

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Marisol Almeyda, Tony Scott, and C.A. v. County of Kern, et al.

Almeyda · No. 1:26-cv-00250-JLT-CDB · Decided January 14, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California ordered Plaintiffs to file either a motion for appointment of a guardian ad litem for minor Plaintiff C.A. or evidence of a state-law appointment. The Court also ordered Plaintiffs to file either a motion for C.A. to proceed under a pseudonym or a report explaining why such a motion is unnecessary, with a 14-day deadline.

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	January 14, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-cv-00250-JLT-CDB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	After Plaintiffs filed a civil-rights complaint alleging claims on behalf of minor Plaintiff C.A. through her mother and purported guardian ad litem, the district court issued a sua sponte order directing Plaintiffs to address C.A.'s representation and use of a pseudonym.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- guardian ad litem
- guardianship procedure
- civil procedure
- section 1983

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights
- guardianships

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Plaintiffs were required to provide evidence of a representative's appointment under state law, move for appointment of a guardian ad litem, or demonstrate that appointment was unnecessary before proceeding with claims on behalf of minor Plaintiff C.A.

2. Whether Plaintiffs were required to move for C.A. to proceed under a pseudonym or explain why such a motion was unnecessary.

HOLDINGS

1. Because C.A. is a minor, Plaintiffs must provide evidence of a state-law appointment of a representative, file a motion for appointment of a guardian ad litem, or make a showing that appointment is unnecessary to ensure adequate representation.
2. Plaintiffs must either move for C.A. to proceed under a pseudonym or file a report explaining why such a motion is unnecessary.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Pursuant to Eastern District of California Local Rule 202, Upon commencement of an action or upon initial appearance in defense of an action by or on behalf of a minor or incompetent person, the attorney representing the minor or incompetent person shall present (1) appropriate evidence of the appointment of a representative for the minor or incompetent person under state law or (2) a motion for the appointment of a guardian ad litem by the Court, or, (3) a showing satisfactory to the Court that no such appointment is necessary to ensure adequate representation.” (at 1)

“A party requesting to proceed pseudonymously has the burden of showing that their “need for anonymity outweighs prejudice to the opposing party and the public’s interest in knowing the party’s identity.”” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Marisol Almeyda, Tony Scott, and minor C.A. sued the County of Kern and several individual defendants. The complaint identified Almeyda as C.A.’s mother and purported guardian ad litem, but did not include evidence of a state-law appointment or a motion seeking appointment by the court. The complaint also identified C.A. as a minor without requesting permission for her to proceed under a pseudonym.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed the complaint on January 12, 2026. The court determined that Plaintiffs had not submitted evidence of a state-law representative appointment or a motion for appointment of a guardian ad litem for C.A., and had not sought authorization for C.A. to proceed under a pseudonym. The court ordered Plaintiffs, within 14 days, to file the required motion or supporting report/evidence for each issue.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp., 214 F.3d 1058, 1067-69 (9th Cir. 2000)
- United States v. Doe, 655 F.2d 920, 922 n.1 (9th Cir. 1981)

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