

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Elvin Hamilton v. County of Kern, et al.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00979-CDB (E.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2025) · No. 1:25-cv-00979-CDB · Decided November 19, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants Defendants’ unopposed motion to stay Elvin Hamilton’s § 1983 and state-law action pending resolution of a related criminal case. The court also vacates the scheduling conference and requires periodic joint status reports every 120 days and within 14 days after the criminal case concludes.

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            | November 19, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| DOCKET             | 1:25-cv-00979-CDB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| DISPOSITION        | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | Plaintiff brought a civil-rights and state-law action arising from a traffic stop. Defendants moved to stay the proceedings pending resolution of a related state criminal case, and Plaintiff filed a statement of non-opposition.                                                     |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW | The court applied the discretionary stay standard requiring consideration of the possible damage from a stay, the hardship or inequity of proceeding, and the orderly course of justice, including whether a stay would simplify or complicate the issues, proof, and questions of law. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | Nonprecedential district-court order; precedential status is not identified in the source.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| PARTIES            | Elvin Hamilton v. County of Kern, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- civil rights
- constitutional law
- section 1983

## PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

constitutional law

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should stay the civil proceedings pending resolution of the related state criminal case.
2. Whether the stay would promote orderly litigation by simplifying issues concerning Plaintiff's Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

## HOLDINGS

1. A court may stay civil proceedings pending independent judicial proceedings when the applicable balancing factors support a stay, including the potential damage from the stay, hardship or inequity from proceeding, and the orderly course of justice.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*"The power to stay proceedings is "incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and litigants.""* (Order at 1)

*"The party seeking such a stay must "make out a clear case of hardship or inequity in being required to go forward if there is even a fair possibility that the stay for which he prays will work damage to [someone] else.""* (Order at 1)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action arises from a traffic stop involving Plaintiff on February 27, 2025. Plaintiff asserted claims against Kern County and others under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and state law. A related criminal prosecution, *People v. Hamilton*, was pending in the Superior Court of California for Kern County, and the civil defendants sought a stay pending resolution of that prosecution.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff initiated the action on August 7, 2025, asserting claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and state law based on a February 27, 2025 traffic stop. Defendants moved to stay the case pending resolution of *People v. Hamilton* in the Kern County Superior Court. Plaintiff did not oppose the motion. The district court granted the stay, vacated the scheduling conference, and ordered periodic joint status reports.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254-55 (1936)
- *CMAX v. Hall*, 300 F.2d 265, 268 (9th Cir. 1962)
- *Mediterranean Enters., Inc. v. Ssangyong Corp.*, 708 F.2d 1458, 1465 (9th Cir. 1983)

- Yong v. I.N.S., 208 F.3d 1116, 1119 (9th Cir. 2000)
- People v. Hamilton, Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. MM106261A

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