

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

McDonald v. Jones

McDonald · No. 2:24-cv-1027 TLN CSK P · Decided August 14, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California orders plaintiff Jeffrey D. McDonald to re-file a signed motion for a temporary restraining order within thirty days. The court explains that the unsigned motion cannot be considered under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(a), and notes that the motion is procedurally insufficient because it does not address the required elements for injunctive relief or establish a nexus to the claims in the action.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chi Soo Kim
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	August 14, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-1027 TLN CSK P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding pro se under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, filed a renewed motion for a temporary restraining order and an extension of time. The court addressed the unsigned filing and the asserted grounds for injunctive relief.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A temporary restraining order is an extraordinary remedy for which the movant bears the burden of clearly establishing likelihood of success on the merits, likelihood of irreparable harm absent relief, that the balance of equities favors relief, and that an injunction is in the public interest. The requested relief must also have a nexus to the claims pleaded in the action.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Jeffrey D. McDonald v. Gena Jones, et al.

TOPICS

injunctions

civil rights

section 1983

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

injunctive relief

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court could consider plaintiff's motion when it was not signed.
2. Whether plaintiff's renewed motion for a temporary restraining order was procedurally sufficient under the governing injunction standard.
3. Whether plaintiff's request for an extension of time was sufficiently clear and supported by an imminent deadline in this action.

HOLDINGS

1. A pro se party must sign motions and other papers submitted for filing under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(a); because plaintiff's motion was unsigned, the court would not consider it unless plaintiff signed and re-filed it.
2. The renewed motion was procedurally insufficient because it did not address each element required for temporary injunctive relief and did not demonstrate the required nexus between the requested relief and the claims pleaded in the action.
3. The request for an extension of time was unclear and unsupported because discovery had closed and there was no imminent deadline requiring plaintiff to file anything in this case.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff alleged that he was violently attacked by correctional staff on August 2, 2025, causing neurological and short-term memory problems. He sought a renewed temporary restraining order and an extension of time, asserting that he was awaiting discovery responses. The court noted that discovery had closed on May 30, 2025, and that no imminent deadline in this case required plaintiff to file anything.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a renewed motion for a temporary restraining order on August 11, 2025, together with a request for an extension of time. The motion was unsigned and did not address all required elements for injunctive relief. The court ordered plaintiff to re-file a signed motion within thirty days and warned that failure to do so would result in the motion being stricken.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008)
- Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell, 632 F.3d 1127, 1135 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Pac. Radiation Oncology, LLC v. Queen's Med. Ctr., 810 F.3d 631, 633 (9th Cir. 2015)

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