

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Kristopher David Hunt v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security Administration

Hunt · No. 3:25-cv-00689-CSD · Decided January 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada grants Kristopher David Hunt’s application to proceed in forma pauperis. The court allows his complaint seeking judicial review of the Commissioner of Social Security’s final decision to proceed and directs service under the Supplemental Rules for Social Security Actions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Craig S. Denney
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
DECIDED	January 13, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-00689-CSD
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered Plaintiff’s application to proceed in forma pauperis and screened his complaint seeking judicial review of a final Social Security Administration decision.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), the court applies the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) standard. The court accepts factual allegations as true, construes the pleadings in the plaintiff’s favor, applies relaxed standards to pro se pleadings, and requires enough factual matter to state a plausible claim.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Kristopher David Hunt v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security Administration

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

exhaustion of remedies

motions to dismiss

administrative law

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

civil procedure

in forma pauperis proceedings

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff qualified to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1).
2. Whether the complaint should be dismissed during screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2).
3. Whether the complaint adequately invoked federal judicial review of a final Social Security Administration decision and appeared to satisfy administrative-exhaustion requirements.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff qualified to proceed in forma pauperis because the application showed that he could not pay the filing fee.
2. The complaint should not be dismissed at the screening stage because it sought review of a final Social Security Administration decision and appeared to satisfy administrative-exhaustion requirements.
3. The complaint could proceed, and the Clerk was directed to file it and initiate service on the Commissioner.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The standard for determining whether a plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted under § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) is the same as the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) standard.” (at 2)

“A dismissal should not be without leave to amend unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the action is frivolous and could not be amended to state a federal claim, or the district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the action.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff sought review of a final decision by the Commissioner of Social Security. He applied to proceed in forma pauperis and submitted a complaint naming the Commissioner as defendant. The court found that Plaintiff could not pay the filing fee and that the complaint appeared to show exhaustion of administrative remedies.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed an application to proceed in forma pauperis and a complaint against the Commissioner of Social Security. The court granted in forma pauperis status, determined that the complaint could proceed after screening, directed the Clerk to file the complaint, and ordered service under the Supplemental Rules for Social Security Actions.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1129 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc)
- United States v. McQuade, 647 F.2d 938, 940 (9th Cir. 1981)
- Jefferson v. United States, 277 F.2d 723, 725 (9th Cir. 1960)
- Adkins v. E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., 335 U.S. 331, 339 (1948)
- Watison v. Carter, 668 F.3d 1108, 1112 (9th Cir. 2012)
- Chappel v. Laboratory Corp. of America, 232 F.3d 719, 723 (9th Cir. 2000)
- Jenkins v. McKeithen, 395 U.S. 411, 421 (1969)
- Hughes v. Rowe, 449 U.S. 5, 9 (1980)
- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Cato v. United States, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995)
- O'Loughlin v. Doe, 920 F.2d 614, 616 (9th Cir. 1990)

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