

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA

Angelo Reynolds v. Bryce Browning, et al.

Reynolds · No. 2:25-cv-00168-JPH-MG · Decided February 9, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana screened Angelo Reynolds's amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint concerning an inmate assault, alleged failure to protect, retaliation, and medical care at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. The court dismissed claims against several defendants, including Centurion Health, and allowed specified First and Eighth Amendment claims to proceed against other defendants. The order also directed service of process and provided a deadline for any motion to reconsider omitted claims.

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	February 9, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-00168-JPH-MG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Screening of a prisoner's amended 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 or malicious, fail to state a claim, or seek monetary relief from an immune defendant. The court applies the Rule 12(b)(6) pleading standard, accepting factual allegations as true and construing the pro se complaint liberally.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Angelo Reynolds v. Bryce Browning, Frank Vanihel, Everado Angeles-Mora, John Allen, Timothy Leffler, Centurion Health, John VanVleet, Dr. Samuel Byrd, Jane Tomas, Sara Bedwell, Makayla Willis

TOPICS

section 1983

prisoners rights

civil rights

pleadings

motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

constitutional civil rights

prisoner civil rights

federal civil procedure

constitutional torts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the amended complaint stated a plausible § 1983 claim against Centurion Health without identifying a policy, practice, custom, or final-decisionmaker action causing the alleged constitutional injury.
2. Whether the amended complaint adequately alleged personal involvement by Sara Bedwell and Sgt. Everado Angeles-Mora.
3. Whether allegations that Nurse Makayla Willis performed a poor stitch-up, without more, stated an Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim rather than negligence.
4. Which First and Eighth Amendment claims were sufficiently plausible to proceed past screening.

HOLDINGS

1. A private corporation performing essential services for prisoners may be treated as a municipality for § 1983 purposes, but a plaintiff must identify a policy, practice, custom, or final-decisionmaker action and allege a causal link to the constitutional deprivation. Because Reynolds identified no Centurion policy, practice, or custom that caused his injury, all claims against Centurion were dismissed.
2. Individual liability under § 1983 requires personal involvement and a causal connection between the defendant and the alleged constitutional misconduct. The claims against Sara Bedwell and Sgt. Everado Angeles-Mora were dismissed because the amended complaint did not sufficiently allege that either personally engaged in unconstitutional conduct.
3. Negligence, even gross negligence, is insufficient to support a § 1983 deliberate-indifference claim under the Eighth Amendment. Reynolds's allegations that Nurse Willis performed a poor attempt to stitch his wound alleged at most negligence, and the amended complaint indicated that Dr. Byrd—not Willis—made the final treatment decision; therefore, the claims against Willis were dismissed.
4. The amended complaint plausibly stated claims that could proceed against the identified defendants: First Amendment retaliation against Leffler; Eighth Amendment deliberate indifference to safety against Leffler based on calling Reynolds a snitch and encouraging inmate attacks; Eighth Amendment failure-to-protect claims against Leffler, Vanihel, Allen, and VanVleet; Eighth Amendment deliberate indifference to safety against Browning for failing to intervene in the assault; and Eighth Amendment deliberate indifference to medical needs against Browning, Tomas, and Byrd.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"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."

“individual liability under § 1983 . . . requires personal involvement in the alleged constitutional deprivation.”

“requires more than negligence or even gross negligence; a plaintiff must show that the defendant was essentially criminally reckless, that is, ignored a known risk.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Reynolds, a prisoner at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, alleged that while housed in a segregation unit he filed grievances and was called a snitch by Lt. Timothy Leffler, who allegedly encouraged other inmates to attack him. Two inmates later assaulted Reynolds, stabbing him in the face, and he alleged that Officer Bryce Browning failed to intervene and sent an incorrect emergency signal. Reynolds further alleged inadequate treatment of his facial wound and that officers failed to obtain additional medical care after he lost consciousness.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Reynolds filed a § 1983 action asserting 25 purported causes of action against 26 defendants. The court dismissed the original complaint for violating Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 18 and 20 but granted leave to amend. After screening the amended complaint, the court dismissed all claims against Centurion Health, Sara Bedwell, Sgt. Everado Angeles-Mora, Nurse Makayla Willis, and other terminated defendants, while allowing specified First and Eighth Amendment claims to proceed against several defendants and directing service of process.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Schillinger v. Kiley, 954 F.3d 990, 993 (7th Cir. 2020)
- Bell Atlantic 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)
- Williamson v. Curran, 714 F.3d 432, 436 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Kadamovas v. Stevens, 706 F.3d 843, 844 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Lisby v. Henderson, 74 F.4th 470, 472 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Dean v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc., 18 F.4th 214, 235 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978)
- Levy v. Marion County Sheriff, 940 F.3d 1002, 1010 (7th Cir. 2019)
- Colbert v. City of Chicago, 851 F.3d 649, 657 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Gonzalez v. McHenry County, Illinois, 40 F.4th 824, 828 (7th Cir. 2022)
- Huber v. Anderson, 909 F.3d 201, 208 (7th Cir. 2018)

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