

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Shipley v. Adams

No. 2:24-cv-00032-TLN-EFB (PC) (E.D. Cal. Aug. 12, 2025) · No. 2:24-cv-00032-TLN-EFB (PC) · Decided
August 13, 2025

SUMMARY

The court recommends dismissal of Scott R. Shipley’s amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint against officials at California Health Care Facility–Stockton. The findings and recommendations conclude that the amended complaint fails to state a viable federal claim, deny the motion for default judgment, recommend dismissal without further leave to amend, and recommend closing the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Edmund F. Brennan, United States Magistrate Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	August 13, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-00032-TLN-EFB (PC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A state prisoner filed an amended pro se complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 after the original complaint was dismissed with leave to amend. The magistrate judge screened the amended complaint and considered plaintiff's motion for default judgment, recommending dismissal without further leave to amend and denial of the motion.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Screening under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915A and 1915(e)(2), accepting factual allegations as true and construing the complaint in the light most favorable to the plaintiff; the complaint must satisfy Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a) and state a facially plausible claim under Twombly and Iqbal.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Scott R. Shipley v. Anise Adams, N. Malakkla, et al.

TOPICS

default judgment

pleadings

section 1983

ada / disability

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

prisoner civil rights

federal civil procedure

pleading

Americans with Disabilities Act

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the amended complaint stated a viable ADA, Equal Protection Clause, or other federal claim sufficient to survive screening under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915A and 1915(e)(2).
2. Whether the amended complaint satisfied Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 and plausibly alleged conduct by identifiable defendants.
3. Whether further leave to amend should be denied as futile after plaintiff failed to cure deficiencies identified in the original complaint.
4. Whether plaintiff was entitled to default judgment despite failing to state a claim.

HOLDINGS

1. The amended complaint failed to state an ADA, Equal Protection Clause, or other federal claim and did not satisfy Rule 8 because its allegations were too sparse and did not identify actionable conduct by a specific defendant.
2. Further leave to amend should be denied because plaintiff failed to cure deficiencies after receiving notice of them, making further amendment futile.
3. Plaintiff's motion for default judgment should be denied because the amended complaint failed to state a claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Vague allegations that do not allege conduct of a specific, identifiable defendant cannot survive screening.”
(at 2)

“Because plaintiff has not stated a claim, his motion for default judgment must be denied.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a state prisoner, alleged that a compassionate-release request prepared by a CDCR physician on October 3, 2023 was based on his inability to perform activities of daily living. He also alleged that the request had not been processed and sent to the court for recall of his sentence. He sued Anise Adams and N. Malakkla, officials at California Health Care Facility–Stockton, but did not provide sufficient facts connecting either defendant to a constitutional or statutory violation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court previously screened and dismissed the original complaint for failure to state a claim, granting leave to amend. Plaintiff then filed an amended complaint and moved for default judgment. The magistrate judge concluded that the amended complaint still failed to state an ADA, Equal Protection Clause, or other federal

claim and recommended denial of default judgment, dismissal without further leave to amend, termination of pending motions, and closure of the case, subject to objections and review by the assigned district judge.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325, 327-38 (1989)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 554, 555-557, 562-563, 570 (2007)
- Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41 (1957)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-679 (2009)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89 (2007)
- Scheuer v. Rhodes, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974)
- McKeever v. Block, 932 F.2d 795, 798 (9th Cir. 1991)
- Plumeau v. School Dist. # 40, 130 F.3d 432, 439 (9th Cir. 1997)
- Turner v. Duncan, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998)
- Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991)

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