UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Sebastian A. Campbell v. Robert Green, et al.

Civil Action No. SAG-24-3572 (D. Md. Mar. 25, 2026) · No. SAG-24-3572 · Decided March 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Maryland considers a prisoner’s civil-rights claims arising from an alleged June 2020 assault at Jessup Correctional Institution and the subsequent denial of medical care. The court addresses official-capacity immunity, administrative exhaustion, equitable tolling of the statute of limitations, and requests for discovery under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(d). Defendants’ motion to dismiss or for summary judgment is granted in part and denied in part, with the excerpt indicating that some claims remain for further proceedings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Maryland
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stephanie A. Gallagher
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Maryland
DECIDED	March 25, 2026
DOCKET	SAG-24-3572
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought civil-rights and related state-law claims arising from an alleged inmate assault. Defendants moved to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6) or, alternatively, for summary judgment under Rule 56. Plaintiff moved under Rule 56(d) for discovery before responding to summary judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On Rule 12(b)(6), the court accepted well-pleaded factual allegations as true and assessed whether they plausibly stated a claim. On summary judgment, the court viewed the evidence and reasonable inferences in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party and asked whether a genuine dispute of material fact existed. Rule 56(d) discovery was appropriate where the requested evidence was essential to opposing summary judgment and could create a genuine dispute of material fact.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

PARTIES	Sebastian A. Campbell v. Robert Green, Allen Gang, Antoinette Washington, Cody Withrow, Earl Brown, Eric Walker, Yacoub Adesiyan, Alexander Jator

TOPICS

section 1983 · prisoners rights · eleventh amendment immunity · summary judgment · statute of limitations

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights · constitutional law · prisoner litigation · civil procedure · administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether claims against the defendants in their official capacities were barred by Eleventh Amendment immunity.
2. Whether Campbell's claims were barred by Maryland's statute of limitations after tolling for exhaustion of administrative remedies.
3. Whether res judicata or collateral estoppel barred Campbell's claims based on the prior administrative and state-court proceedings.
4. Whether Campbell stated an Eighth Amendment failure-to-protect claim against Lts. Withrow and Brown.
5. Whether Campbell stated a First Amendment retaliation claim.
6. Whether Campbell adequately alleged personal participation or supervisory liability by the remaining defendants.
7. Whether qualified immunity required dismissal of the failure-to-protect claims at the pleading stage.
8. Whether Campbell was entitled to discovery under Rule 56(d) before summary judgment on the failure-to-protect claims.
9. Whether Campbell stated a state-law gross-negligence claim.

HOLDINGS

1. Claims against the defendants in their official capacities must be dismissed because Maryland and its agencies and departments are immune from suits in federal court under the Eleventh Amendment absent consent, and Maryland has not waived that immunity for these federal claims.
2. Campbell's Section 1983 claims were timely because the three-year Maryland personal-injury limitations period was equitably tolled while he exhausted available administrative remedies, and the filing history did not show a lack of diligence.
3. Res judicata did not bar Campbell's individual-capacity claims because the parties in the grievance proceeding were not the same as, or in privity with, the individual defendants in this action.

4. Collateral estoppel barred Campbell's inadequate-medical-care claims because the same issue was fully litigated and decided on the merits in the prior administrative proceeding, which was affirmed by the Maryland circuit court.
5. Collateral estoppel did not bar Campbell's failure-to-protect claims because the claims and issues were not identical and Campbell lacked a full and fair opportunity to develop the distinct deliberate-indifference theory in the prior proceeding.
6. Campbell's failure-to-protect claims against Lts. Withrow and Brown survived summary judgment because material factual disputes remained concerning the timing and circumstances of Watson's release and the officers' response to the assault.
7. Campbell failed to state a First Amendment retaliation claim because he alleged only speculation that Withrow opened Watson's cell in retaliation for Campbell's prior complaints and did not adequately plead the causal relationship or adverse action.
8. The claims against Green, Gang, Washington, Walker, Jator, and Adesiyan were dismissed because Campbell failed to allege their personal participation in the failure-to-protect violation or facts establishing supervisory liability.
9. Qualified immunity did not warrant dismissal of the failure-to-protect claims against Withrow and Brown at this stage because Campbell alleged facts suggesting both a violation of a clearly established constitutional right and that the violation actually occurred.
10. Campbell's Rule 56(d) motion was granted in part as to the failure-to-protect claims because video surveillance and related evidence could be essential to resolving material factual disputes, but discovery concerning the medical claims was denied because those claims were dismissed on preclusion grounds.
11. Campbell stated a gross-negligence claim because factual disputes remained concerning when, why, and by whom Watson was released from his cell.

KEY QUOTATIONS

> *"The record before this Court is not any clearer as to these issues. While Campbell does not directly address the events in a declaration of his own, and his Complaint is unverified, he submits a Declaration in support of his discovery motion declaring that the video evidence would show that there was not an ongoing fire emergency and mass disturbance at the time Watson was released and assaulted him."* (Section C)

> *"The Motion is granted as to Defendants Green, Gang, Washington, Walker, Jator, and Adesayin. The Motion is denied as to the failure to protect claims against Defendants Withrow and Brown and granted as to the medical claims against them."* (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Campbell was incarcerated in disciplinary segregation at Jessup Correctional Institution in May and June 2020. After Campbell complained about inmate Zachary Watson's assaults on other prisoners, Watson allegedly threatened inmates considered informants. On June 14, 2020, Watson allegedly was released from his cell without restraints or an escort and threw bags containing feces, urine, and other substances at inmates, including

Campbell, while correctional officers allegedly failed to intervene. Campbell alleged eye and nasal injuries, delayed medical attention, and prolonged exposure to the substances.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Campbell previously filed substantially similar claims in Campbell I, which was dismissed without prejudice for failure to exhaust administrative remedies. He exhausted Maryland's administrative grievance process, including an administrative-law hearing and state-circuit-court review, and then filed this action. The court granted the defendants' motion in part and denied it in part, allowing the failure-to-protect claims against Lts. Withrow and Brown and the gross-negligence claim to proceed while dismissing other claims.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)
- Walters v. McMahen, 684 F.3d 435, 439 (4th Cir. 2012)
- Libertarian Party of Virginia v. Judd, 718 F.3d 308, 313 (4th Cir. 2013)
- Dulaney v. Packaging Corp. of America, 673 F.3d 323, 330 (4th Cir. 2012)
- Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 247-48 (1986)
- Tolan v. Cotton, 572 U.S. 650, 656-57 (2014) (per curiam)
- Scott v. Harris, 550 U.S. 372, 378 (2007)
- Bouchat v. Baltimore Ravens Football Club, Inc., 346 F.3d 514, 526 (4th Cir. 2003)
- Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. v. Montgomery County, 788 F. Supp. 2d 431, 436-37 (D. Md. 2011)
- Laughlin v. Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, 149 F.3d 253, 260-61 (4th Cir. 1998)
- E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. v. Kolon Industries, Inc., 637 F.3d 435, 448-49 (4th Cir. 2011)
- Harrods Ltd. v. Sixty Internet Domain Names, 302 F.3d 214, 244-45 (4th Cir. 2002)
- Scott v. Nuvell Financial Services, LLC, 789 F. Supp. 2d 637, 641 (D. Md. 2011)
- Strag v. Board of Trustees, Craven Community College, 55 F.3d 943, 954 (4th Cir. 1995)
- McClure v. Ports, 914 F.3d 866, 874-75 (4th Cir. 2019)
- Gordon v. CIGNA Corp., 890 F.3d 463, 479 (4th Cir. 2018)
- Amirmokri v. Abraham, 437 F. Supp. 2d 414, 420 (D. Md. 2006), aff'd, 266 F. App'x 274 (4th Cir. 2008), cert. denied, 555 U.S. 885 (2008)
- Pennhurst State School & Hospital v. Halderman, 465 U.S. 89, 100 (1984)
- Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitation Services v. Florida Nursing Home Association, 450 U.S. 147 (1981) (per curiam)
- Wallace v. Kato, 549 U.S. 384, 387 (2007)
- Owens v. Okure, 488 U.S. 235, 249-50 (1989)

- Nasim v. Warden, Maryland House of Correction, 64 F.3d 951, 955 (4th Cir. 1995) (en banc)
- Battle v. Ledford, 912 F.3d 708, 719-20 (4th Cir. 2019)
- Cochran v. Griffith Energy Services, Inc., 426 Md. 134, 140 (2012)
- Powell v. Breslin, 430 Md. 52, 63-64 (2013)
- deLeon v. Slear, 328 Md. 569, 587-99 (1992)
- Andrews v. Daw, 201 F.3d 521, 546 (4th Cir. 2000)
- In re Microsoft Corp., 355 F.3d 322, 326 (4th Cir. 2004)
- Migra v. Warren City School District Board of Education, 465 U.S. 75, 81 (1984)
- Esslinger v. Baltimore City, 622 A.2d 774, 781 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 1993)
- Batts v. Lee, 949 F. Supp. 1229, 1233-34 (D. Md. 1996)
- Haskins v. Hawk, 2013 WL 1314194, at *18 (D. Md. 2013)
- Raynor v. Pugh, 817 F.3d 123, 127-28 (4th Cir. 2016)
- Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 832, 834, 837 (1994)
- Makdessi v. Fields, 789 F.3d 126, 133 (4th Cir. 2015)
- Danser v. Stansberry, 772 F.3d 340, 346-47 (4th Cir. 2014)
- Helling v. McKinney, 509 U.S. 25, 36 (1993)
- Suarez Corp. Industries v. McGraw, 202 F.3d 676, 685 (4th Cir. 2000)
- Constantine v. Rectors & Visitors of George Mason University, 411 F.3d 474, 499 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841, 850 (4th Cir. 1985)
- Love-Lane v. Martin, 355 F.3d 766, 782 (4th Cir. 2004)
- Baynard v. Malone, 268 F.3d 228, 235 (4th Cir. 2001)
- Slakan v. Porter, 737 F.2d 368, 372 (4th Cir. 1984)
- Shaw v. Stroud, 13 F.3d 791, 799 (4th Cir. 1994)
- Willingham v. Crooke, 412 F.3d 553, 559 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Bailey-El v. Housing Authority of Baltimore City, 185 F. Supp. 3d 661, 670 (D. Md. 2016)
- Cook v. Bounds, 518 F.2d 779, 780 (4th Cir. 1975)
- Whisenant v. Yuam, 739 F.2d 160, 162-63 (4th Cir. 1984)
- Mallard v. United States District Court, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989)
- Jenkins v. Woodard, 109 F.4th 242, 248 (4th Cir. 2024)
- Owens v. Keeling, 461 F.3d 763 (6th Cir. 2006)
- Ellis v. Kitchin, 2010 WL 4071874, at *1 (E.D. Va. June 9, 2010)
- Anne Arundel County v. Reeves, 2021 Md. Lexis 259, at *32 (2021)
- Barbre v. Pope, 420 Md. 157, 187 (2007)
- Jones v. Commissioner of DPSCS, Civil Action No. PX-21-61 (D. Md.)

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