

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Scott v. Kern County Hospital Authority

Scott · No. 1:25-cv-00378-KES-CDB · Decided May 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California ordered Kern County Hospital Authority to pay monetary sanctions for failing to file a consent or declination form concerning magistrate judge jurisdiction. The sanction is \$100 per day beginning May 30, 2025, continuing until the required form is filed, with the daily deadline at 5:00 p.m.

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	May 30, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00378-KES-CDB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court issued an order to show cause after Defendant failed to comply with an order requiring the parties to file consent or decline forms concerning magistrate judge jurisdiction. Defendant neither filed the form nor responded to the order to show cause.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

sanctions civil procedure contempt

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure federal courts judicial sanctions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court may impose daily monetary sanctions to compel a party's compliance with an order requiring the filing of a consent or decline form concerning magistrate judge jurisdiction.
- Whether Kern County Hospital Authority's failure to comply with the court's orders warranted sanctions.

HOLDINGS

1. A party's failure to obey an order requiring the filing of a consent or decline form, coupled with failure to respond to an order to show cause, warranted monetary sanctions.
2. The court may impose a daily monetary sanction that continues until the noncompliant party files the required form.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Therefore, to gain KCHA’s compliance, a \$100 sanction shall be imposed on KCHA commencing on the date of this order and shall continue to be imposed each day thereafter until KCHA files the consent/decline form.”
(at 2)

“Defendant Kern County Hospital Authority shall pay the Clerk of the Court \$100 per day, beginning on the date of this order, until Defendant files the consent/decline of magistrate judge jurisdiction form.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties sought to consolidate this action with two related cases and represented a mutual intent to consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction. The court ordered the parties to complete and file the required consent or decline forms. Kern County Hospital Authority failed to comply for approximately two weeks, did not respond to the subsequent order to show cause, and thereby impeded the court's management of the related actions.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties expressed an intent to consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction in connection with a stipulated request to consolidate this action with related cases. The court directed the parties to complete and file consent or decline forms, but Kern County Hospital Authority failed to do so. After the court issued an order to show cause and Defendant failed to respond, the court imposed daily monetary sanctions until compliance.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Chambers v. NASCO, Inc., 501 U.S. 32, 43 (1991)
- Roadway Express, Inc. v. Piper, 447 U.S. 752, 764 (1980)
- Lasar v. Ford Motor Co., 399 F.3d 1101, 1110 (9th Cir. 2005)