

**United States Court of Appeals
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

No. 98-4218

Curtis Bledsoe,

Appellant,

v.

Hartford Life and Accident Insurance
Company,

Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States
District Court for the
Eastern District of Arkansas.

[UNPUBLISHED]

Submitted: November 26, 1999

Filed: December 6, 1999

Before BOWMAN, FAGG, and MURPHY, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM.

Curtis Bledsoe appeals from the District Court's¹ order granting summary judgment to Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company in this Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) action. After careful review of the record and the parties' submissions, we conclude that the District Court correctly determined that Bledsoe's suit is barred because he failed to exhaust his administrative remedies. See Kinhead v. Southwestern Bell Corp. Sickness & Accident Disability

¹The Honorable Henry Woods, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Benefit Plan, 111 F.3d 67, 68 (8th Cir. 1997) (“[B]enefit claimants must exhaust the review procedures mandated by [ERISA] before bringing claims for wrongful denial to court.”).

Accordingly, we affirm. See 8th Cir. R. 47B.

A true copy.

Attest:

CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, EIGHTH CIRCUIT.