

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Charles Reddick v. Guadalupe Alvarez, et al.

No. 2:25-cv-1905 CSK P (E.D. Cal. July 15, 2025) · No. No. 2:25-cv-1905 CSK P · Decided July 15, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants Charles Reddick’s request to proceed in forma pauperis and assesses the statutory filing fee. The court finds a potentially cognizable Eighth Amendment claim against Guadalupe Alvarez, dismisses claims against J. Delucchi with leave to amend, and gives plaintiff the option to proceed against Alvarez or file an amended complaint.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chi Soo Kim
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	July 15, 2025
DOCKET	No. 2:25-cv-1905 CSK P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983; initial screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and determination of plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court screened the prisoner complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, accepting factual allegations as true and construing the pro se pleading liberally. A complaint must contain sufficient factual matter to state a plausible claim for relief and must be dismissed if it is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district-court order; generally nonprecedential and limited to the case's screening determination.
PARTIES	Charles Reddick v. Guadalupe Alvarez, J. Delucchi, John/Jane Does 1-5

TOPICS

prisoners rights

section 1983

cruel and unusual punishment

civil procedure

pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

prisoner civil rights

constitutional law

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in forma pauperis proceedings

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Reddick's allegations stated a potentially cognizable Eighth Amendment conditions-of-confinement claim against Guadalupe Alvarez.
2. Whether allegations that J. Delucchi failed to prepare or produce a report in violation of prison policy stated a federal civil-rights claim under § 1983.
3. Whether Reddick should be granted leave to amend the claims against J. Delucchi.
4. Whether Reddick satisfied the requirements to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

HOLDINGS

1. The allegations were sufficient at the screening stage to state a potentially cognizable Eighth Amendment claim against Alvarez based on deliberate indifference to a substantial risk of serious harm from hazardous kitchen equipment.
2. Reddick failed to state a cognizable § 1983 claim against Delucchi based solely on the alleged failure to follow prison reporting policy or common standards of care.
3. The claims against Delucchi were dismissed without prejudice and with leave to amend within thirty days, while Reddick was not granted leave to add new claims or defendants.
4. Reddick's request to proceed in forma pauperis was granted, subject to payment of the statutory filing fee and an initial partial filing fee under the Prison Litigation Reform Act.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Prison officials are liable only if they were deliberately indifferent to a substantial risk of serious harm." (at 5)

"Allegations that a defendant violated a prison policy fails to give rise to a federal civil rights claim." (at 6)

"A district court must construe a pro se pleading "liberally" to determine if it states a claim and, prior to dismissal, tell a plaintiff of deficiencies in his complaint and give plaintiff an opportunity to cure them." (at 7)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On July 20, 2024, boiling water allegedly sprayed onto Reddick's legs and ankles after a valve on an industrial kitchen kettle malfunctioned and burst off. Reddick alleged that the valves had been in disrepair for a prolonged period and that inmates had been required to wrap plastic and string around them to prevent leaks. He alleged that Dining Manager Guadalupe Alvarez knowingly disregarded the substantial risk posed by the equipment and that he suffered second-degree burns, extreme pain, and a subsequent infection. Reddick also alleged that Correctional Supervisor J. Delucchi witnessed the injury but refused to prepare or produce an incident report.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Reddick, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a § 1983 complaint alleging that prison officials were deliberately indifferent to dangerous kitchen equipment, causing him serious burns and infection. He requested leave to proceed in forma pauperis. The court granted in forma pauperis status, found a potentially cognizable Eighth Amendment claim against Guadalupe Alvarez, dismissed the claims against J. Delucchi with leave to amend, and gave Reddick thirty days either to proceed against Alvarez alone or to file an amended complaint addressing Delucchi.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325, 327 (1989)
- Franklin v. Murphy, 745 F.2d 1221, 1227-28 (9th Cir. 1984)
- Jackson v. Arizona, 885 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1989)
- Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1130-31 (9th Cir. 2000)
- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 570 (2007)
- Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41, 47 (1957)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 93 (2007)
- Scheuer v. Rhodes, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974)
- Davis v. Scherer, 468 U.S. 183 (1984)
- West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988)
- Jones v. Williams, 297 F.3d 930, 934 (9th Cir. 2002)
- Hansen v. Black, 885 F.2d 642, 646 (9th Cir. 1989)
- Johnson v. Duffy, 588 F.2d 740, 743-44 (9th Cir. 1978)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-79 (2009)
- Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202, 1208 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Morgan v. Morgensen, 465 F.3d 1041, 1045 (9th Cir. 2006)
- Rhodes v. Chapman, 452 U.S. 337, 344-47 (1981)
- Whitley v. Albers, 475 U.S. 312, 319 (1986)
- Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976)
- Wilson v. Seiter, 501 U.S. 294, 298-99, 302-03 (1991)
- Berry v. Bunnell, 39 F.3d 1056, 1057 (9th Cir. 1994)
- Cousins v. Lockyer, 568 F.3d 1063, 1070 (9th Cir. 2009)
- Case v. Kitsap County Sheriff's Department, 249 F.3d 921, 929 (9th Cir. 2001)
- Ramirez v. County of San Bernardino, 806 F.3d 1002, 1008 (9th Cir. 2015)

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