

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF  
INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

**Nathan L. Adams v. Aramark Correctional Services, LLP, Tisch  
Thompson, Debra Hall, Ashly, Todd Shiefel, Dennis Reagle, Kyle  
McKinney, Cathleen Simone, Centurion Health of Indiana, LLC,  
Lori Fisher, S. Robbins, Nate Pulley, Brandon Pherson, Dalton  
Albrecht, Johnathan Jackson**

Adams · No. 1:25-cv-02002-TWP-MKK · Decided June 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana denied Centurion Health of Indiana, LLC's motion to dismiss Nathan L. Adams's Eighth Amendment Monell claim. The court held that Adams plausibly alleged objectively serious medical needs, deliberate indifference, and a Centurion policy or practice of restricting access to medical care during prison lockdowns. The court concluded that the allegations were sufficient to survive a Rule 12(b)(6) motion.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division                                                                                                                                                                            |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Tanya Walton Pratt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division                                                                                                                                                                            |
| DECIDED               | June 18, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| DOCKET                | 1:25-cv-02002-TWP-MKK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Defendant Centurion Health of Indiana, LLC moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) to dismiss the plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint alleging an Eighth Amendment Monell claim based on denial of medical care during prison lockdowns.              |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true, draws reasonable inferences in the plaintiff's favor, and asks whether the complaint states a facially plausible claim for relief. Pro se pleadings are construed liberally. |

## TOPICS

motions to dismiss

section 1983

prisoners rights

cruel and unusual punishment

civil procedure

## PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

constitutional law

civil procedure

prisoners rights

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Adams plausibly alleged an underlying Eighth Amendment violation based on Centurion's deliberate indifference to his objectively serious medical needs.
2. Whether Adams plausibly alleged that a Centurion policy, practice, or custom was the moving force behind the alleged deprivation of medical care and therefore supported Monell liability.
3. Whether a Monell claim against a private company providing essential services to prisoners may proceed without alleging that an individual medical provider separately violated the Eighth Amendment.

## HOLDINGS

1. Adams adequately pleaded that Centurion was deliberately indifferent to objectively serious medical needs by restricting access to medical care despite knowledge of his and other inmates' serious conditions and complaints.
2. Adams adequately alleged that Centurion maintained a de facto policy or practice of restricting access to the medical wing during lockdowns, that the practice was sufficiently widespread, and that it was the moving force behind the deprivation of medical care.
3. A plaintiff may proceed on a Monell claim against a private institutional healthcare provider without alleging that an individual medical provider separately violated the Eighth Amendment, so long as the institution's own policy or practice plausibly caused the constitutional injury.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“The central question is always whether an official policy, however expressed (and we have no reason to think that the list in Monell is exclusive), caused the constitutional deprivation.” (III.2)*

*“It is somewhat unusual to see an Eighth Amendment case relating to medical care in a prison in which the plaintiff does not argue that the individual medical provider was deliberately indifferent to a serious medical need. But unusual does not mean impossible, and this case well illustrates why an organization might be liable even if its individual agents are not.” (III.1)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Adams was incarcerated at Pendleton Correctional Facility during lockdowns from October 2023 through January 2024 and again from July through August 2024. He alleged that food deprivation and related conditions

caused starvation for eleven days, weight loss, severe hunger pains, vomiting, headaches, bloody stools, muscle pain, fatigue, and mental distress. He further alleged that Centurion and prison officials restricted access to the medical wing and medical personnel despite knowing that Adams and other inmates were suffering, allegedly to punish them and conceal their conditions.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court's screening order permitted Adams to proceed on an Eighth Amendment claim against Centurion. Centurion moved to dismiss the Second Amended Complaint, Adams responded, and Centurion filed a reply. The court denied the motion to dismiss.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978)
- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Roe v. Dettelbach, 59 F.4th 255, 261–62 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Guerrero v. Howard Bank, 74 F.4th 816, 819 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Cesal v. Moats, 851 F.3d 714, 720 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)
- Dean v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc., 18 F.4th 214, 235–36 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Calhoun v. Ramsey, 408 F.3d 375, 379 (7th Cir. 2005)
- Taylor v. Hughes, 26 F.4th 419, 435 (7th Cir. 2022)
- Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 103–04, 106 (1976)
- Boyce v. Moore, 314 F.3d 884, 889 (7th Cir. 2002)
- Thomas v. Blackard, 2 F.4th 716, 721–22 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Johnson v. Dominguez, 5 F.4th 818, 824 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Whiting v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc., 839 F.3d 658, 662 (7th Cir. 2016)
- Gray v. Hardy, 826 F.3d 1000, 1006 (7th Cir. 2016)
- Gayton v. McCoy, 593 F.3d 610, 620 (7th Cir. 2010)
- Glisson v. Indiana Department of Correction, 849 F.3d 372, 375–79 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Murphy v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc., No. 22-2561, 2024 WL 962384, at \*3 (7th Cir. Mar. 6, 2024)
- Thomas v. Cook County Sheriff's Department, 604 F.3d 293, 304–05 (7th Cir. 2010)
- Gaetjens v. City of Loves Park, 4 F.4th 487, 495–96 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Sallenger v. City of Springfield, Illinois, 630 F.3d 499, 504–05 (7th Cir.)
- City of Los Angeles v. Heller, 475 U.S. 796, 799 (1986)
- Hart v. Mannina, 798 F.3d 578, 596 (7th Cir. 2015)

- Howell v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc., 987 F.3d 647, 654 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Grieveson v. Anderson, 538 F.3d 763, 774 (7th Cir. 2008)
- Connick v. Thompson, 563 U.S. 51, 64 (2011)
- Childress v. Walker, 787 F.3d 433, 440–41 (7th Cir. 2015)
- Quinn v. Hardy, 2013 WL 4826262, at \*3–4 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 10, 2013)
- Alioto v. Town of Lisbon, 651 F.3d 715, 721 (7th Cir. 2011)
- Zemlick v. Burkhart, 164 F.4th 1004, 1016 n.3 (7th Cir. 2026)

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