

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

James C. Strader v. City Confidential, et al.

Strader · No. 5:25-cv-03260-JWL · Decided May 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Kansas denied James C. Strader's motion to add a defendant and seek preliminary injunctive relief in his 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. The court extended the deadline for filing a complete second amended complaint to June 30, 2026, directed the clerk to provide an updated docket and complaint forms, and warned that failure to amend could result in dismissal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John W. Lungstrum
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
DECIDED	May 29, 2026
DOCKET	5:25-cv-03260-JWL
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, a pro se Kansas prisoner proceeding under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, moved to add a defendant and sought preliminary injunctive relief after the court vacated an earlier dismissal and allowed him to file a second amended complaint.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the pleading and joinder requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 15, 18, and 20, and the preliminary-injunction standard requiring a clear showing of entitlement to extraordinary relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	James C. Strader v. City Confidential, et al.

TOPICS

- joinder
- injunctions
- motion to amend
- prisoners rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff could add a defendant and significant allegations through a motion rather than a complete second amended complaint.
2. What joinder restrictions apply to Plaintiff's proposed claims and defendants under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 18(a) and 20(a)(2).
3. Whether Plaintiff established the required relationship between the injury alleged in his motion and the conduct alleged in the complaint to obtain a preliminary injunction.
4. Whether the deadline for filing a complete second amended complaint should be extended.

HOLDINGS

1. A party seeking to add parties, claims, or significant factual allegations must file a complete and proper amended complaint under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15; Plaintiff's motion to add Mrs. Ross was denied.
2. Plaintiff may bring multiple claims against one defendant, but may join additional defendants in one action only when the claims arise from the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences and involve a common question of law or fact; unrelated claims against different defendants may not be joined.
3. Plaintiff was not entitled to a preliminary injunction because he failed to establish a relationship between the injury alleged in the motion and the conduct alleged in the complaint.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Federal Rules do not contemplate joinder of different actions against different parties which present entirely different factual and legal issues."

"Unrelated claims against different defendants belong in different suits."

"A preliminary injunction is "an extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief.""

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, incarcerated at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, alleged that prison staff delayed or failed to electronically file documents and may have provided his legal mail to other inmates. He sought to add Mrs. Haylee Ross (Koob) as a defendant and requested a preliminary injunction concerning alleged torts, harassment, and restrictions on his ability to work. The alleged injuries in the motion concerned e-filing delays and interference with legal work, whereas the underlying complaint concerned the creation and airing of a televised documentary.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court initially dismissed the action for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff appealed and moved for reconsideration. After the Tenth Circuit abated the appeal, this court vacated the dismissal and judgment and granted Plaintiff additional time to file a second amended complaint; the Tenth Circuit later dismissed the appeal and transferred jurisdiction back. Plaintiff missed the amended-complaint deadline, then filed a motion seeking to add a defendant and obtain a preliminary injunction. The court denied that motion, extended the deadline to file a complete second amended complaint to June 30, 2026, and warned that failure to do so could result in dismissal.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- George v. Smith, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007)
- Kay v. Bemis, 500 F.3d 1214, 1218 (10th Cir. 2007)
- McNeil v. United States, 508 U.S. 106, 113 (1993)
- Zhu v. Countrywide Realty Co., Inc., 160 F. Supp. 2d 1210, 1225 (D. Kan. 2001)
- Gillon v. Federal Bureau of Prisons, 424 F. App'x 722, 725 (10th Cir. 2011) (unpublished)
- Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2008)
- Little v. Jones, 607 F.3d 1245, 1251 (10th Cir. 2010)