

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Eric Morris v. Warden Chris Stevens, Security James Kent, Unit
Supervisor Mr. Prebeg, and Unit Manager H. Brown

Morris · No. 26-cv-0091-bhl · Decided March 19, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin dismissed Eric Morris's amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint alleging that prison officials denied him recreation outside his cell for extended periods. The court held that the complaint lacked sufficient factual detail to plausibly establish a constitutional violation, dismissed the action for failure to state a claim, and directed that a strike be recorded under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Brett H. Ludwig
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	March 19, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-0091-bhl
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Screening of a prisoner's amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court screened the amended prisoner complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and evaluated whether it complied with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) and stated a plausible claim for relief.
PARTIES	Eric Morris v. Warden Chris Stevens, Security James Kent, Unit Supervisor Mr. Prebeg, Unit Manager H. Brown

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the amended complaint stated a plausible constitutional claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 based on the alleged denial of outdoor or out-of-cell recreation.
- Whether the amended complaint satisfied Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) and the pleading requirements applied during screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

3. Whether the action should be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A(b)(1) for failure to state a claim.

HOLDINGS

1. The amended complaint failed to state a plausible constitutional claim because it provided no sufficient factual basis to infer that any named defendant violated Morris's constitutional rights.
2. The amended complaint did not satisfy the applicable pleading requirements because it lacked the basic factual details necessary to give defendants notice of what they allegedly did, when and where they did it, and what harm resulted.
3. The action had to be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A(b)(1) for failure to state a claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The pleading standard Rule 8 announces does not require ‘detailed factual allegations,’ but it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-un” (at 678)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Morris, a state prisoner at Green Bay Correctional Institution, alleged that the defendants denied him opportunities to exercise outside his cell for extended periods. He alleged that he filed inmate complaints about canceled recreation and suffered muscle deterioration, stress, depression, loss of normal movement and exercise, and emotional distress. He did not identify who canceled recreation, how often or how long it was canceled, or why it was canceled.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Morris initially filed a § 1983 complaint alleging that prison officials denied him recreation outside his cell. On February 27, 2026, the court screened the original complaint, found that it failed to state a claim, and allowed Morris to amend. After he filed an amended complaint on March 11, 2026, the court screened it and dismissed the action for failure to state a claim, assessed a strike under § 1915(g), and directed entry of judgment.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

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