

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Bruce Dwain Copeland v. Daniel Torrez et al.

Copeland v. Torrez · No. 2:25-cv-08068-SPG · Decided November 14, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California ordered Plaintiff Bruce Copeland to show cause in writing why his case should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution. The order notes that Plaintiff had not filed anything in the case, including a proof of service, since filing the complaint, and sets November 21, 2025, as the response deadline.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Central District of California                                                                                                                                    |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Sherilyn Peace Garnett                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Central District of California                                                                                                                                    |
| DECIDED               | November 14, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DOCKET                | 2:25-cv-08068-SPG                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | The district court issued an order to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution after the plaintiff failed to file anything in the case, including a proof of service. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished_or_nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                         |

TOPICS

- service of process
- sanctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should require plaintiff to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution based on plaintiff's failure to prosecute the action and file proof of service.

HOLDINGS

1. A federal district court has inherent authority to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution on its own motion, including dismissal with prejudice when warranted.

#### KEY QUOTATIONS

*“The authority of a federal trial court to dismiss a plaintiff’s action with prejudice because of his failure to prosecute cannot seriously be doubted.” (at 629)*

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bruce Copeland filed the action on August 25, 2025, against Daniel Torrez and the United States District Court for the Central District of California. After filing the complaint, plaintiff filed nothing further, including the proof of service required by Central District of California Local Rule 4-6.

#### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the civil-rights action on August 25, 2025, against Daniel Torrez and the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The court observed that plaintiff had not filed a proof of service or any other document after filing the action and ordered plaintiff to show cause in writing by November 21, 2025, why the case should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution.

#### DISPOSITION

other

#### CASES CITED

- Link v. Wabash R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629 (1962)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN AI ASSISTANT

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