

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA

Arion Hollins v. Allen, et al.

Hollins · No. 1:25-cv-02263-JPH-KMB · Decided January 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana screens Arion Hollins's prisoner civil-rights complaint concerning alleged Legionella contamination at Pendleton Correctional Facility and alleged failures to test or treat him. The court dismisses claims against Governor Mike Braun, former IDOC Commissioner Robert E. Carter, Dr. John Nwannunu, and the IDOC Director of Classification for lack of personal involvement. Eighth Amendment claims proceed against Warden Allen, Kristin Partain, and Nurse Practitioner Abby, and the court directs service of process.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James Patrick Hanlon
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
DECIDED	January 30, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-02263-JPH-KMB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court screened a prisoner's complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A before service of process, dismissing claims against four defendants and permitting Eighth Amendment claims to proceed against three defendants.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the pleading standard applicable to a motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), accepting the factual allegations as true at the screening stage and construing the pro se complaint liberally.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- section 1983
- cruel and unusual punishment
- service of process
- motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint stated claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against the named defendants under the Prison Litigation Reform Act screening standard.
2. Whether the complaint alleged sufficient personal involvement by Governor Mike Braun, former IDOC Commissioner Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. John Nwannunu, and the John Doe IDOC Director of Classification.
3. Whether the allegations stated an Eighth Amendment conditions-of-confinement claim against Warden Allen and Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims against Nurses Partain and Abby.

HOLDINGS

1. A § 1983 claim requires the plaintiff to allege the defendant's personal involvement in the asserted constitutional deprivation and a causal connection between the defendant and the alleged misconduct; claims lacking such allegations were dismissed.
2. States and their agencies are not persons subject to suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
3. The complaint stated an Eighth Amendment conditions-of-confinement claim sufficient to proceed against Warden Allen.
4. The complaint stated Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims sufficient to proceed against Nurse Partain and Nurse Practitioner Abby.
5. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or seek relief from an immune defendant must be dismissed; applying the Rule 12(b)(6) plausibility standard, the court dismissed nonviable claims and allowed the identified viable claims to proceed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"[I]ndividual liability under § 1983 . . . requires personal involvement in the alleged constitutional deprivation."

"The plaintiff must demonstrate a causal connection between (1) the sued officials and (2) the alleged misconduct."

"A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Hollins was incarcerated at Pendleton Correctional Facility when he filed suit, alleging that the facility's drinking and shower water was contaminated with Legionella bacteria. Shortly after arriving in August 2025, he experienced headaches, a scratchy throat, coughing, breathing problems, chest pains, and blurry vision. He alleged that Warden Allen knew of the contamination and that Nurses Kristin Partain and Abby refused his requests for testing or treatment for Legionnaire's disease.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Arion Hollins filed a § 1983 complaint on November 5, 2025, alleging Legionella contamination in the water at Pendleton Correctional Facility and related medical treatment failures. Because Hollins was incarcerated when he filed the action, the court screened the complaint before service. The court dismissed all claims against Governor Mike Braun, former IDOC Commissioner Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. John Nwannunu, and the John Doe IDOC Director of Classification, while allowing claims against Warden Allen, Kristin Partain, and Nurse Practitioner Abby to proceed and directing service.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Jackson et al. v. Holcomb et al., No. 1:21-cv-03120-JPH-KMB
- Schillinger v. Kiley, 954 F.3d 990, 993 (7th Cir. 2020)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Cesal v. Moats, 851 F.3d 714, 720 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Lisby v. Henderson, 74 F.4th 470, 472 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Colbert v. City of Chicago, 851 F.3d 649, 657 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Thomas v. Illinois, 697 F.3d 612, 613 (7th Cir. 2012)