction.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff commenced the action against her neighbor and requested in forma pauperis status and a temporary restraining order. The matter was referred to the magistrate judge for pretrial proceedings under Eastern District of California Local Rule 302(c)(21). The magistrate judge granted the in forma pauperis motion and recommended dismissal without leave to amend; the recommendation was subject to objections and review by the assigned district judge.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 327 (1989)
- Von Saher v. Norton Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena, 592 F.3d 954, 960 (9th Cir. 2010), cert. denied, 564 U.S. 1037 (2011)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)
- Scheuer v. Rhodes, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974)
- Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972)
- Western Mining Council v. Watt, 643 F.2d 618, 624 (9th Cir. 1981)
- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555-57 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Noll v. Carlson, 809 F.2d 1446, 1448 (9th Cir. 1987)
- Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc)
- Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am., 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994)
- Home Depot U. S. A., Inc. v. Jackson, 587 U.S. 435, 438 (2019)
- Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 198 (1962)
- California Architectural Bldg. Prod. v. Franciscan Ceramics, 818 F.2d 1466, 1472 (9th Cir. 1987)
- Turner v. Duncan, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998)
- Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153, 1156-57 (9th Cir. 1991)

OPINION

(PS) Evers v. Johnson

PER CURIAM.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10

11 CHRISTINA MARIE EVERS, No. 2:25-cv-2093 TLN AC PS

12 Plaintiff, 13 v. ORDER and

14 YOLINDA JOHNSON, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15 Defendant. 16

17 Plaintiff is proceeding in this action pro se. This matter was accordingly referred to the 18 undersigned for pretrial procedures by E.D. Cal. 302(c)(21). Plaintiff has filed a request for leave 19 to proceed in forma pauperis (“IFP”), and has submitted the affidavit required by that statute. See 20 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). The motion to proceed IFP (ECF No. 2) will therefore be granted. 21 Plaintiff also filed a motion for a temporary restraining order. ECF No. 3. For the reasons 22 explained below, the court does not have jurisdiction to hear this case. Accordingly, the 23 undersigned recommends that the motion for a temporary restraining order be denied and that this 24 case be dismissed. 25 I. Screening 26 A. Standards 27 The federal IFP statute requires federal courts to dismiss a case if the action is legally 28 “frivolous or malicious,” fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks 1 monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). A 2 claim is legally frivolous when it lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact. *Neitzke v. 3 Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989). In reviewing a complaint under this standard, the court will 4 (1) accept as true all of the factual allegations contained in the complaint, unless they are clearly 5 baseless or fanciful, (2) construe those allegations in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, and 6 (3) resolve all doubts in the plaintiff’s favor. See *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 327; *Von Saher v. Norton 7 Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena*, 592 F.3d 954, 960 (9th Cir. 2010), cert. denied, 564 U.S. 8 1037 (2011). 9 The court applies the same rules of construction in determining whether the complaint 10 states a claim on which relief can be granted. *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (court 11 must accept the allegations as true); *Scheuer v. Rhodes*, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974) (court must 12 construe the complaint in the light most favorable to the plaintiff). Pro se pleadings are held to a 13 less stringent standard than those drafted by lawyers. *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 14 (1972). However, the court need not accept as true conclusory allegations, unreasonable 15 inferences, or unwarranted deductions of fact. *Western Mining Council v. Watt*, 643 F.2d 618, 16 624 (9th Cir. 1981). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action does not suffice 17 to state a claim. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555-57 (2007); *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 18 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). 19 To state a claim on which relief may be granted, the plaintiff must allege enough facts “to 20 state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570. “A claim has 21 facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the 22 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 23 678. A pro se litigant is entitled to notice of the deficiencies in the complaint and an opportunity 24 to amend, unless the complaint’s deficiencies could not be cured by amendment. See *Noll v. 25 Carlson*, 809 F.2d 1446, 1448 (9th Cir. 1987), superseded on other grounds by statute as stated in 26 *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122 (9th Cir.2000)) (en banc). 27 B. The Complaint 28 Plaintiff, a citizen of Sacramento, California, brings suit against her neighbor, Yolinda 1 Johnson. ECF No. 1. The entirety of plaintiff’s claim reads as follows: “Mrs. Yolinda Johnson 2 gets drunk every night

and makes threats since we have moved in on May 31, 2025.” Id. at 5. 3 Plaintiff asks for a protective order for herself and for her husband’s medical service dog. Id. at 4 6. Plaintiff attached a cover sheet for the Superior Court of California. ECF No. 1-1 at 2. 5 Plaintiff also attached a federal court cover sheet, but she did not check any boxes indicating the 6 nature of the suit or the basis for federal jurisdiction. ECF No. 1-1 at 1. 7 C. Analysis 8 “Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction.” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of 9 Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377, (1994). In 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1332(a), “Congress granted federal 10 courts jurisdiction over two general types of cases: cases that “aris[e] under” federal law, § 1331, 11 and cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$ 75,000 and there is diversity of 12 citizenship among the parties, § 1332(a). These jurisdictional grants are known as “federal- 13 question jurisdiction” and “diversity jurisdiction,” respectively. *Home Depot U. S. A., Inc. v. 14 Jackson*, 587 U.S. 435, 438, (2019). 15 It is clear from the contents of plaintiff’s complaint that there is no federal jurisdiction. 16 The complaint fails to satisfy 28 U.S.C. § 1331, because it does not contain a claim arising under 17 a federal law or the United States Constitution, and is not authorized by a federal statute that both 18 regulates a specific subject matter and confers federal jurisdiction. See *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 19 186, 198 (1962). The complaint fails to satisfy § 1332 because both plaintiff and defendant are 20 citizens of Sacramento, California, and accordingly there is no diversity between the parties. 21 Without federal jurisdiction, this case cannot proceed in this court and must be dismissed. 22 Further, because there is no federal court jurisdiction, plaintiff’s motion for a temporary 23 restraining order must be denied. 24 II. Leave to Amend is Not Appropriate 25 Leave to amend is not appropriate in this case. Ordinarily, pro se litigants are granted 26 liberal leave to amend. “Valid reasons for denying leave to amend include undue delay, bad faith, 27 prejudice, and futility.” *California Architectural Bldg. Prod. v. Franciscan Ceramics*, 818 F.2d 28 1466, 1472 (9th Cir. 1988). Here, given the defects described above, the undersigned finds that 1 | leave to amend would be futile and should therefore not be granted. 2 III. Pro Se Plaintiff’s Summary 3 The Magistrate Judge is recommending that your case be dismissed because there is no 4 || federal court jurisdiction. The court is also recommending that your motion for a temporary 5 || restraining order be denied. You may object to this recommendation within 21 days, if you wish 6 || todo so. 7 IV. Conclusion 8 Plaintiff’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis (ECF No. 2) is GRANTED. Additionally, 9 || the undersigned RECOMMENDS that plaintiff’s motion for a temporary restraining order (ECF 10 || No. 3) be DENIED and the complaint (ECF No. 1) be DISMISSED for lack of federal 11 | jurisdiction. 12 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge 13 || assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within twenty one days 14 | after being served with these findings and recommendations, plaintiff may file written objections 15 || with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Id.; see also Local Rule 304(b). Such a document 16 | should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Failure 17 || to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court’s 18 | order. *Turner v. Duncan*, 158

F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998); Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153, 19 | 1156-57 (9th Cir. 1991). 20 |
DATED: July 29, 2025 ' ~ Cttd0 Lhar—e_ 21 ALLISONCLAIRE.
2 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
23 24 25 26 27 28

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