

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Dawson v. Napa County

Dawson · No. 25-cv-01923-JSC · Decided May 4, 2025

OPINION

Dawson v. Napa County

PER CURIAM.

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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

6 7 AMANDA JEANE DAWSON, Case No. 25-cv-01923-JSC 8 Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S

9 v. MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY

RESTRAINING ORDER

10 NAPA COUNTY, et al., Re: Dkt. No. 15 Defendants. 11 12 13 On February 24, 2025, Amanda
Dawson—proceeding without attorney representation— 14 sued Napa County, Napa County
Superior Court, Napa Police Department, Napa County Child 15 Welfare Services, and Napa
County Public Defender's Office. (Dkt. No. 1.) On May 2, 2025, 16 Ms. Dawson filed the pending
motion for a temporary restraining order. (Dkt. No. 15.) She seeks 17 “to immediately stay all
state criminal proceedings, restraining orders, and juvenile dependency 18 actions related to
Plaintiff while this federal civil rights case is pending.” (Id. at 1.) 19 Having carefully considered
Ms. Dawson's submissions, the Court determines oral 20 argument is not required, see N.D. Cal.
Civ. L.R. 7-1(b), and DENIES Ms. Dawson's motion for a 21 temporary restraining order.
“[F]ederal courts sitting in equity cannot, absent exceptional 22 circumstances, enjoin pending
state criminal proceedings.” ReadyLink Healthcare, Inc. v. State 23 Comp. Ins. Fund, 754 F.3d
754, 758 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing Younger v. Harris, 401 U.S. 37, 43-54 24 (1971)). This principle
has been extended “to civil enforcement actions akin to criminal 25 proceedings, and to suits
challenging the core of the administration of a State's judicial system.” 26 Id. (cleaned up); see
Moore v. Sims, 442 U.S. 415, 423 (1979) (concluding Younger abstention 27 appropriate in
proceeding to gain custody of children allegedly abused by their parents). Ms. 1 state actions, nor
does the Court—having reviewed Ms. Dawson's submissions—find exceptional 2 ||
circumstances. 3 This Order disposes of Docket No. 15. 4 IT IS SO ORDERED. 5 Dated: May 4,
2025 6 7 ne

JAQUELINE SCOTT CORL

8 United States District Judge 9 10 11 12 © 15 16 = 17 Z 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

