

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE
ISLAND

Rene A. Laureano v. Det. Timothy Rudd, Jr., in his individual and
official capacity; Providence Police Department; and City of
Providence, Rhode Island

C.A. No. 25-cv-214-JJM-AEM (D.R.I. Dec. 12, 2025) · No. C.A. No. 25-cv-214-JJM-AEM · Decided
December 12, 2025

SUMMARY

The court granted the defendants’ motion to dismiss Rene A. Laureano’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims arising from his sex-offender registration and 2018 arrest for failure to notify authorities of an address change. The court held that the claims were barred by Rhode Island’s three-year statute of limitations and that neither equitable tolling nor the continuing violation doctrine applied. The court denied the plaintiff’s related motions without prejudice but granted leave to file a second amended complaint naming a potentially proper defendant responsible for maintaining Rhode Island BCI records.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John J. McConnell, Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island
DECIDED	December 12, 2025
DOCKET	C.A. No. 25-cv-214-JJM-AEM
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered defendants' motion to dismiss an amended 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint, defendants' alternative motions for judgment on the pleadings and summary judgment, and plaintiff's motions for equitable tolling, a protective order, and a preliminary injunction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true, construes them in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, and asks whether the complaint contains sufficient factual matter to state a plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

PARTIES

Rene A. Laureano v. Det. Timothy Rudd, Jr., in his individual and official capacity, Providence Police Department, City of Providence, Rhode Island

TOPICS

motions to dismiss

statute of limitations

section 1983

civil rights

injunctions

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

constitutional law

statute of limitations

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Laureano's 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims were barred by Rhode Island's three-year statute of limitations.
2. Whether equitable tolling applied based on newly discovered background-check information or Laureano's PTSD.
3. Whether the continuing violation doctrine delayed accrual of the claims based on later employment and housing consequences or the continued appearance of the arrest on a BCI report.
4. Whether Laureano should be allowed to amend his complaint to name the entity responsible for maintaining BCI records.
5. Whether the renewed motions for equitable tolling, a protective order, and a preliminary injunction should be granted.

HOLDINGS

1. The § 1983 claims were untimely because they accrued when Laureano was arrested on March 5, 2018, and Rhode Island's three-year limitations period expired before he filed suit in 2025.
2. Equitable tolling was unavailable because Laureano did not show that he pursued his rights diligently or that an extraordinary circumstance prevented timely filing.
3. The continuing violation doctrine did not apply because later housing and employment consequences were continuing harmful effects of the 2018 arrest, not new unlawful acts, and the defendants were not responsible for maintaining the BCI records.
4. Laureano was granted leave to file a second amended complaint naming the proper defendant who may be responsible for maintaining the BCI records.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To survive a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), “a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’”” (§ II)

“It is a rare remedy to be applied sparingly by the courts.” (§ III.A.1)

“A continuing violation occurs when there is a series of continual unlawful acts, when there are merely continual harmful effects from an original unlawful act.” (§ III.A.2)

“Should Mr. Laureano choose to file a Second Amended Complaint to add the proper defendant, the Court will GRANT him leave to do so under Rule 15(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” (§ IV)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In 2017, Laureano pleaded guilty in federal court to transportation with intent to prostitute and was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment. After his release, Providence Detective Timothy Rudd arrested him on March 5, 2018, for failing to report an address change under Rhode Island's sex-offender registry law; the state court dismissed that charge and later ordered the arrest record sealed. In August 2025, Laureano obtained a Rhode Island BCI background report that still listed the arrest, and he alleged that the record caused housing, banking, and employment harms.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Laureano filed the original complaint on May 16, 2025. The court dismissed it as untimely and for failure to plead municipal liability, then granted reconsideration and leave to amend and vacated the dismissal. After Laureano filed an amended complaint, defendants moved to dismiss, and Laureano filed renewed motions for equitable tolling, a protective order, and a preliminary injunction. The court granted the motion to dismiss, denied the renewed motions without prejudice, and granted leave to file a second amended complaint naming a potentially proper defendant.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- 744 F.3d 1, 7 (1st Cir. 2014)
- 496 F.3d 1, 5 (1st Cir. 2007)
- 531 F.3d 104, 107 (1st Cir. 2008)
- 488 U.S. 235, 240-41 (1989)
- 766 F.3d 127, 133 (1st Cir. 2014)
- 549 U.S. 384, 388 (2007)
- 613 F.3d 30, 36 (1st Cir. 2010)
- 549 F.3d 12, 18-19 (1st Cir. 2008)
- 284 F.3d 281, 291 (1st Cir. 2002)
- 149 F.4th 102, 112 (1st Cir. 2025)
- 553 F.3d 114, 119 (1st Cir. 2009)

- 544 U.S. 408, 418 (2005)
- 752 F.3d 114, 120 (1st Cir. 2014)
- 144 F.3d 178, 180 (1st Cir. 1998)
- 59 F. Supp. 3d 228, 242 (D. Mass. 2014)
- 273 F.3d 30, 37 (1st Cir. 2001)
- 996 F.2d 1, 5 (1st Cir. 1993)
- 749 F.3d 1, 14 (1st Cir. 2014)
- 808 F.2d 905, 907 (1st Cir. 1987)
- 759 F.3d 44, 50-51 (1st Cir. 2014)
- 553 F.3d 121, 130 (1st Cir. 2009)
- 388 F. Supp. 3d 97, 105 (D.R.I. 2019)
- 2025 WL 1384309, at *5-6 (D.R.I. May 13, 2025)
- 241 F.3d 46, 52 (1st Cir. 2001)
- 68 F.3d 1, 3 (1st Cir. 1995)
- 449 U.S. 250, 258 (1980)
- 204 F. Supp. 2d 305, 315 (D.P.R. 2002)
- 326 F.3d 8 (1st Cir. 2003)
- 743 A.2d 555, 557-58 (R.I. 2000)
- 118 F.3d 886, 890 (1st Cir. 1997)
- 20 F.3d 503, 506 (1st Cir. 1994)
- 196 F. Supp. 3d 157, 167-68 (D. Mass. 2016)