

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Blanton v. Fajardo

Blanton v. Fajardo · No. 1:25-cv-01083-EPG (PC) · Decided October 16, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California screened Kenneth Wayne Blanton’s amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint concerning a dentist’s alleged breaking of his tooth during a dental appointment. The court allowed the Fourteenth Amendment medical-care claim against Henry D. Fajardo to proceed and directed the Clerk to terminate former defendants Tyson Pogue and B. Mendoza from the docket.

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	October 16, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-01083-EPG (PC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Screening of an amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint by a pro se, in forma pauperis pretrial detainee under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915 and 1915A.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court screened the prisoner complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and the in forma pauperis screening standard under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), accepting well-pleaded factual allegations as true and liberally construing the pro se pleading while disregarding conclusory allegations and unwarranted inferences.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court screening order with no reporter citation
PARTIES	Kenneth Wayne Blanton v. Henry D. Fajardo

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- health law
- fourteenth amendment
- section 1983
- pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil rights
- constitutional law
- prisoner litigation
- health law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the amended complaint plausibly stated a Fourteenth Amendment claim for inadequate medical care by a pretrial detainee against an individual defendant.
2. Whether the amended complaint should proceed past statutory screening under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915 and 1915A.

HOLDINGS

1. Liberally construed for screening purposes, the amended complaint stated a claim that Defendant Fajardo violated Plaintiff's Fourteenth Amendment right to adequate medical care by breaking Plaintiff's tooth during a dental appointment.
2. The amended complaint's sole claim against Fajardo should proceed past screening, and the court would authorize service of process in due course.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A complaint is required to contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.”” (at 2-3)

“Thus, the plaintiff must “prove more than negligence but less than subjective intent—something akin to reckless disregard.”” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff was incarcerated at the Madera County Jail and alleged that, during a July 18, 2025 dental appointment for a temporary filling, Defendant Fajardo applied excessive pressure and torque with a dental instrument, breaking an adjacent molar. Plaintiff alleged that he experienced immense and continuing pain and other harm, including exposed nerves, infection, sensitivity, and loss of sleep. He further alleged that a prior X-ray showed the tooth was intact and that an incident report documented the damage.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a civil rights action and later filed an amended complaint naming only dentist Henry D. Fajardo. The court screened the amended complaint, terminated former defendants Tyson Pogue and B. Mendoza from the docket, and allowed the Fourteenth Amendment medical-care claim against Fajardo to proceed past screening. The court stated that it would later issue an order authorizing service of process.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Gordon v. County of Orange, 888 F.3d 1118, 1125 n.4 (9th Cir. 2018)
- Castro, 833 F.3d at 1070-71
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-79 (2009)

- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 570 (2007)
- Doe I v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 572 F.3d 677, 681 (9th Cir. 2009)
- Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010)
- Kingsley, 135 S. Ct. at 2473
- Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989)
- Daniels, 474 U.S. at 330-31

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