

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Esparza v. Collectibles Management Resources, Inc.

Esparza · No. 1:24-cv-01547-KES-HBK · Decided March 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants the parties’ joint stipulation, construed as a motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) and 15(c)(1)(C). The order directs substitution of Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Health Hanford for Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. throughout the complaint and case docket.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Helena M. Barch-Kuchta
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	March 11, 2025
DOCKET	1:24-cv-01547-KES-HBK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered the parties' joint stipulation to substitute the correct name of a defendant and construed it as a motion to amend the complaint under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) and 15(c)(1)(C).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Alfred Esparza v. Collectibles Management Resources, Inc., American Ambulance Billing, LP, Adventist Health Care Network, Inc., Sequoia Institute for Surgical Services, Inc.

TOPICS

- motion to amend
- pleadings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- pleading amendment
- party-name substitution

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the parties' joint stipulation should be construed as a motion to amend the complaint under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) and 15(c)(1)(C).
2. Whether Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Health Hanford should be substituted for Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. throughout the complaint, case caption, and docket.

HOLDINGS

1. The court construed the parties' joint stipulation as a motion under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) and 15(c)(1)(C) and granted it.
2. Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Health Hanford was ordered substituted for Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. throughout the complaint, and the docket was ordered corrected accordingly.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff named Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. as a defendant in the complaint filed on December 17, 2024. The parties acknowledged that this was not the correct name of the defendant sued and jointly requested substitution of Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Health Hanford. The correctly named defendant consented to the amendment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the action on December 17, 2024, naming Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. as a defendant. The parties subsequently stipulated that the defendant's correct name was Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Health Hanford and requested amendment of the complaint, case caption, and docket. The court granted the construed motion and ordered substitution of the correct defendant name throughout the complaint and docket.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Ramirez v. County of San Bernardino, 806 F.3d 1002, 1008 (9th Cir. 2015)
- T.T. v. County of San Diego, No. 3:19-CV-00407-AJB-AGS, 2020 WL 516146, at *3 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 31, 2020)

OPINION

Esparza v. Collectibles Management Resources, Inc.

PER CURIAM.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 ALFRED ESPARZA, Case No. 1:24-cv-01547-KES-HBK 12 Plaintiff,

ORDER GRANTING CONSTRUED MOTION

13 v. TO AMEND COMPLAINT AND

SUBSTITUTE CORRECT NAME OF PARTY

14 COLLECTIBLES MANAGEMENT

RESOURCES, INC., AMERICAN (Doc. No. 26)

15 AMBULANCE BILLING, LP,

ADVENTIST HEALTH CARE

16 NETWORK, INC., AND SEQUOIA

INSITUTE FOR SURGICAL SERVCIES,

17 INC. 18 Defendants. 19 20 Pending before the Court is Defendant, Hanford Community
Hospital dba Adventist 21 Health Hanford and Plaintiff Alfredo Esparza (collectively “the
Parties”) joint Stipulation to 22 Substitute Correct Name of Defendant filed March 7, 2025. (Doc.
No. 26). 23 On December 17, 2024, Plaintiff this action naming, inter alia, Adventist Health Care
24 Network, Inc. as a defendant. (Doc. No. 1 at 1-2). The Parties acknowledge that the Defendant
25 Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. is not the correct name of the Defendant sued herein.
(Doc.

26 No. 26 at 1). Thus, the Parties agree the correct named defendant, Defendant, “Hanford
27 Community Hospital dba Adventist Hanford,” should be substituted in place of “Adventist 28
Health Care Network, Inc” throughout all portions of the Plaintiffs’ Complaint (Id. 1-2). 1 |
Additionally, the Parties request that all future filing and the case caption be amended to 2 |
substitute “Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Health Hanford” in place of “Adventist 3 |
Health Care Network, Inc.” 4 Given that Defendant Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist
Health Hanford 5 || consents to the amendment changing the name of the party, the Court
construes the Joint 6 | Stipulation as a motion brought under pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
Procedure 15(a)(2) and 7 | 15(c)\C.\(C). Ud. at 2). 8 Accordingly, it is ORDERED: 9 1. The Joint
Stipulation (Doc. No. 26), construed as a motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2) 10 and 15(c)(1)(C),
is GRANTED. 11 2. Defendant, Hanford Community Hospital dba Adventist Hanford should be
substituted in 12 place of Adventist Health Care Network, Inc. throughout all portions of the
Plaintiffs’ 13 Complaint. 14 3. The Clerk of Court shall correct the docket to reflect that Hanford
Community Hospital 15 dba Adventist Health Hanford” is substituted in place of Adventist Health
Care Network, 16 Inc. 17 | Dated: _ March 10, 2025 Mihaw. Wh. foareh Zaskth

19 HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

21 22 23 24 Aa ' A party’s consent does not eliminate Plaintiff’s right to file an amended complaint
under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 15(a)(1). Ramirez v. Cnty. of San Bernardino, 806 F.3d 1002, 1008 (9th
Cir, 2015) (holding a “[p]laintiff’s 15(a)(2) amendment, filed first in time, cannot be construed as a
waiver or exhaustion of his automatic 27 || right to amend under 15(a)(1), so long as that

amendment was timely.” See also T.T. v. Cnty. of San Diego, No. 319-CV-00407-AJB-AGS, 2020 WL 516146, at *3 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 31, 2020).

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