

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA, TERRE HAUTE DIVISION

Antonio Pettrie v. Campbell Nurse and Byrd Dr.

Pettrie · No. 2:25-cv-00284-JRO-MG · Decided March 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana screened Antonio Pettrie’s prisoner civil-rights complaint alleging deliberate indifference to a serious medical need under the Eighth Amendment. The court allowed the damages claim against Nurse Practitioner Campbell to proceed, dismissed the claim against Dr. Byrd, terminated Dr. Byrd as a defendant, and directed service of process on Campbell.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Terre Haute Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	stin R. Olson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
DECIDED	March 18, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-00284-JRO-MG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Screening of a prisoner's civil-rights complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A before service of process.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the court must dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or seek monetary relief from an immune defendant. In assessing whether the complaint states a claim, the court applies the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) plausibility standard and accepts factual allegations as true at the pleading stage.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court screening order
PARTIES	Antonio Pettrie v. Campbell Nurse, Byrd Dr.

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- section 1983
- civil rights
- pleadings
- motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

prisoner litigation

constitutional law

medical care

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Pettrie's allegations against Nurse Practitioner Campbell plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
2. Whether Pettrie's allegations against Dr. Byrd plausibly established that Byrd was subjectively aware of and deliberately indifferent to a serious medical need.
3. Whether the court should screen and dismiss any other claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint plausibly alleged that Campbell was deliberately indifferent to Pettrie's serious medical need, so the Eighth Amendment damages claim against Campbell may proceed.
2. The complaint failed to state a plausible Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim against Dr. Byrd because it did not allege facts showing that Byrd knew the pinky finger required treatment or was subjectively aware that his conduct would harm Pettrie.
3. The court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, dismissed all claims other than the Eighth Amendment claim against Campbell, and directed service of process on Campbell.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“When screening a complaint, the Court must dismiss any portion that is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim for relief, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.” (Part I)

“For an inmate to state a claim under § 1983 for medical mistreatment or the denial of medical care, the prisoner must allege “acts or omissions sufficiently harmful to evidence deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.”” (Part III)

“Deliberate indifference exists only when an official “knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health or safety; the official must both be aware of facts from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists, and he must also draw the inference.”” (Part III)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Pettrie, an incarcerated person, alleged that he fell during recreation on May 14, 2024, injuring his face and breaking his pinky finger. He alleged that Nurse Practitioner Campbell dismissed the injury, refused treatment, and made a derogatory remark despite the apparent fracture. He further alleged that Dr. Byrd later treated the wrong finger and ordered incorrect follow-up care, leaving the finger deformed, immobile, and painful.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Antonio Pettrie filed a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint alleging that Nurse Practitioner Campbell and Dr. Byrd were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical need after he injured his finger. The district court screened the

complaint, allowed the Eighth Amendment damages claim against Campbell to proceed, dismissed the claim against Byrd, terminated Byrd from the docket, and directed service on Campbell.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- 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)
- Larry v. Goldsmith, 799 F. App'x 413, 416 (7th Cir. 2016)
- Clancy v. Off. of Foreign Assets Control of U.S. Dep't of Treasury, 559 F.3d 595, 606-07 (7th Cir. 2009)
- Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976)
- Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 837-38 (1994)
- Johnson v. Dominguez, 5 F.4th 818, 824 (7th Cir. 2021)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA TERRE HAUTE DIVISION ANTONIO PETTRIE,)) Plaintiff,)) v.) No. 2:25-cv-00284-JRO-MG) CAMPBELL Nurse,) BYRD Dr.,)) Defendants.) ORDER SCREENING COMPLAINT AND DIRECTING FURTHER PROCEEDINGS Plaintiff Antonio Pettrie is a prisoner currently incarcerated at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. He filed this civil action alleging defendants denied him necessary medical care when he injured his finger.

Because the plaintiff is a “prisoner,” this Court must screen the complaint before service on the defendants. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a), (c). I. SCREENING STANDARD When screening a complaint, the Court must dismiss any portion that is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim for relief, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.

28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b). To determine whether the complaint states a claim, the Court applies the same standard as when addressing a motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). See Schillinger v. Kiley, 954 F.3d 990, 993 (7th Cir. 2020).

Under that standard, a complaint must include “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). “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.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009).

The Court construes pro se complaints liberally and holds them to a “less stringent standard than pleadings drafted by lawyers.” *Cesal v. Moats*, 851 F.3d 714, 720 (7th Cir. 2017). II. THE COMPLAINT Mr. Pettrie’s factual allegations are accepted as true at the pleading stage. See *Lisby v. Henderson*, 74 F.4th 470, 472 (7th Cir. 2023). Mr. Pettrie names two defendants: Dr. Byrd and Nurse Practitioner (“NP”) Campbell.

The complaint alleges that on May 14, 2024, Mr. Pettrie fell while in recreation and injured his face and broke his pinky finger. Dkt. 1 at 2. When NP Campbell saw Mr. Pettrie, she told him the finger was jammed and to “suck it up and quit being a pussy,” even though it was clearly broken. *Id.* She refused to treat him even after Mr. Pettrie put in a medical care request on May 15.

Id. When he was finally treated, Dr. Byrd treated the wrong finger and ordered the wrong follow-up treatment. *Id.* As a result, Mr. Pettrie’s finger is now “deformed” and does not move properly, and he experienced months of unnecessary pain and suffering. *Id.* at 1–2. III. DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS Although a plaintiff need not plead legal theories in a complaint, see *Fed.*

R. Civ. P. 8(a), Mr. Pettrie has identified the theory he wishes to use—Eighth Amendment deliberate indifference to his serious medical need. Where a pro se litigant has expressly stated the legal theory he wishes to pursue, the district court is not required to analyze whether the allegations in the complaint might state a claim under a different legal theory.

See *Larry v. Goldsmith*, 799 F. App’x 413, 416 (7th Cir. 2016) (citing *Clancy v. Off. of Foreign Assets Control of U.S. Dep’t of Treasury*, 559 F.3d 595, 606-07 (7th Cir. 2009)). Thus, the court analyzes Mr. Pettrie’s claims only under the theories he has identified.

For an inmate to state a claim under § 1983 for medical mistreatment or the denial of medical care, the prisoner must allege “acts or omissions sufficiently harmful to evidence deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.” *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976). Deliberate indifference exists only when an official “knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health or safety; the official must both be aware of facts from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists, and he must also draw the inference.” *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1994).

An official’s “act or omission unaccompanied by knowledge of a significant risk of harm,” or his “failure to alleviate a significant risk that he should have perceived but did not,” does not constitute deliberate indifference. *Id.* at 837–38; see *Johnson v. Dominguez*, 5 F.4th 818, 824 (7th Cir. 2021) (official must be “subjectively” indifferent). Applying the screening standard to the factual allegations in the complaint, Mr. Pettrie’s Eighth Amendment claims against NP Campbell shall proceed.

Mr. Pettrie plausibly alleges that NP Campbell was deliberately indifferent to his serious medical need. However, Mr. Pettrie's Eighth Amendment claim against Dr. Byrd is dismissed. While Mr. Pettrie alleges that Dr. Byrd treated a different finger than the one that was broken, Mr. Pettrie does not allege facts showing that Dr. Byrd knew it was his pinky finger that needed treatment.

While he states that the finger was "clearly broken" on May 14, he does not provide the date on which he saw Dr. Byrd or any details about the finger's condition at that time. Put simply, no alleged facts support that Dr. Byrd was subjectively aware that his actions or omissions would cause the plaintiff harm. So the complaint does not state a plausible claim that Dr. Byrd was deliberately, subjectively, indifferent to the condition of Mr. Pettrie's hand.

This summary of claims includes all of the viable claims identified by the Court. All other claims have been dismissed. If the plaintiff believes that additional claims were alleged in the complaint, but not identified by the Court, he shall have through April 15, 2026, in which to file a motion to reconsider the screening order. IV. CONCLUSION AND SERVICE OF PROCESS The action will proceed with an Eighth Amendment claim for damages against NP Campbell pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

All other claims are dismissed. The clerk is directed to terminate Dr. Byrd from the docket. The claims discussed in Part III are the only claims the Court identified in the complaint. If Mr. Pettrie believes he asserted additional claims, he must file a motion to reconsider this order no later than April 15, 2026.

The clerk is directed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3) to issue process to defendant NP Campbell in the manner specified by Rule 4(d). Process shall consist of the complaint filed on June 18, 2025, dkt. 1, applicable forms (Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons and Waiver of Service of Summons), and this Order. Defendant NP Campbell is identified as an employee of Centurion.

A copy of this Order and the process documents shall also be served on Centurion electronically. Centurion is ORDERED to provide the full name and last known home address of any defendant who does not waive service if they have such information. This information shall be filed ex parte. Nothing in this Order prohibits the filing of a proper motion pursuant to Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

IT IS SO ORDERED. Date: 3/18/2026 stin R. Olson United States District Judge Distribution: ANTONIO PETTRIE 998471 WABASH VALLEY - CF Wabash Valley Correctional Facility 6908 S. Old US Hwy 41 CARLISLE, IN 47838 Electronic service to Centurion Nurse Practitioner Campbell

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