

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Daniel C. Ramsey v. C. Stanback, et al.

Ramsey v. Stanback · No. 2:25-cv-2930-JDP (P) · Decided October 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California dismissed Daniel C. Ramsey’s complaint against correctional officer C. Stanback and warden R. St. Andre with leave to amend because it asserted unrelated claims against multiple defendants. The court granted Ramsey’s application to proceed in forma pauperis and allowed 30 days to file an amended complaint or a notice of voluntary dismissal. The order explains the screening and pleading requirements applicable to an in forma pauperis action.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Jeremy D. Peterson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DECIDED               | October 22, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DOCKET                | 2:25-cv-2930-JDP (P)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DISPOSITION           | dismissed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Pro se prisoner civil-rights action screened under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e); the court dismissed the complaint with leave to amend and granted plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis.                                                                                  |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | Statutory screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e); the court assessed whether the complaint was frivolous, malicious, failed to state a claim, or sought monetary relief from an immune defendant, applying the plausibility standard under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2). |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished, nonprecedential district-court order                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| PARTIES               | Daniel C. Ramsey v. C. Stanback, R. St. Andre                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

TOPICS

- joinder
- pleadings
- civil procedure
- prisoners rights

## PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

prisoner civil rights

constitutional law

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint could join unrelated claims against different defendants in a single action.
2. Whether the complaint satisfied the federal pleading and screening requirements applicable to an in forma pauperis action.
3. Whether plaintiff should be granted leave to amend after dismissal of the improperly joined complaint.

## HOLDINGS

1. Unrelated claims against different defendants cannot proceed together in a single action; plaintiff must pursue them in separate suits or amend to address the joinder deficiency.
2. A federal court must screen a complaint filed by a claimant seeking to proceed in forma pauperis and dismiss any portion that is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant.
3. The complaint was dismissed with leave to amend, and plaintiff was given thirty days to file either an amended complaint or a notice of voluntary dismissal without prejudice.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

“Multiple, unrelated claims against more than one defendant belong in separate suits.” (2)

“The amended complaint will supersede the current complaint.” (2)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a disabled inmate at High Desert State Prison, alleged that correctional officer C. Stanback failed to ensure that his cell was adequately cleaned. In a separate incident, plaintiff alleged that videos and pictures sent by his family were removed from his tablet and attributed responsibility to warden R. St. Andre. The complaint asserted an Eighth Amendment claim concerning cell cleaning and a First Amendment claim concerning the removed media.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a complaint asserting unrelated claims against a correctional officer and a prison warden, along with an application to proceed in forma pauperis. The district court screened the complaint, found that the unrelated claims could not proceed together, dismissed the complaint without prejudice and with leave to amend, and granted in forma pauperis status.

## DISPOSITION

dismissed

## CASES CITED

- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-679 (2009)
- Kobold v. Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, 832 F.3d 1024, 1038 (9th Cir. 2016)
- Nagrampa v. MailCoups, Inc., 469 F.3d 1257, 1264 n.2 (9th Cir. 2006) (en banc)
- Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972) (per curiam)
- Hayes v. Idaho Correctional Center, 849 F.3d 1204, 1208 (9th Cir. 2017)
- Bruns v. National Credit Union Administration, 122 F.3d 1251, 1257 (9th Cir. 1997)
- Ivey v. Board of Regents, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982)
- George v. Smith, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007)
- Lacey v. Maricopa County, 693 F.3d 896, 907 n.1 (9th Cir. 2012) (en banc)

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