

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE DIVISION

Randolph Bradley Jr. v. Rudd Medical Services, et al.

Bradley v. Rudd Medical Services · No. 3:24-cv-00827 · Decided April 7, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee grants Randolph Bradley Jr.’s motion to file a second amended complaint and conducts screening under the Prison Litigation Reform Act. The court allows Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims to proceed against Charles Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, and John Rudd, but dismisses the claim against Rudd Medical Services for failure to allege a basis for municipal liability. The court also denies or resolves the plaintiff’s other motions and directs service-related procedures.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Aleta A. Trauger
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division
DECIDED	April 7, 2026
DOCKET	3:24-cv-00827
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Pro se prisoner civil-rights action screened under the Prison Litigation Reform Act after the court granted leave to file a second amended complaint.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	At PLRA screening, the court must dismiss claims that are frivolous, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief from an immune defendant. Pro se pleadings are liberally construed, and factual allegations are accepted as true unless entirely lacking credibility.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Randolph Bradley Jr. v. Rudd Medical Services, Charles Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, John Rudd

TOPICS

section 1983 prisoners rights civil rights motion to amend civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights prisoner civil rights constitutional law health law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the second amended complaint stated an Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim against the individual defendants.
2. Whether the complaint stated a claim for municipal liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against Rudd Medical Services.
3. Whether the plaintiff should be granted leave to amend and appointed counsel.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint plausibly stated Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims against Charles Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, and John Rudd because chronic urine leakage and significant pain during bowel movements could be recognized by a layperson as medical conditions requiring treatment, and the allegations supported an inference that the defendants knew of and consciously disregarded those conditions.
2. The claim against Rudd Medical Services failed because the complaint did not allege that an organizational policy, statement, regulation, decision, or custom caused the alleged constitutional injury.
3. The court granted the most recent motion for leave to amend, denied the prior amendment motion as moot, denied the motion for appointed counsel without prejudice, and denied the motion for a magistrate judge as unnecessary.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To state an Eighth Amendment claim based on deliberate indifference to a serious medical need, a plaintiff must allege facts that would allow the court to find (1) “either that a doctor has diagnosed them with a condition requiring treatment or that they suffer from a condition that any layperson would recognize requires treatment” and (2) that the defendant “subjectively knew of (and consciously disregarded) the serious medical needs.””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bradley, who was incarcerated at the Rutherford County Jail, alleged chronic urine leakage beginning in August 2023 and requested adult briefs that were not provided. He also alleged pain, swelling, tenderness, bruising, and a sensation that his anal tissue was turning inside out during and after bowel movements. Charles Flynn diagnosed him with external hemorrhoids in December 2024, and Bradley alleged that Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, and John Rudd knew of his symptoms, failed to provide treatment, and refused to send him to an outside specialist. He did not allege that an organizational policy or custom of Rudd Medical Services caused the alleged constitutional injury.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Bradley filed a civil-rights complaint and then moved twice to amend. The court granted the second motion to amend, treated the second amended complaint as operative, and screened it under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A. The court allowed the Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claims against the individual defendants to proceed but dismissed the claim against Rudd Medical Services for failure to allege a policy or custom supporting municipal liability.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Lanier v. Bryant, 332 F.3d 999, 1006 (6th Cir. 2003)
- United States v. Smotherman, 838 F.3d 736, 739 (6th Cir. 2016)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)
- Thomas v. Eby, 481 F.3d 434, 437 (6th Cir. 2007)
- Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 33 (1992)
- Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972)
- Jourdan v. Jabe, 951 F.2d 108, 110 (6th Cir. 1991)
- McDonald v. Hall, 610 F.2d 16, 19 (1st Cir. 1979)
- Erickson v. Gogebic County, Michigan, 133 F.4th 703, 711-12 (6th Cir. 2025)
- Warnell v. Mount St. Joseph University, 144 F.4th 880, 891 n.4 (6th Cir. 2025)
- Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658, 690-91 (1978)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE NASHVILLE DIVISION RANDOLPH BRADLEY JR, # 0000572,)) Plaintiff,))
v.) No. 3:24-cv-00827) RUDD MEDICAL SERVICES, et al.,) Judge Trauger) Magistrate Judge
Holmes Defendants.) MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER Plaintiff Randolph Bradley, Jr.,
who is in custody of the Rutherford County Jail in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, filed a pro se
complaint alleging violations of his civil rights.

(Doc. No. 1). He has since filed two motions for leave to amend. (Doc. No. 9, Doc. No. 10). The court will now grant the plaintiff's most recent motion for leave to amend and screen the second amended complaint pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2), 1915A.

I. MOTIONS The plaintiff's most recent motion to amend complaint (Doc. No. 10) will be granted. The second amended complaint, which is included in the same document, is now the

operative complaint in this action. The plaintiff's prior motion to amend (Doc. No. 9) will be denied as moot.

The plaintiff's motion for a magistrate judge (Doc. No. 12) will be denied as unnecessary, because a magistrate judge is already assigned to the case. The court notes that the plaintiff's request for a jury trial is withdrawn. (Id.)

The plaintiff's motion for an appointed lawyer (Doc. No. 11) will be denied without prejudice. "The appointment of counsel in a civil proceeding is not a constitutional right and is justified only in exceptional circumstances.

To determine whether these exceptional circumstances exist, courts typically consider the type of case and the ability of the plaintiff to represent himself." *Lanier v. Bryant*, 332 F.3d 999, 1006 (6th Cir. 2003). Here, the plaintiff has not identified any exceptional circumstances that warrant the appointment of counsel. (See Doc. No. 11). Additionally, the plaintiff's filings indicate that he is able to represent himself at this stage of proceedings.

II. PLRA SCREENING STANDARD Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), the court must dismiss any portion of a civil complaint filed in forma pauperis that fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, is frivolous, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. Section 1915A similarly requires initial review of any "complaint in a civil action in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity," *id.* § 1915A(a), and summary dismissal of the complaint on the same grounds as those articulated in Section 1915(e)(2)(B).

Id. § 1915A(b). The court must construe a pro se complaint liberally, *United States v. Smotherman*, 838 F.3d 736, 739 (6th Cir. 2016) (citing *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)), and accept a plaintiff's factual allegations as true unless they are entirely without credibility. See *Thomas v. Eby*, 481 F.3d 434, 437 (6th Cir. 2007) (citing *Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 33 (1992)).

Although pro se pleadings are to be held to a less stringent standard than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers, *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520–21 (1972); *Jourdan v. Jabe*, 951 F.2d 108, 110 (6th Cir. 1991), the courts' "duty to be 'less stringent' with pro se complaints does not require us to conjure up [unpleaded] allegations." *McDonald v. Hall*, 610 F.2d 16, 19 (1st Cir.

1979) (citation omitted). III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS The second amended complaint names four defendants: Rudd Medical Services, Charles Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, and John Rudd. (Doc. No. 10 at 2–3). The plaintiff alleges that he has experienced regular urine leaking since August 2023. (Id. at 2). He has requested adult briefs, but they have not been provided. (Id. at 2–3).

During bowel movements, the plaintiff experiences “pain, swelling tenderness, bruises, and what tend[s] to feel like [his] anal left flipped inside out during and after.” (Id. at 3). In December 2024, Mr. Flynn diagnosed the plaintiff with external hemorrhoids. (Id. at 4). Mr. Flynn, Ms. Lovejoy, and Mr. Rudd are all aware of the plaintiff’s symptoms and have not provided treatment to remedy them.

(Id. at 2). They also all told the plaintiff that he would not be sent to an outside specialist while incarcerated at the Rutherford County Jail. (Id.) IV. ANALYSIS The plaintiff asserts claims of deliberate indifference against all defendants.

As explained below, his claims against the individual defendants shall proceed, but his claim against Rudd Medical Services will be dismissed. To state an Eighth Amendment claim based on deliberate indifference to a serious medical need, a plaintiff must allege facts that would allow the court to find (1) “either that a doctor has diagnosed them with a condition requiring treatment or that they suffer from a condition that any layperson would recognize requires treatment” and (2) that the defendant “subjectively knew of (and consciously disregarded) the serious medical needs.” *Erickson v. Gogebic Cnty., Mich.*, 133 F.4th 703, 711–12 (6th Cir.

2025). Here, the plaintiff alleges that he experiences chronic urine leaking and significant pain during bowel movements. A reasonable factfinder could conclude that any layperson would recognize that these conditions require treatment and that Mr. Flynn, Ms. Lovejoy, and Mr. Rudd were aware of the conditions but disregarded them.

The plaintiff’s claims against these defendants shall proceed. For purposes of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 liability, Rudd Medical Services is treated as a municipality. See *Warnell v. Mount St. Joseph Univ.*, 144 F.4th 880, 891 n.4 (6th Cir. 2025). A claim of municipal liability requires a showing that the alleged misconduct is the result of a policy, statement, regulation, decision, or custom promulgated by the municipality or its agent.

Monell v. Dep’t of Social Svcs., 436 U.S. 658, 690–691 (1978). Here, the plaintiff has not alleged that a Rudd Medical Services organizational policy, statement, regulation, decision, or custom caused his constitutional injury.

The plaintiff’s claim against Rudd Medical Services will therefore be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. V. CONCLUSION The plaintiff’s most recent motion to amend (Doc. No. 10) is GRANTED. His previous motion for leave to amend (Doc. No. 9) is DENIED as moot.

The plaintiff’s motion for appointed lawyer (Doc. No. 11) is DENIED without prejudice. His motion for a magistrate judge (Doc. No. 12) is DENIED as unnecessary. The plaintiff’s request for a jury trial is WITHDRAWN.

The court has screened the Complaint pursuant to the PLRA. Eighth Amendment claims SHALL PROCEED against defendants Charles Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, and John Rudd. All claims against Rudd Medical Services are DISMISSED for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

The clerk SHALL add Tammy Lovejoy as a defendant on the docket. The Clerk is DIRECTED to send the plaintiff service packets (a blank summons (AO 440) and USM 285 form) for defendants Charles Flynn, Tammy Lovejoy, and John Rudd.

The plaintiff MUST complete the service packet and return it to the Clerk's Office within 30 DAYS of the entry of this order. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this case. Upon return of the properly completed service packet, the Clerk is DIRECTED to issue summons to the U.S. Marshals Service for service on the Defendant. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(b) and 4(c)(3).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 636(b)(1)(A) and (B), this action is REFERRED to the Magistrate Judge to enter a scheduling order for the management of the case, to dispose or recommend disposition of any pre-trial, non-dispositive motions, to issue a Report and Recommendation on all dispositive motions, and to conduct further proceedings, if necessary, under Rule 72(b), Fed.

R. Civ. P., and the Local Rules of Court. Despite the issuance of process, the Magistrate Judge may sua sponte recommend the dismissal of any claim for the reasons set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e) (2). The plaintiff is forewarned that this action may be dismissed if he fails to apprise the Court of any address changes. It is so ORDERED. Lf Uy □ Aleta A. Trauger United States District Judge