

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Wade-Scott Campbell v. Acadia Hospital et al.

Campbell · No. 1:26-cv-00262-JAW · Decided May 21, 2026

SUMMARY

A United States magistrate judge recommends dismissing Wade-Scott Campbell’s in forma pauperis complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). The recommendation concludes that the complaint’s sole factual allegation is insufficient to state a plausible claim for relief and provides notice of the procedure for filing objections.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Maine
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Karen Frink Wolf
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Maine
DECIDED	May 21, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-cv-00262-JAW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	After granting Campbell leave to proceed in forma pauperis, the magistrate judge conducted preliminary review of his complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) and issued a recommended decision that the complaint be dismissed for failure to state a plausible claim.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On preliminary review under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), the court accepts well-pleaded facts as true, draws reasonable inferences in the plaintiff's favor, liberally construes a pro se complaint, and determines whether the complaint states a plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Wade-Scott Campbell v. Acadia Hospital et al.

TOPICS

- motions to dismiss
- pleadings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Campbell's complaint alleged sufficient facts to state a plausible claim for relief under the pleading standard.
2. Whether the complaint should be dismissed during preliminary in forma pauperis review under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

HOLDINGS

1. A complaint that alleges no facts, and therefore does not provide the crucial details necessary to identify the defendants' conduct or the grounds for relief, fails to state a plausible claim and must be dismissed.
2. When a party proceeds in forma pauperis, the court must dismiss an action at any time if it is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“When a party proceeds in forma pauperis, however, a court must “dismiss the case at any time if” it determines that the action “is frivolous or malicious[,] . . . fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted,” or “seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.””

“A complaint fails to state a claim when it does not plead “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.””

“Because Campbell’s complaint does not allege any facts, let alone ones that plausibly state a claim for relief, I recommend that the Court DISMISS the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Campbell alleged only that, after moving to Bangor in 1995, his life timeline had been affected in ways that could not be reversed. The complaint contained no additional factual allegations identifying what the defendants did, when or where they acted, or how their conduct violated a legal right.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Campbell filed a civil rights complaint and an application to proceed in forma pauperis. After the application was granted, the complaint was referred for preliminary review under the in forma pauperis statute. The magistrate judge recommended dismissal, subject to the parties' right to object and obtain de novo review by the district court.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 324 (1989)
- Ocasio-Hernández v. Fortuño-Burset, 640 F.3d 1, 12 (1st Cir. 2011)

- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Donovan v. Maine, 276 F.3d 87, 94 (1st Cir. 2002)
- Byrne v. Maryland, No. 1:20-cv-00036-GZS, 2020 WL 1317731, at *5 (D. Me. Mar. 20, 2020) (rec. dec.), aff'd, 2020 WL 2202441 (D. Me. May 6, 2020)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-680 (2009)

OPINION

CAMPBELL

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF MAINE

WADE-SCOTT CAMPBELL,)

) Plaintiff,)) v.) No. 1:26-cv-00262-JAW) ACADIA HOSPITAL et al.,)) Defendants)

RECOMMENDED DECISION AFTER PRELIMINARY REVIEW

Because I granted Wade-Scott Campbell's application to proceed in forma pauperis, see Order (ECF No. 4), his complaint (ECF No. 1) is now before me for preliminary review in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). For the reasons that follow, I recommend that the Court dismiss Campbell's complaint. I. Legal Standard The federal in forma pauperis statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1915, is designed to ensure meaningful access to federal courts for persons unable to pay the costs of bringing an action. See *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 324 (1989). When a party proceeds in forma pauperis, however, a court must "dismiss the case at any time if" it determines that the action "is frivolous or malicious[,] . . . fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted," or "seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Dismissals under section 1915 are often made on the court's own initiative "prior to the issuance of process, so as to spare prospective defendants the inconvenience and expense of answering" meritless complaints. *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 324. When considering whether a complaint states a claim for which relief may be granted, the court must accept the truth of all well-pleaded facts and give the plaintiff the benefit of all reasonable inferences. See *Ocasio-Hernández v. Fortuño-Burset*, 640 F.3d 1, 12 (1st Cir. 2011). A complaint fails to state a claim when it does not plead "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). An unrepresented plaintiff's complaint must be read liberally in this regard, see *Donovan v. Maine*, 276 F.3d 87, 94 (1st Cir. 2002), but must still contain "the crucial detail of who, what, when, where, and how" in order to provide fair notice of what the claims are and the grounds upon which they rest, *Byrne v. Maryland*, No. 1:20-cv-00036-GZS, 2020 WL 1317731, at *5 (D. Me. Mar. 20, 2020) (rec. dec.), aff'd, 2020 WL 2202441 (D. Me. May 6, 2020). Here, the complaint alleges no facts that would permit meaningful review. See Complaint (ECF No. 1). The entirety of the factual allegations is as follows: "After moving to Bangor in 1995 my life timeline has been affected in ways that cannot be reversed in any way,

shape, or form.” Id. at 5. A complaint that fails to allege facts that plausibly state a claim for relief must be dismissed. See *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678-680 (2009) (describing the plausibility pleading standard). Because Campbell’s complaint does not allege any facts, let alone ones that plausibly state a claim for relief, I recommend that the Court DISMISS the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

NOTICE

A party may file objections to those specified portions of a Magistrate Judge’s report or proposed findings or recommended decisions entered pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) for which de novo review by the District Court is sought, together with a supporting memorandum, within fourteen

(14) days after being served with a copy thereof. A responsive memorandum shall be filed within fourteen (14) days after the filing of the objection. Failure to file a timely objection shall constitute a waiver of the right to de novo review by the District Court and to appeal the District Court’s order. Dated: May 21, 2026 /s/ Karen Frink Wolf United States Magistrate Judge