

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA

Danny L. Saintignon, Jr. v. Yarber Lt. and Ivy Sgt.

No. 2:24-cv-00027-JPH-MJD (S.D. Ind. Mar. 31, 2026) · No. No. 2:24-cv-00027-JPH-MJD · Decided March 31, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana granted summary judgment to correctional officers Lt. Yarber and Sgt. Ivy on Danny L. Saintignon, Jr.'s Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim arising from exposure to pepper spray and alleged denial of medical care and decontamination. The court also granted defendants' motion to strike the plaintiff's surreply and granted motions seeking a decision and a response. Summary judgment was based on qualified immunity, and final judgment was ordered to issue separately.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James Patrick Hanlon
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
DECIDED	March 31, 2026
DOCKET	No. 2:24-cv-00027-JPH-MJD
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendants moved for summary judgment on Plaintiff's 42 U.S.C. § 1983 Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim. Plaintiff also moved for a decision on the summary-judgment motion and moved to compel a response; Defendants moved to strike Plaintiff's surreply.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is appropriate when there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The court viewed the evidence and drew reasonable inferences in Plaintiff's favor, could not weigh evidence or make credibility determinations, and considered only materials cited by the parties. Qualified immunity was assessed under the two-part inquiry whether the facts show a constitutional violation and whether the right was clearly established.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential federal district-court order; unpublished and not reported in a standard reporter.
PARTIES	Danny L. Saintignon, Jr. v. Yarber Lt., Ivy Sgt.

TOPICS

qualified immunity section 1983 prisoners rights cruel and unusual punishment summary judgment

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights litigation prisoner civil rights constitutional torts federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Defendants were entitled to summary judgment on Saintignon's Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim based on their refusal to provide medical attention or a decontamination shower after his exposure to chemical agents.
2. Whether Defendants were entitled to qualified immunity because Saintignon failed to identify clearly established precedent showing that their conduct violated the Eighth Amendment.
3. Whether Saintignon's surreply should be stricken under Southern District of Indiana Local Rule 56-1(d).
4. Whether the delay in decontaminating cell 402 could support liability against Defendants absent evidence of their personal involvement.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendants were entitled to qualified immunity because Saintignon failed to show that their alleged refusal to provide medical care or a decontamination shower violated a clearly established constitutional right.
2. The alleged delay in decontaminating cell 402 could not support liability against Yarber or Ivy because the designated evidence did not show that either officer was personally involved in the timing of that decontamination.
3. The court granted Defendants' motion to strike Saintignon's surreply because it was not limited to new evidence or evidentiary objections as required by Local Rule 56-1(d).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“As Mr. Saintignon bears the burden to show why qualified immunity does not apply and he has failed to do so, the Court finds that Sgt. Ivy and Lt. Yarber are entitled to qualified immunity.” (Discussion section)

“Defendants’ motion for summary judgment is GRANTED. Dkt. [46]. Final judgment will issue in a separate entry.” (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

While incarcerated at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, Saintignon, who had breathing problems following COVID-19 and used an inhaler, was exposed to pepper spray and pepperball rounds during a cell extraction of another inmate. He alleged that the chemical entered his cell, causing coughing, choking, vomiting, breathing difficulty, pain, and prolonged respiratory symptoms, and that he repeatedly asked Yarber and Ivy for medical attention and a decontamination shower. The officers allegedly refused those requests, although the evidence showed that neither officer was personally responsible for the delayed decontamination of the other inmate's cell.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was screened under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, and the surviving claim alleged that Lieutenant Yarber and Sergeant Ivy were deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff's serious medical need after exposure to pepper spray and pepperball rounds. The district court granted Defendants' motion for summary judgment, granted the motion to strike the surreply, granted Plaintiff's motions for a decision and to compel a response, and stated that final judgment would issue separately.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Khungar v. Access Cmty. Health Network*, 985 F.3d 565, 572-73 (7th Cir. 2021)
- *Miller v. Gonzalez*, 761 F.3d 822, 827 (7th Cir. 2014)
- *Grant v. Trs. of Ind. Univ.*, 870 F.3d 562, 573-74 (7th Cir. 2017)
- *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986)
- *Mullenix v. Luna*, 577 U.S. 7, 11 (2015)
- *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 231-32 (2009)
- *Smith v. Finkley*, 10 F.4th 725, 737 (7th Cir. 2021)
- *Tolan v. Cotton*, 572 U.S. 650, 655-56 (2014) (per curiam)
- *Jewett v. Anders*, 521 F.3d 818, 823 (7th Cir. 2008)
- *Jones v. Clark*, 630 F.3d 677, 682 (7th Cir. 2011)
- *Reichle v. Howards*, 566 U.S. 658, 664 (2012)
- *Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 641, 646 (1987)
- *District of Columbia v. Wesby*, 583 U.S. 48, 63-64 (2018)
- *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 563 U.S. 731, 742 (2011)
- *White v. Pauly*, 580 U.S. 73, 79 (2017)
- *Taylor v. Barkes*, 575 U.S. 822, 825 (2015)
- *Campbell v. Kallas*, 936 F.3d 536, 546 (7th Cir. 2019)
- *Kisela v. Hughes*, 138 S. Ct. 1148, 1152 (2018)
- *Boyce v. Moore*, 314 F.3d 884, 889 (7th Cir. 2002)
- *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 103 (1976)

- 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)
- Oliver v. Deen, 77 F.3d 156, 158-61 (7th Cir. 1996)
- Henderson v. Sheahan, 196 F.3d 839, 846 (7th Cir. 1999)
- Whitfield v. Spiller, 76 F.4th 698, 706 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Gentry v. Duckworth, 65 F.3d 555, 561 (7th Cir. 1995)
- Trotter v. Kingston, No. 05-C-1032, 2007 WL 984089, at *2, *6 (E.D. Wis. Mar. 27, 2007)
- Kadamovas v. Caraway, No. 2:17-cv-00050-WTL-MJD, 2018 WL 6415588, at *7 (S.D. Ind. Dec. 6, 2018), aff'd, 775 F. App'x 242 (7th Cir. 2019)
- Villalobos v. Picicco, 168 F.4th 1057, 1062-63 (7th Cir. 2026)
- Thomas v. Carmichael, 164 F.4th 1058, 1067 (7th Cir. 2026)
- Estate of Simpson v. Gorbett, 863 F.3d 740, 746 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Scott v. Edinburg, 346 F.3d 752, 760 (7th Cir. 2003)
- Coy v. Yarber, No. 1:23-cv-1920-JPH-KMB, 2025 WL 2782829, at *2, *4 (S.D. Ind. Sept. 30, 2025)
- McCloud v. Vanschoyck, No. 2:21-cv-0049-JPH-MKK, 2024 WL 229740, at *7 (S.D. Ind. Jan. 19, 2024)

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