

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

Parrish v. Berry

No. 18-20704, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (January 9, 2020)

SUMMARY

Prisoner civil rights claims under § 1983 for deliberate indifference to serious medical needs. Affirmed dismissal of unexhausted claims against all defendants except one, where the plaintiff failed to pursue grievances through the Texas prison system as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a). Summary judgment properly granted against the remaining defendant because the plaintiff's disagreement with a medical conclusion does not establish an Eighth Amendment violation.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Priscilla R. Owen; Leslie H. Southwick; Don R. Willett
JURISDICTION	Federal
DECIDED	January 9, 2020
DOCKET	18-20704
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, granting motions to dismiss for failure to exhaust and summary judgment on deliberate indifference claim.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of summary judgment
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Joshua W. Parrish v. James E. Berry, Frederick J. McCullough, Jan A. Gustafson, Toni Deer, Betty Williams, Gwendolyn Charvet, James Coleman

TOPICS

- civil rights
- prisoners rights
- summary judgment
- exhaustion of remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Rights
- Prisoner Litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court erred in dismissing the claims against defendants other than Deer for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.
2. Whether the district court erred in granting summary judgment to Deer on the deliberate indifference claim.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court did not err because Parrish failed to exhaust administrative remedies as to all claims except the one against Deer.
2. The district court did not err because Parrish's disagreement with Deer's medical conclusion does not support a claim of a constitutional violation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To state a claim under the Eighth Amendment against Deer, Parrish must have alleged facts to show ‘deliberate indifference to [his] serious medical needs, constituting an “unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.”’ (at 3)

“‘Medical records of sick calls, examinations, diagnoses, and medications may rebut an inmate’s allegations of deliberate indifference.’” (at 3)

“Parrish’s disagreement with Deer’s medical conclusion does not support a claim of a constitutional violation.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Parrish, a prisoner, alleged that various prison officials and medical staff were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs. He only pursued a grievance through the Texas prison system regarding his claim against Deer. Parrish disagreed with Deer's medical conclusion regarding his treatment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Parrish, a Texas prisoner, filed a § 1983 complaint alleging deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs against multiple TDCJ and UTMB employees. TDCJ defendants moved to dismiss for failure to exhaust administrative remedies; UTMB defendants moved for summary judgment on the same ground and on the merits. The district court dismissed all claims except those against Deer for failure to exhaust, then granted summary judgment to Deer on the merits. Parrish appealed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Prospect Capital Corp. v. Mut. of Omaha Bank, 819 F.3d 754 (5th Cir. 2016)

- Hemphill v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 805 F.3d 535 (5th Cir. 2015)
- Mississippi River Basin All. v. Westphal, 230 F.3d 170 (5th Cir. 2000)
- Johnson v. Johnson, 385 F.3d 503 (5th Cir. 2004)
- Jones v. Bock, 549 U.S. 199 (2007)
- Easter v. Powell, 467 F.3d 459 (5th Cir. 2006)
- Wilson v. Seiter, 501 U.S. 294 (1991)
- Banuelos v. McFarland, 41 F.3d 232 (5th Cir. 1995)
- Mendoza v. Lynaugh, 989 F.2d 191 (5th Cir. 1993)
- Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825 (1994)
- Arenas v. Calhoun, 922 F.3d 616 (5th Cir. 2019)
- Gobert v. Caldwell, 463 F.3d 339 (5th Cir. 2006)
- Varnado v. Lynaugh, 920 F.2d 320 (5th Cir. 1991)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Case: 18-20704 Document: 00515265391 Page: 1 Date Filed: 01/09/2020 IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit FILED No. 18-20704 January 9, 2020 Summary Calendar Lyle W. Cayce Clerk JOSHUA W. PARRISH, Plaintiff–Appellant, v. JAMES E. BERRY, Lieutenant at Ellis Unit; FREDERICK J. MCCULLOUGH, Lieutenant at Ellis Unit; JAN A. GUSTAFSON, Lieutenant at Ellis Unit; TONI DEER; BETTY WILLIAMS; GWENDOLYN CHARVET; JAMES COLEMAN, Defendants–Appellees.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas USDC No. 4:17-CV-2339 Before OWEN, Chief Judge, and SOUTHWICK and WILLETT, Circuit Judges. PER CURIAM: * Joshua W. Parrish, Texas prisoner # 1619201, filed a civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs and naming numerous employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice–Correctional Institutions Division (TDCJ–* Pursuant to 5TH CIR.

R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4. Case: 18-20704 Document: 00515265391 Page: 2 Date Filed: 01/09/2020 No. 18-20704 CID) and employees of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) as defendants. TDCJ–CID employees Lt. James E. Berry, Lt.

Frederick J. McCullough, and Lt. Jan A. Gustafson moved to dismiss Parrish’s complaint against them as unexhausted under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a). UTMB employees, Physician Assistant (PA)

Toni Deer, Dr. Betty Williams, nurse Gwendolyn Charvet, and Dr. James Coleman moved for summary judgment.

The motion sought dismissal of the claims against Charvet, Coleman, and Williams for failure to exhaust and summary judgment in favor of Deer because Parrish had not alleged that she had been deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs.

The district court concluded that only the claim against Deer had been administratively exhausted and dismissed the claims against the other defendants. The district court then concluded that Parrish had failed to allege a constitutional claim against Deer. Parrish appeals. “We review a summary judgment de novo, applying the same legal standards as the district court.”¹ A prisoner who wishes to file a § 1983 suit for damages against prison officials must exhaust administrative remedies before doing so.

² As Parrish did not pursue a grievance through the Texas prison system regarding any of his allegations except his allegations against Deer, he failed to satisfy the exhaustion requirement with respect to all his claims against the other defendants. ³ The district court did not err by dismissing the claims against all the defendants except Deer. ⁴ 1 Prospect Capital Corp. v. Mut. of Omaha Bank, 819 F.3d 754, 756-57 (5th Cir.

2016) (citing *Hemphill v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 805 F.3d 535, 538 (5th Cir.2015)); see also *Mississippi River Basin All. v. Westphal*, 230 F.3d 170, 174 (5th Cir. 2000) (citing *FED. R. CIV. P.* 56). ² 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a). ³ See *Johnson v. Johnson*, 385 F.3d 503, 515, 522-23 (5th Cir. 2004). ⁴ See *Jones v. Bock*, 549 U.S. 199, 202-03 (2007). ² Case: 18-20704 Document: 00515265391 Page: 3 Date Filed: 01/09/2020 No. 18-20704 To state a claim under the Eighth Amendment against Deer, Parrish must have alleged facts to show “deliberate indifference to [his] serious medical needs, constituting an ‘unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.’” ⁵ “Medical records of sick calls, examinations, diagnoses, and medications may rebut an inmate’s allegations of deliberate indifference.” ⁶ As the district court concluded, Parrish’s disagreement with Deer’s medical conclusion does not support a claim of a constitutional violation.

⁷ AFFIRMED. ⁵ *Easter v. Powell*, 467 F.3d 459, 463 (5th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Wilson v. Seiter*, 501 U.S. 294, 297 (1991)). ⁶ *Banuelos v. McFarland*, 41 F.3d 232, 235 (5th Cir. 1995) (citing *Mendoza v. Lynaugh*, 989 F.2d 191, 193-95 (5th Cir.1993)). ⁷ See *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 837-40 (1994); *Arenas v. Calhoun*, 922 F.3d 616, 620 (5th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Gobert v. Caldwell*, 463 F.3d 339, 346 (5th Cir.

2006)); *Varnado v. Lynaugh*, 920 F.2d 320, 321 (5th Cir. 1991). ³