

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Ronald Nathaniel Hurtado v. Officer N. Reveles, et al.

Hurtado · No. 25-cv-06437-RMI · Decided October 28, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of California screened a pro se prisoner’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint. The court found cognizable Eighth Amendment excessive-force claims against Correctional Officers N. Reveles and N. Perez, ordered electronic service, and established procedures for dispositive motions, exhaustion notices, and further case administration.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert M. Illman
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
DECIDED	October 28, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-06437-RMI
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A state prisoner proceeding pro se filed a civil-rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The court conducted preliminary screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and entered an order of service after finding a cognizable Eighth Amendment excessive-force claim.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the court must screen a prisoner complaint seeking redress from a governmental entity or officer and dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or seek monetary relief from an immune defendant. Pro se pleadings are liberally construed, and a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter to state a plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district-court order; nonprecedential

TOPICS

- section 1983
- prisoners rights
- police misconduct
- cruel and unusual punishment
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the prisoner's complaint stated a cognizable claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
2. Whether the allegations that correctional officers grabbed, slammed, and restrained the prisoner stated an Eighth Amendment excessive-force claim.
3. What screening, service, and case-management procedures should apply after the court found a cognizable claim.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint plausibly alleged a violation of a constitutional right by persons acting under color of state law and therefore stated a cognizable § 1983 claim.
2. Liberally construed, the allegations against Officers Reveles and Perez stated a cognizable claim for excessive force in violation of the Eighth Amendment.
3. The court ordered electronic service of the complaint and related documents on Correctional Officers N. Reveles and N. Perez through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's e-service program.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases where prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity, or from an officer or employee of a governmental entity.” (at 1)

“A complaint must proffer “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.”” (at 1)

“To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged deprivation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On July 2, 2024, Ronald Nathaniel Hurtado was walking toward his housing unit at Salinas Valley State Prison when an alarm sounded. After he was handcuffed and escorted by Officers Reveles and Perez, the officers allegedly grabbed him, slammed him to the ground, placed their knees on his back, neck, head, and shoulders, and ignored his statements that he was in pain and could not feel his neck. Hurtado also alleged that Reveles slammed him backward while he was entering a program office.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a prisoner civil-rights complaint against correctional officers N. Reveles and N. Perez. The court granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis by separate order, found the excessive-force allegations cognizable, ordered electronic service on the defendants, and set procedures and deadlines for service, discovery, and dispositive motions.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Department*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990)
- *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 93 (2007)
- *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 570 (2007)
- *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 679 (2009)
- *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988)
- *Hudson v. McMillian*, 503 U.S. 1, 6-7 (1992)
- *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 953-954, 960 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc)
- *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120 n.4 (9th Cir. 2003)
- *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 940-941 (9th Cir. 2012)
- *Klingele v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409, 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988)

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