

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Aaron Anthony Vasquez v. Michael Franchi, Warden; Jane Doe 1, Correctional Officer; Jane Doe 2, Correctional Officer; Michelle, Nun (Sister of Catholic Service)

Vasquez · No. 2:25-CV-6980 (RER) (ST) · Decided February 9, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York grants Aaron Anthony Vasquez leave to proceed in forma pauperis in his pro se civil rights action concerning his detention at Riverhead Correctional Facility. The court directs issuance and service of process on the named warden and invokes *Valentin v. Dinkins* to obtain identifying and service information for the Doe correctional officers and an individual identified as “Michelle.”

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Steven Tiscione
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
DECIDED	February 9, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-CV-6980 (RER) (ST)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Pro se plaintiff filed a civil rights action concerning events during his detention and applied to proceed in forma pauperis. The court granted the application and issued service and defendant-identification directives.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- service of process
- civil rights
- prisoners rights
- section 1983
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil rights
- prisoner civil rights
- federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff should be permitted to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.
2. What procedures should be used to identify and serve defendants whose names and service information plaintiff does not know.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis.
2. When a pro se plaintiff identifies defendants by incomplete names and lacks their service information, the court may request that an appropriate government official ascertain the defendants' identities and service addresses, after which the complaint may be treated as amended and service may proceed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Once this information is provided, Plaintiff's complaint shall be deemed amended to reflect the full name and badge number of the two Jane Doe correctional officers, and the full name of “Sister Michelle,” the Clerk of Court shall prepare a summons for those defendants, and the United States Marshals Service shall serve the summons upon those defendants without prepayment of fees.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff alleged that civil rights violations occurred during his detention at the Riverhead Correctional Facility. He named the facility's warden, two correctional officers identified as Jane Does, and a Catholic Service provider identified only as Michelle. The opinion does not describe the underlying events or merits of the claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 18, 2025, Aaron Anthony Vasquez filed this pro se civil rights action in the Eastern District of New York. The court granted his application to proceed in forma pauperis, directed issuance and service of a summons on Michael Franchi, and requested that the Suffolk County Attorney identify the two unnamed correctional officers and Sister Michelle so they could be served.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Valentin v. Dinkins, 121 F.3d 72 (2d Cir. 1997) (per curiam)

OPINION

Vasquez

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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AARON ANTHONY VASQUEZ,

Plaintiff, ORDER

2:25-CV-6980 (RER) (ST)

-against- MICHAEL FRANCHI, Warden; JANE DOE 1, Correctional Officer; JANE DOE 2, Correctional Officer; MICHELLE, Nun (Sister of Catholic Service), Defendants. we eK STEVEN TISCIONE, United States Magistrate Judge: On December 18, 2025, Plaintiff, Aaron Anthony Vasquez, filed this pro se civil rights action concerning events occurring during his detention at the Riverhead Correctional Facility (“Riverhead”). Plaintiffs application to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 is granted. ECF No. 2. The Clerk of Court is directed to issue a summons against the named defendant: Michael Franchi, Warden of Riverhead, at the address provided by Plaintiff, and the United States Marshals Service is directed to serve the summons, complaint, and a copy of this Order upon him without prepayment of fees. Plaintiff also names three other Riverhead Defendants: two Jane Doe Correctional Officers and a sister of Catholic Service identified only as “Michelle” who provides services at Riverhead. Pursuant to the holding in *Valentin v. Dinkins*, 121 F.3d 72 (2d Cir. 1997) (per curiam), the Court requests that the Suffolk County Attorney ascertain the full name and service address of these defendants. The Suffolk County Attorney need not undertake to defend or indemnify these Defendants merely because of the issuance of this Order. This Order provides a means by which Plaintiff may properly serve the defendants as instructed by the Second Circuit in *Valentin*. The information should be provided to the Court within 45 days from the date of this Order. Once this information is provided, Plaintiff’s complaint shall be deemed amended to reflect the full name and badge number of the two Jane Doe correctional officers, and the full name of “Sister Michelle,” the Clerk of Court shall prepare a summons for those defendants, and the United States Marshals Service shall serve the summons upon those defendants without prepayment of fees. The Clerk of Court is directed to send a courtesy copy of the summons, complaint and this Order to the Suffolk County Attorney and to send a copy of this Order to the pro se Plaintiff. SO ORDERED. /s/ Steven Tiscione

STEVEN TISCIONE

United States Magistrate Judge Dated: February 9, 2026 Brooklyn, New York