

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Jamerson v. Wilkinson

Jamerson · No. 1:22-cv-529 · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation and granted the remaining defendants’ motion for summary judgment. The court concluded that Plaintiff John Jamerson failed to exhaust claims concerning an alleged fall from an upstairs cell because his grievance identified an incident date after he had been transferred to a ground-floor housing unit, and he did not address the evidentiary deficiencies identified in the report.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Paul L. Maloney
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	1:22-cv-529
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff objected to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation recommending that the remaining defendants' motion for summary judgment be granted. The district court adopted the report and recommendation and granted summary judgment to defendants.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviews de novo those portions of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which a party makes specific objections.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	John Jamerson v. M. Wilkinson and remaining defendants

TOPICS

- summary judgment
- prisoners rights
- civil rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

prisoner civil rights

civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Jamerson's objections to the magistrate judge's report and recommendation were sufficiently specific to warrant de novo review.
2. Whether defendants were entitled to summary judgment because the grievance used to exhaust Jamerson's claim identified an incident date on which he was housed in a ground-floor unit and therefore did not exhaust a claim arising from his earlier Housing Unit 6 assignment.

HOLDINGS

1. Only specific objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation are entitled to de novo review; objections that do not address the relevant grounds for the recommendation do not require further de novo consideration.
2. Defendants were entitled to summary judgment because Jamerson's grievance identified February 12, 2021 as the incident date, but the evidence showed that he had been transferred to ground-floor Housing Unit 3 on February 1, 2021; the grievance therefore did not exhaust a claim arising from his earlier Housing Unit 6 assignment.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Magistrate Judge concluded that Defendants demonstrated a lack of genuine issue of material fact that Plaintiff did not have an upstairs cell on February 12, 2021, the date of the alleged incident identified in the grievance Plaintiff used to exhaust his claim against these defendants."

"Accordingly, the court ADOPTS the report and recommendation (ECF No. 62) and GRANTS Defendants' motion for summary judgment (ECF No. 54)."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jamerson was transferred to Muskegon Correctional Facility in October 2020 and initially housed in Housing Unit 6, where at least some cells required use of stairs. He was assigned to Lock 123 from October 22 to October 29, 2020, and to Lock 232 from October 29, 2020, until his transfer to Housing Unit 3 on February 1, 2021. Housing Unit 3 had only ground-floor cells. In a grievance filed April 11, 2021, Jamerson identified the incident date as February 12, 2021, and alleged that he had a bottom-bunk detail, was moved upstairs, and fell down stairs; the court concluded that this date conflicted with the evidence showing he was then housed in Unit 3.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jamerson, a prisoner, brought civil-rights claims against Michigan Department of Corrections personnel. The remaining defendants moved for summary judgment, and the magistrate judge recommended granting the motion. Jamerson filed objections, but the district court concluded that his objections did not address the discrepancy between the date identified in his grievance and the dates of his housing assignment, or other evidentiary deficiencies identified in the report and recommendation.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Unnamed authority, 806 F.2d 636, 637 (6th Cir. 1986) (per curiam)

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