

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Miles v. Fresno County Medical WellPath

Miles · No. 1:22-cv-01105-KES-SKO (PC) · Decided May 14, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California adopted findings and recommendations concerning screening of Samuel Jay Miles’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. The court allowed Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims to proceed against twelve defendants and dismissed Mary Akioyame, Maisa Lao, Johana Luna, and Wellpath for failure to allege sufficient facts establishing constitutional violations or a policy, custom, or decision attributable to Wellpath.

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	May 14, 2025
DOCKET	1:22-cv-01105-KES-SKO (PC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	After screening a second amended complaint in a prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the district court conducted de novo review of a magistrate judge's findings and recommendations and adopted them in full.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) of the portions of the magistrate judge's findings and recommendations to which objections were made.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; nonprecedential
PARTIES	Samuel Jay Miles v. Fresno County Medical WellPath

TOPICS

- section 1983
- prisoners rights
- cruel and unusual punishment
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil rights
- prisoner civil rights
- constitutional law
- civil procedure
- health law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation to dismiss Mary Akioyame, Johana Luna, Maisa Lao, and Fresno County Wellpath should be adopted after de novo review.
2. Whether Miles adequately pleaded a § 1983 Monell claim against Wellpath by alleging that a policy, custom, or decision of the private entity caused a constitutional violation.

HOLDINGS

1. Dismissal was proper because Miles failed to allege facts showing that these defendants personally participated in or caused a constitutional violation; in particular, he alleged no actionable conduct by Luna or Lao and did not allege that Akioyame failed to provide needed medical care.
2. Wellpath was properly dismissed because Miles failed to allege that an official policy, custom, or decision of the private entity caused the alleged constitutional violation.
3. The findings and recommendations were adopted in full; the action proceeds on Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims against Alvarez, Arce, Buchanan, Cagara, Duran, Gill, Guerrero, Nunez, Ramirez, Soua, Thao, and Zaragoza, while Akioyame, Lao, Luna, and Wellpath are dismissed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A plaintiff may assert Monell claims against a private entity contracting with a municipality provided that: (1) the private entity acted under color of state law; (2) a constitutional violation occurred; and (3) the violation was caused by an official policy or custom.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Samuel Jay Miles is incarcerated in the Fresno County Jail and alleged that defendants were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs in violation of the Eighth Amendment. He did not provide factual allegations connecting Johana Luna or Maisa Lao to a constitutional violation, and his allegations concerning Mary Akioyame did not assert that she failed to provide needed medical care. He also failed to allege that Wellpath's conduct resulted from an official policy, custom, or decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Miles, proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis, filed a § 1983 action concerning medical care while incarcerated in the Fresno County Jail. After the court permitted amendment and directed allegations linking each defendant to a constitutional violation, Miles filed a second amended complaint. The magistrate judge recommended allowing claims against certain individual defendants to proceed and dismissing Mary Akioyame, Johana Luna, Maisa Lao, and Fresno County Wellpath; after Miles objected, the district court conducted de novo review, adopted the findings and recommendations, dismissed those defendants, and referred the action for further proceedings against the remaining defendants.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The action is referred back to the assigned magistrate judge for further proceedings on the claims against the remaining defendants.

CASES CITED

- Tsao v. Desert Palace, Inc., 698 F.3d 1128, 1139 (9th Cir. 2012)

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