

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Scott v. County of Kern

Scott v. County of Kern · No. 1:24-cv-00423-CDB · Decided June 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants the parties’ stipulated request to consolidate three related actions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a). The court designates Scott v. County of Kern, Case No. 1:24-cv-00423-CDB, as the lead case and orders that future filings be made in that action. The order also notes the parties’ consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction and states that a separate order will address case-management dates.

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	June 4, 2025
DOCKET	1:24-cv-00423-CDB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties in three related civil actions filed a stipulated request to consolidate the actions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a) and consented to magistrate judge jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercises broad discretion in determining whether and to what extent consolidation is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure federal civil litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the three related actions should be consolidated for all purposes under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a).
2. Whether the parties' consent permitted a United States Magistrate Judge to conduct all further proceedings, including trial and entry of final judgment, under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1).

HOLDINGS

1. The actions should be consolidated for all purposes because they involve significant and substantial common questions of fact and law, and consolidation will reduce burdens, avoid inconsistent adjudications, and eliminate duplicative evidence and procedures.
2. The parties' consent under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1) permitted reassignment of the related actions to the undersigned magistrate judge for further proceedings, including trial and entry of final judgment.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“When multiple actions pending before a court involve common questions of law or fact, the court may order a joint hearing or trial of any or all matters at issue in the actions; consolidate the actions; and/or issue any other orders to avoid unnecessary cost or delay.” (at 1)

“The court has “broad discretion” to determine whether and to what extent consolidation is appropriate.” (at 1)

“In deciding whether to consolidate actions, the court “weighs the saving of time and effort consolidation would produce against any inconvenience, delay, or expense that it would cause.”” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The three actions arose from events involving the death of Stephen Ingle while in the custody of Kern County. The parties represented that the actions shared substantial common questions of fact and law and that consolidation would reduce burdens on the court and parties, avoid inconsistent adjudications, and eliminate duplicative evidence and procedures.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The three actions arose from the same incident involving the death of Stephen Ingle while in Kern County custody. The parties stipulated that the actions presented common questions of fact and law and requested consolidation. The court granted the request, consolidated the cases for all purposes, designated Scott v. County of Kern as the lead case, and ordered that future filings be made in the lead case.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Garity v. APWU Nat'l Labor Org., 828 F.3d 848, 855-56 (9th Cir. 2016)

- Inv'rs Research Co. v. U.S. Dist. Ct. for the Cent. Dist. of Cal., 877 F.2d 777, 777 (9th Cir. 1989)
- Blount v. Boston Scientific Corp., No. 1:19-cv-00578-AWI-SAB, 2019 WL 3943872, at *2 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2019)
- In re Oreck Corp. Halo Vacuum & Air Purifiers Mktg. & Sales Practices Litig., 282 F.R.D. 486, 491 (C.D. Cal. 2012)
- Huene v. United States, 743 F.2d 703, 704 (9th Cir. 1984)
- Single Chip Sys. Corp. v. Intermec IP Corp., 495 F. Supp. 2d 1052, 1057 (S.D. Cal. 2007)

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